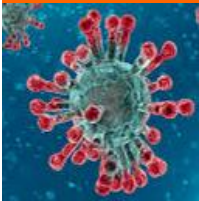


# CORONA COVID 19 RESPONSES BY



## EKTA

## PARISHAD



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## Scorching migrant workers and Unseen of the government

-By-Anil Kumar Gupta

Endless struggle of migrant laborers to go back to their home and villages is continued even after 56 days of lockdown. They any how want to reach their homes using any means – foot march, bicycle, bullock carts, autos, goods loading autos, trucks, dumpers, mixture machine etc. Without caring for their safety, fare any cost they want to go their homes. Why it is so because Center and State Governments were completely failed to assure of safety, employment and livelihood to these vulnerable migrant laborers. This large segment of the society has never been the issue of concern for policy makers, bureaucrats and so-called people's representatives. There is literally no meaning of republic and as a result almost all state is failed to provide means to their people especially these migrant laborers to live life with dignity. There was lack of coordination between the two state governments and clear cut directions of the central government regarding returning of the migrant laborers and providing these laborers food and water at the place of their stay have forced these migrant laborers to opt for their own decision to go to back their homes. Migrant laborers in different employments are also in hurry to go back to their homes. And they are struggling to sell whatever goods they have to manage to go back to their homes because all the cash money they had were spent in maintaining their livelihood. Crisis of water and food with the closure of markets and shops in the lockdown completely damaged the their physical and mental health both that resulted in losing of their patience and in such situation they have no other choice than to go back to their homes without our caring for hunger and thirst. Pictures of these vulnerable migrant laborers are seen in the headlines of mainstream and social media like dyeing migrant workers, laborers dyeing and injured in accidents and other tragedies, women with labor pain, laborers holding their children and old parents, foot march of migrant laborers carrying their children on briefcase and cycle are really very disturbing. You will see hundreds of examples of vulnerability

*Migrant laborer  
organized sit –in  
at Law Univer-  
sity, Chennai  
(Tamilnadu)*



and pain of these returning migrant laborers on the highways where they were walking with carrying their old mothers and fathers on their soldiers, on the other side you will see many handicapped people walking hundreds of kilometers. Many of them are seen walking barefoot and children walking with their parents with injuries. There are many unfortunate laborers who have died on the way before reaching to their destination. Many foot marching laborers who are travelling on trucks and other means are being preyed for accidents.

Land is very important for becoming self reliant in

livelihood. But many of these migrant laborers are landless who are forced to become migrant laborers to overcome their problems of livelihood. Ekta Parishad is fighting for the land rights of this vulnerable landless segment of our society. Thousands of people associated the Ekta Parishad (EP) are stuck in different states and EP is in touch with these people and talking to them on regular basis like 42 laborers are stuck in Tirucharapalli in Tamilnadu and 61 are stuck in Palghat in Kerala. These migrant laborers don't have sufficient money to travel by Rajdhani Express. Similarly 47 laborers of Dhar District are waiting in Mumbai to come back to their home villages and 102 laborers of Sheopur are stuck in Kutch District in Gujrat. On the other hand 37 laborers of Gaya in Bihar are stuck in Kapoorthala in Punjab where they did not have money and work for their livelihood and sustenance. On the other hand 54 laborers of Mandala district in MP have started coming from Hyderabad and 16 laborers of Vidisha are coming from Mumbai by foot march. 35 laborers in Manipur and 175 laborers in Bangluru are making contact with EP for help. EP is helping them with their limited resources. The picture of these migrant laborers would have not been so bad had the state and central governments performed their roles and duties for the protection of these migrant laborers with adequate planning. They could provide proper arrangements to drop all these laborers from their workplaces to their homes and hence they could reduce the risk of this epidemic on them. In fact they did not have clear cut policy framework otherwise there won't have so big crowd of these people at the border area of Barwani for coming from Mumbai and Ahmadabad to come to Madhya Pradesh or at the Reeva and Lalit Pur for going to Uttar Pradesh or at the border area of Anuppur to go to Chhattisgarh or at the border area of Uttar Pradesh for those coming from the Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan.

Most of agriculture laborers and those engaged in road construction work had started returning home after the first time declaration of lockdown in the country but with the second time declaration of lockdown and with food insecurity all regular migrant laborers were forced to return home at any cost as they lost patience. In fact government was not prepared to manage so large numbers of people. As a result, today the crowd of migrant laborers on the road has not reduced despite providing hundreds of Shramik (Labour) Express trains and thousands of buses on roads by the central government.

