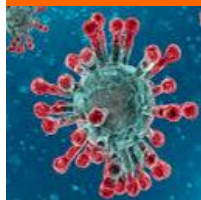


CORONA COVID 19 RESPONSES BY



EKTA

PARISHAD



UPDATE 12

Period : May 25-31, 2020

Gwalior/India



MADHYA PRADESH

Union Minister Panchayat and rural development department distributed food kit

Sheopur @Jaisingh: Union Minister of Farmers Welfare and Agricultural Development and Panchayat & Rural Development Department Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar distributed 50 kits of food materials to tribal families in a program organized by Mahatma Gandhi Seva Ashram at Nutrition Smart Village Paron of Karahal block of Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh. Also he provided 40 nutritious supplementary food kits to 40 children.

Union Minister said that peoples are facing the Corona epidemic in the country and the state and the central governments are trying constant efforts to get rid of Corona infection. He said that the Tribal Welfare Department is providing one thousand rupees to women of Sahariya tribal families as a nutrition pension every month. Saharaiya family can use this money to

nurture their children. He said that migrant laborers stranded in other states are returning their home in the Corona transition period. This sequence is going on continuously. As the same time, migrant laborers were provided jobs under the MNREGA. The works of this act are being done through the CEO of District Panchayat in Sheopur. Pond deepening and construction of check dams are including in this work.

Agriculture Welfare Development Minister Mr. Tomar said that the government has given a special package in addition to the budget for MNREGA. In which, the laborer will be able to get work in his/her panchayat and move in the economic direction. He said that Ekta Parishad is helping to district administration for elimination of malnutrition in Sahariya tribal area. At the same time, volunteers of the Ekta Parishad

are distributing food materials to tribal families in free in direction of food and etc. This work of the Ekta Parishad is commendable. He appealed to volunteers of the Ekta Parishad and officers of government department to make awareness among the tribal about the use of mask, sanitizers in their daily activities in view of the Corona infection. This will help to protect them from Corona.

Union Minister Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar felicitated the volunteers of Ekta Parishad for their active work and providing food materials to tribal families in epidemic corona in the program. Besides, food kit was provided to the returned migrant laborers Neeraj, Anil and Deepak.

The President of Ekta Parishad Mr. Ran Singh Parmar thanked to union minister along with other officials for promotion of mutual understanding to eliminate malnutrition from the region.

Mr. Sitaram Adivasi (MLA, Vijaypur), Mr. Rakesh Kumar (District collector), Mr. Sampad Upadhyay (Superintendent of Police), Mr. Jai Singh Jadon (District coordinator, Ekta Parishad) and other activists of MGSA were present in the program.

2000 Girls awaked on social distancing



Sheopur @ Jaisingh: 2000 girls from 70 villages are learnt about the social distancing through organizing various community level meetings by Mahatma Gandhi Seva Ashram. Jai Singh told that MGSA is providing education to drop out girls to promote the girls education and bring them into the mainstream education in tribal area of Karahal in Sheopur district since last 4 years. There are 74 girls education center in 70 villages, where 2000 girls are enrolled. MGSA provided them a special preventive session on Covid 19 Corona epidemic like hand wash, so-

cial distancing through poster and lecture. MGSA has started a campaign under which activists are going from village to village and following social distance, making people aware about Covid-19 through mobile videos, supporting educational material, charts, posters.

86 Migrant workers helped with food materials

Sheopur @ Kuldeep Tiwari: Ekta Parishad distributed food materials kit to 86 migrant workers in Paratwada panchayat of Karahal block in Sheopur. A short meeting organized with maintaining social distance. Community awaked about the government schemes regarding the registration of migrant labour on website of the government of Madhya Pradesh and they way to access them. Also the activist met with the secretary of the Panchayat and requested him to register all the migrant labor that they could access the government schemes. Coordinator Ramkumar Chouhan told that peoples from tribal community who returned from migration in Karahal they are facilitating to get registration for government schemes.

MGSA distributed T-shirt to 700 kids and adolescent girls



Dhar @ Prasanna: MGSA distributed T-shirt to 700 kids and adolescent girls in Manawar and Kukshi tehsil of Dhar district with the support of Pratibha Syntex Ltd. Program manager of Dhar district Mr. Prasanna told that most of the families were unable to purchase cloths for their kids, children and adolescent girls in epidemic Corona.

He approached the director of the Pratibha Syntex Ltd for their kind support and they become agree to provide the cloths. The beneficiaries belonged from poor families and migrants laborer. MGSA provided 700 T-shirts to 700 children from 21 villages.

Food materials distributed in Umaria and Sehore



EP helped to 50 destitute families in Umaria



Umaria @ Bhagwat Patel: The Ekta Parishad provided food materials flour, rice, edible oil and lentils to 50 destitute families of 7 villages in Manpur block of Umaria district. Mr. Bhagawat Patel, district coordinator of the Ekta Parishad that recently village unit of community organization identified single women headed, differently able person, and old age persons.

38 destitute families helped in Sehore



Sehore @ Shreeram: 62 destitute tribal families of 11 villages were identified by Ekta Parishad in Nasrullaganj block of Sehore district and they were given food materials kit in the presence of senior activist Mr. Rakesh Ratan Singh. All these beneficiaries were landless, differently able persons, widow. Tikaram Barela, Rukmani Bai and Gulsingh helped in distribution. Recently the Ekta Parishad has identified the destitute families in 10 villages and then distributed food materials among them to save them from starvation.

37 laborers engaged in MNREGA

Umaria @ Ramprakash: 37 laborers are building farm binding under MNREGA work in Devari panchayat of Manpur block of Umaria district. They have got the jobs in their village to develop the land. It will help them to earn money and binding in farm will stop the water in the farm, which will be good for the agriculture.

