

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

For Central Legislation on Construction Labour

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Subject : Resist the Enmass Diversion of the Cess Fund of your State /UT BOCW Board.

Dear Friends,

On 24th March 2020 Union Labour Ministry issued the first advisory to the State Govts/ BOCW Boards to use cess fund for welfare of Construction Workers out of 52000 crore Cess for about 3.5 crore registered Construction Workers.

On 8th April 2020 the union Home Ministry informed at a press conférence that 31 States and UT had transferred Rs.3000 crores to 2 crore construction workers.

Now on 23rd June 2020 Ministry of Labour and Employment has issued a press release that Rs.4957 crore rupees cash assistance and other support, have already been provided to the construction workers by respective State Governments without any further details.

What is more worring is the following concluding paragraph of this press release.

‘the Union Ministry has planned to launch a Mission Mode Project to fast track the registration of the Left-out Workers, portability of benifits, universalisation of social security schemes on health insurance through Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogaya Yojna (PM-JAY), life & disability cover through Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna (PMJJBY) & Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna (PMSBY), life-long pension during old age trough Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojna (PM-SYM) and provisionof transit accomodations in large cities.’

NCC-CL had enquired from all its constituents around several states and shared its concern through its Circular dated 14th April 2020 and 30th April 2020 clearly showing that the relief disbursed till then was no where around the claim of Home Ministry.

Minutes of the Video confrence of NCC-CL held on 20th June 2020 and a draft of a letter to the Prime Minister proposed at this conférence are enclosed with this Circular. All the unions and organisations of construction workers are requested to use this draft and write a letter to the

Prime Minister on your letter head with a copy to the NCC-CL so that the NCC-CL will include your names in its joint reminder to the Prime Minister.

We Request you to please share with us the full information of the cash transfer and the distribution of the ration etc. From the BOCW fund in your state/UTs so that we can examine the validity of the **23rd June 2020 claim of Rs 4957 Crore disbursement.**

Please remember that in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court of India in its judgement on the NCC-CL petition dated 19th March 2018 (CWP 318 of 2006) the union government has not shared its responsibility of making all state Registration portable and universalisation of social security schemes. Diverting Cess funds of all states into various health scheme with the Prime Minister will not serve the purpose of the BOCW Act. Provision of transit accomodations in large cities for construction workers is a totally misunderstood concept. The consruction workers have to stay near the construcion site which keeps shifting and the construction workers have to move out always after the construction is over. Even the task force had put a limit of 10% on the use of fund for the housing of the BOCW workers. We need to re-examine these two proposal of the use of Cess fund for Prime Minister schemes and transit accomodation otherwise it will only lead to enmass division of Cess Fund of your State / UT. BOCW Board without providing the required social security to the construction workers in your State/UT.

Expecting an urgent action by sending letters to the Prime Minister and sharing information on the utilisation of BOCW fund in your State/UT with the NCC-CL

With Thanks.

Yours sincerely

Subhash Bhatnagar