In this grim situation sensitive citizens, civil society organizations, police and volunteers have strengthened Indian and humanitarian values by providing food, water, medicines, and footwear to these migrant laborers with their own resources. In many states one can see people on the main road supporting and helping these people with their limited resources. Providing food to the pedestrians by young brother and sister in Satna, MP, providing food to the migrant laborers from Dhaba (Hotel) in Jaipur and providing footwear to these laborers have shown that we all, in solidarity, are prepared to fight against this epidemic.

Now the system is in place in many states for carrying migrant laborers to their homes with food packets. But despite having the capacity of carrying crore passengers in one go with its 12617 trains and around 4 lakhs buses. Also despite having the capacity of caring crores of peoples for Kumbh Mela but in the case of laborers not doing the same shows insensitivity of the so-called people's representatives in the government. And this is the matter of big concern for all of us.

All the proclamations of the governments for migrant laborers are inadequate in terms of the needs of these vulnerable migrant laborers and raise questions as to why these laborers were left to deals with their own situation? Why laborers were stopped on the national highway in the scorching heat of the sun rays by the states' police? Why state governments could not coordinate with other states? There are many more questions like these that have left for introspection in the future. How the government moulds its developmental plan focusing on migrants laborers and common people in pursuit of making India self reliant. We the people and the government need to initiate this dialogue so that country could be saved if any such epidemic spread in the country in future.

#### **Outreach Corona Relief work Ekta Parishad:**

- ⇒ Mask Distribution—**55500**
- ⇒ Distribution of dry ration for a week — **10150**
- ⇒ Distribution of dry ration for 2 week — **12275**
- ⇒ Supplementary nutritious food to children—**2000**
- ⇒ Cooked meals by Ekta Corona Canteen—**850**



## MADHYA PRADESH



### Food materials distributed in Dhar

#### Dhar @ Prasanna-

"Save the children" distributed 1000 food and hygiene kit to each families in Kukshi and Manawar block of Dhar and Rajpur and district in Corona relief work program. According to Prasanna all these families were selected through the community who are most poor in the village and need immediate support to save them from starvation.

Earlier they had accessed the government PDS ration for 3 months, most of them had finished it. Some of them had recently returned from the migration from Gujarat and Maharashtra. This was facilitated by the Ekta Parishad and MGSA. Distribution of materials was taken one week in both blocks.

#### Beneficiaries:

Orphan children, Widow, Single, Divorced, Separated and Pregnant women and Landless migrant labourer, differently abled persons



#### Manawar Block

336 Families of 12 villages- Chikli, Lunera, Nigarni, Badgaon, Sirsala, Kalwani, Lakhankot, Limbi, Ajandikot, Bhasabad, Bhagiapur and Banedia village

#### Kukshi Block

664 Families of 21 villages-Kapsi, Badgyre, Nimthal, Teki, Jharda, Baki, Langseri, Magarda, Kutedi, lunhera, Undli, Thuati, Kundara, kawadiakheda, chilwa, Roja, Dholiya, Ali, Girwania, Talanpur, Doi.

#### Materials in Food and hygiene Kit:

Wheat flour-15 kg  
Rice-5 kg  
Sugar-3 kg,  
Lentils-3 kg  
Edible oil- 2 liter  
Tea-250 gm  
Turmeric powder-200 gm  
Chilli powder- 200 gm  
Coriander powder- 200 gm  
Salt-2 kg  
Detergent soap- 4 pcs  
Bath Soap- 4 pcs  
Antiseptic liquid- 2 pcs  
Sanitary napkin-10 pcs  
Mask-10 pcs





## Destitute families Helped in Sagar

Sagar @ Deepak/Manoj:

The Ekta Parishad provided food materials to 120 destitute families in 3 block of Sagar in Madhya Pradesh. All these families were selected on the basis of landlessness and deprivation. Beneficiaries are belonging to single women, migrant labor, differently able persons.

Also community awaked about the prevention from Corona and government schemes on corona relief through loud-speaker.

Block	# of Beneficiaries	Village
Malthon	60	Madiyakirat, Hanumant Pahadi, Pithoriya, Jujharpur, Banhat, Jhikani, Bandari, Chandpur, Madawangori, Malthon, Imiliya
Rahatgarh	50	Bahrol, Pitholi, Bilaini, Damu
Banda	10	Basinya Bhouti, Ruau, Bordiya

### 50 Migrant laborers supported in Rajpur of Barwani



Barwani @ Prasanna:

The Ekta Parishad provided food materials to 50 migrant families of Rajpur, Barwani district with the help of Save the children organization.

### 12 landless families helped in Piprani



Dhar @ Shradha Behan: The Ekta Parishad provided dry ration to the 12 poor and land-

less families of Bhil community in Piprani village of Bagh block of Dhar district through the community leader Julam Bhai and Sahju Behan.



### EP helped 185 tribal families of 18 villages



Ashoknagar @ Prafull:

The Ekta Parishad helped 185 Sahariya tribal families of 18 villages in Mungawali block, who has not BPL card to access the PDS ration and differently able person, old age, single women and stranded due to the lockdown. When these people did not find any way to get ration then they requested to community leader of the organization. After that he shared with National President of the Ekta Parishad Mr. Ran Singh Parmar as a result he sent immediately relief van to help them. Each family was got flour, lentils, edible oil and salt. Khillu Patel, Kalyan Adivasi, Kaptan Adivasi, Kamla Bai, Mohar Bai and Balwant helped in distribution and collection of information from the grass root.

### MNREGA provided Job in Shahdol



Shahdol @ Ramprakash:

MNREGA work is going on in Kachhouha village of Manpur block of Umaria district. Workers awaked to use mask and maintain social distancing. Also the Ekta Parishad surveyed door to door to get information about destitute families who need immediate relief in Madayikala and others village of Umaria.

### Boarder area between Shahdol and Umaria sealed

Umaria @ Ramprakash:

Border area of Umaria and Shahdol district are now sealed again, when a corona positive case was found in Chhapara village of Shahdol. A young man recently came from Maharashtra and he was examined by the health department.

### Foot distribution in Satna



Satna @ Santosh singh:

Remain laborers families were helped with food materials who came recently from migration in Sannayi village of Satna by the NRSSS and Ekta Parishad. 35 destitute families were provided dry ration and cash money from a well wisher of Ekta Parishad in Bharhut, Dadari and Mainhaa village of Unchehara block of Satna district. Each family were provided 10 kg of flour, 5 kg of rice, 1 kg of pulses, 1 soap and Rs. 200 in cash.

### Meeting for labor camp



Sidhi @ Santosh Singh:

A meeting was held in Sariha Mathapani of Sidhi district to organize labor camp in the leadership of district coordinator Mrs. Saroj Singh.



### Children awaked on hand wash



Sehore @ Shriram:

Children of Bhilanya village of Nasrullganj block awaked about the hand wash with soap at least 20 second to prevent from Corona virus and use of mask.

### Jobs in Forest produce

Sehore @ Shriram Budhani:

Collection and wages work in Tendupatta has been started in many villages of Sehore, tribal families are engaged in this as a means of jobs.

### Awareness meeting in Raisen



Raisen @ Sarswati Uike:

A meeting was held with the community leaders from different villages about the preventive approach from Corona like using mask, hand wash and maintaining social distance. There were community leaders from Pipal chowk, Harijhir, Panjir and Amajhir of Goharganj block in Raisen.

### Nutritious kit to pregnant women

Bhopal @ Aneesh:

Volunteers in Bhopal providing nutrition kit to pregnant women in different slums area. Till now they have distributed to 80 pregnant women. It is necessary to feed nutrition to pregnant women for healthy womb; women in slums are not having healthy meals. Also team has provided milk to more than 400 children.

### Stranded Manipuri got food materials



Bhopal @ Rishikant Bhai:

The Ekta Parishad provided food materials to 5 youths of Manipur and Nagaland stranded in Bhopal. They came for job in a company in the month of February and they lost the jobs due to the lockdown. They managed food with little amount of money, now they have no money. National convener of Ekta Parishad and Neeru Diwakar a young activist played important role in serving them.

### Food to 1100 passengers



Bhopal @ Anish :

Green and Grain organization provided food and water to 1100 passengers of Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland and Assam from Goa at Habibganj railway station of Bhopal. They were struggle a lot for water and food in the train. Thanks to



Mrs. Anuradha Shankar Singh (ADG, Police) and Mr. Shailendra Singh (ASP, Rail) for permission to provide food.

As a result team was able to distributed the food packet to migrant labor and student from north east state. It should be known that government has started a special train from Goa to North east via Bhopal.

### **Migrant laborer are facing problems**

Jhabua @Durga Pawar:

5 migrant families stranded in Mumbai for 45 days. They started foot march after facing hunger problems. They called a pick up van, till they walked hundred kilometers, now they have reached their home. Their condition is very worst therefore they need immediate help.

## **EID CENTRIC CORONA RELIEF WORK**



Bhopal @ Aneesh:

On the occasion of holy festival of Muslim community, the Ekta Parishad focused relief work on Eid festival.

In Banganga, a slum area of Bhopal the Ekta

Parishad organization distributed Eid Kit among 50 poor families.

There was sugar, milk, sevai and dry fruits in the kit.



## **BIHAR**

### **Food materials distribution in Patna**



Patna @Manjudungdung: A meeting with poor people organized by the Ekta Parishad at PGVS office to articulate the food problems among poorer and daily wage laborers and rag pickers. After the identification 80 families were provided dry ration by the organization. Each one was helped with 5 kg of rice, pulses, edible oil and others materials.

Pradeep Priyadarshi, National vice president, Manju dungdung Ekta Mahila Manch, Naresh Manjhi, were present there.

## **MANIPUR**

### **MNREGA work in Manipur**

Manipur @Rishikant:

MNREGA work has been started in Keingam village of Imphal west district of Manipur.

Recently, Ekta Parishad has filed application to provide jobs to job card holders. After that, Pass book and job card was verified in last week.





### MLA helped 526 families in Bishunpur

Manipur @Rishikant: The Ekta Parishad provided ration and vegetable to poor families in different villages with the help of local panchayat representative and MLA. 30 poor families were supported in Kanto Achouba and Thanga village. 526 families helped by the MLA in Thanga Oinam, Moirang Khoiru and Tronglaobi village of Bishunpur district of Manipur. Each family got 5 kg of rice, edible oil and salt. EP activist Sandhyarani along with vil-

lage and community leaders actively participated to ensure all especially marginalized poor get there share by following social distancing norm. Community leader participated actively in the process of distribution to ensure no one left.

## ASSAM



### 2000 Stranded labor reached safely

gress Seva Dal sam inform as soon as they will Miss Pyari Jan. sent them. All these mi- It should be known that about grants are safe 1500 labors of Assam and 500 and there is no labors of Odisha brought atten- matter of con- tion of their problem through cern and gov- sitting in for 1 hours before the ernment is Law University. During the ne- aware about gotiation dialogue there was them. language barrier then then they

#### Gowhati @ Nayan Tara:

Food and logistic support provided to about 2000 stranded migrant laborers of Assam in Dr. Ambedkar Law University and other places in Chennai and Assam Bhawan in Benglore by the administration and other organization. In this conjunction, discussion held with Nodel officer in Chennai Mr. Radhakrishnana, Commissioner Mr. Prakash, In-Charge Mr. Vijayan and a leader of Con-

All these migrant laborers are in contact with Deka, Nitual Barua, Gyan jyoti and Nilmani. Nayan Tara of Ekta Parishad has discussed them and conveys their grievances to state government also about their safe returning. Government officer assured and told that efforts have been taken place to call back migrant laborers group wise. Officers from Tamilnadu state assured that whenever government of As-

contacted with Nayan Tara. Nayan Tara convinced them and facilitated between the officer and laborers.

On 20<sup>th</sup> night, government has arranged a train and now stranded labors are coming back to Assam. All the stranded migrant laborers and students have reached safely on 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. Ekta Parishad thanked to every persons for their help in this matter.



### **MNREGA work started in Ratanpur**



Kamrup @ Dimbeshwar:

MNREGA work has been started in Ratanpur village of Dakshin Pantan Gaon Panchayat of Chhayagaon block in Kamrup rural district, they were awaked about the use of mask and social distancing.

The Ekta Parishad filed the application and demanded jobs to the Panchayat for village development as well as livelihood of deprived.

### **Stranded students helped in Chandigarh**



Assam @ Nayan Tara:

4 students of Assam stranded in Chandigarh got food materials and room rent for a month by a social worker Mrs. Astinder Kaur after the conversation with Sanjay Rai of National Youth Project. Also Mr. Rai supported them with Rs. 1100.

## **ODISHA**

### **MNREGA work in Padar village**

Kandhmal @Bibinika:



MNREGA work has been started in Padar village of Kandhamal district where migrant laborers are engaged in jobs.

### **1624 migrant reached Kalahandi**



Kalahandi @ Saroj Bag:

About 1624 migrant laborers of Kalahandi stranded in Surat reached tonight at Bhawani-patna from Surat by Special Shramik Train.



### **600 families helped by the Ex MLA**

Khorda @ Sneha Mohanty:

600 families were provided dry ration by the Ex MLA in Banpur and Berbera Panchayat of Khorda. Local activist Mr. Bhaskar Pradhan facilitated the distribution.



## CHHATTISGARH

### Food materials distributed in Raipur and

Raipur/Sarguja @ Meena/ Raghubir Das: Dependents family member of migrant laborers were given food materials and migrant laborers reached to village and got quarantined in Bhursuda village of Raipur. Youth and women wrote on the wall about the preventive message from Corona in Navagaon. Sarguja @ Raghubir Das: Ekta Parishad provided food materials kit including rice, lentils, edible oil, potato, onions, salt, chilli, turmeric and spices to 10 migrants' families 4 of Jajagi, 3 of Rikhi and 3 of Maheshpurohit village of Udaipur block of Sarguja district. Head of the panchayat in Salaka village helped to 6 destitute families with 5 kg of rice to each, also these families were facilitate to access the government relief amount from the bank.



### Filed application for MNREGA jobs



Korba @ Raghubir Das: 20 job card holders applied for job in Pondikhurd village of Podiuproda block of Korba district with the facilitation of Ekta Parishad's activist Indra Yadav. A group of 35 job card holder demanded for MNREGA work in Gurumuda village of Poudiuproda block.

### Community meeting for awareness



Gariaband @ Nurani jain: A village level meeting organized with maintaining social distance in Bhaissadadar of Gariaband on prevention from Corona. Community were motivated about the use of mask, hand wash and social distancing.

## UTTARPRADESH

### Filed for MNREGA jobs

Jhansi @Siyaram: 37 migrant laborer filed application for jobs under MNREGA to head of the Panchayat of Pali village of Biradha block.

### NYP .....

Maharashtra @ Narendra Bhai: The daily workers of city or villages especially the jobless domestic women workers in Dhuliya of Maharashtra. National Youth Project state unit provided them ration for one month, sanitizer and mask.

## KERALA



Kerala @ Sadik Bhai: The Ekta Parishad provided food materials to poor families in Malappuram district of Kerala.





## STORY ON MIGRANT

*They walked 106 kilometer, 13-15 hours every day and reached Tonk in 2 days in the scorching heat weather. When they tired then stop and again start walking.*

### God should not curse anyone such a day - Chameli Bai

Chameli Bai, a 45 years tribal migrant woman of Naya-gaon of Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh, has just returned from Rajsthan walking hundreds of kilometers. She went for daily wages and got stranded due to lockdown. Telling her own story she started weeping and said "God should not curse anyone such a day. Her husband had mortgaged half acre of land for the marriage of her son and become bonded laborer. Like other tribal family in the villages, she went to Jaipur for daily wages along with her daughter on 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.

Chameli Bai and her daughter started daily wages in a factory and earned Rs. 600 in a day; out of that, they would save some money by spending Rs. 200 on food. It was only 2 weeks of her wages; stopped due to lockdown. When she asked contractor for her outstanding wages, she was given only Rs. 6000 instead of Rs. 8000 and her contractor ran away with the rest of the money. She spent money on her food whatever she re-

ceived.

When money is spent and the lockdown increased, then they decided to return home. Group of laborers started foot march with their children. They walked 106 kilometer, 13-15 hours every day and reached Tonk in 2 days in the scorching heat weather. When they tired then stop and again start walking. She said "they did not dare to continue walk forward as they were hectic tired after reaching Tonk. It seemed that they would not reach their home, as they did not have enough money to pay for private vehicle."

A police man helped them to get a truck in free of cost but After a few kilometer of journey, truck driver forcibly taken money from them to drop Sawai Madhopur.

At any how they reached Sawai Madhopur and started waiting for any other transport. A person guided them to reach the bus stop, where Sheopur administration managed the bus and boarded them. A police man of Madhya Pradesh Police told them not to

pay any fare but after passing some kilometer, the bus conductor

asked for money and threatened to get off the bus and forced to pay the fare. Forcibly bus conductor took the fare.

They examined by the health department at Samarsa police check post and provided food and transport by the administration. As soon as bus reached to Sheopur, she felt very happy to reach hometown. They started foot march to reach Nayagaon from Sheopur in the joy of meeting with family member and reaching home.

After 5 days, she reached her home and breathed a sigh of relief. She has received Rs. 1000 from the government for nutrition pension and 10 kilogram of wheat, but it is not possible to live with this little amount and grain. Chameli Bai and her daughter are collecting wheat in farm where wheat fallen in harvesting. The storm of troubles had not stopped in the life of Chameli bai yet because there is no wages in the village, how will she feed herself and her daughter.

(Source: Jyoti Rajak)



## **Precautions while working in MAREGA**

**Keep at least one meter distance from each other while working**

**Keep a distance of one meter from each other while going to work and back**

**Put a mask or cloth on your face**

**Wash hands with soap before and after touching any tool shovel, hoe and basket**

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