UTTARPRADESH



Provided food materials and masks 200 tribal families

Lalitpur @ Siyaram Sahariya: Ekta Parishad provided food materials and masks to 200 migrant laborer families, who recently returned their villages from migration in Ranipura, 9 number village, Lar, Bharatpura, Karmohara, Nayakheda, Siwani khurd, Guleda of Jakhoura block of Lalitpur district. Each families got 10 kg of flour and 1 kg of pulses and mask. Activist Babita, Rashmi, Sukhdevi and Siyaram helped in distribution of materials.

CHHATTISGARH



Jobs in land leveling work

Gariaband @ Nurani Jain: Land leveling work on forest land of Dharmsingh Kujam is going on, 33 labors have got the employment under the MNREGA for 2 weeks. Kujam has accessed the forest land rights of 3 acre of land after a long struggle in Godalbay village of Gariband district.



14 migrant families of 7 village got food materials

Sarguja @ Raghubir das: The Ekta Parishad provided food materials to 14 migrant families of 7 villages in Udaipur block of Sarguja district. These families have returned recently from migration. They were provided rice, lentils, edible oil, potato, onions, salt, turmeric and spices. There were Raghubir das, Rajani Devi, Amarnath and Arjun Das.

BIHAR



95 families of Patna got food materials

Patna @ Manjudungdung: The Ekta Parishad provided 95 destitute families, single women headed family of Naubatpur and Bihta block of Patna district. They were provided flour, rice, lentils and soap. The vice president of Ekta Parishad Mr. Pradeep Priydarshi told that all these families are excluded from any kind of relief work of government. There were senior activist of the Ekta Parishad such as Block coordinator Naubatpur Rajkumar and Shiv Thakur of Bihta, District coordinator Naresh Manjhi and Maju Dungdung of Ekta Mahila Manch.



Migrant laborers provided jobs in MNREGA

Gaya @ Shatrughan: 19 migrant laborers have got jobs in MNREGA in Mistriyadih village of Dhumarchitti Panchayat of Fatehpur block in Gaya district. The Ekta Parishad requested to BDO Mr. Kumud Ranjan Singh of Fatehpur block before some days ago.

All these landless labors belongs to deprived section and they do not have any means of employment that they could manage their food. They depend on daily wages for their livelihood.

MANIPUR



115 families helped in food materials

West Imphal @ Rishikant : 115 families of Keingam and Kanto achouba village got the food materials from Ekta Parishad in Imphal west district of Manipur.



Each families were provided 8 kg of rice. Also, Ekta Parishad national office provided food materials to stranded migrants laborers from Manipur and Nagaland in Bhopal.

ASSAM



Stranded labors of Assam reached from Bengaluru

Assam @ Nayantara: 32 migrant laborers of Assam were stranded in Bengaluru, they reached their home by bus safely. Ekta Parishad helped them in food materials at the lockdown period in Bengaluru. The bus was started on 25th of May and after 4 days of journey bus arrived Assam on 29th of May. They got medical check-up and quarantined for 14 days in Tejpur. Migrant laborer thanked to Ekta Parishad for their support during the lockdown period.



Team visited quarantine center

Dhemaji @ Dimbenath: A team of Ekta Parishad visited the quarantine center of Covid 19 at Sagolia village of Dhubri district of Assam. EP's activist Mr. Ujjal and Mr. Jagannath are working with local authority to help covid patients.

MLA helped a sick person

Jorhat @ Dimbenath: Local MLA Mr. Renuroma



Rajkhowa of Tiyo legislative assembly in Jorhat district of Assam helped to a sick poor person with one thousand rupees after the request of EP's activist. Also NEADS organization helped him with food materials.

Mr. Mohan Saikia found a person suffering from Arthopedic problem for last three months in Kojan Bamkukura Chuwa village during the field visit after that he request to MLA for necessary help.

Demand for jobs to migrant labour

Tinisukia @ Dimbenath: The Ekta Parishad demanded jobs to migrant labours at local level to MLA Mr. Balin Chetia. The Ekta Parishad's activist Mrs. Runjun joined a village level inauguration meeting headed by local MLA and asked him to take necessary action to create jobs at local level to engaged migrant labours that had backed to home. MLA assured to needful work.



ODISHA



Covid-19 awareness program in different villages

Kalahandi @ Sneha Mohanty: The Ekta Parishad district committee of Kalahandi organized awareness program on prevention from Corona, hand wash, maintaining social distance and using mask with community through maintaining

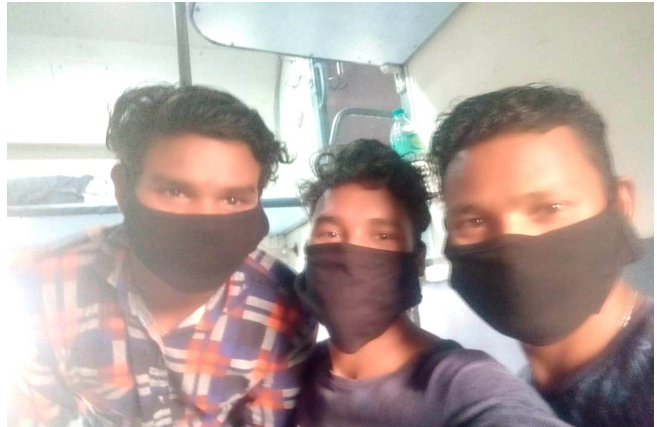
social distance in Sergiguda, Talrachuguda, Upper Rachuguda, Merkul, Amjore, Palaspadar, Labaneshwar, Jakham, Paimal, Borakhal village of Bhawanipatana block of Kalahandi district.

Visited the Quarantine center of Nildriprasad

Khordha @ Sneha Mohanty: Activist of the Ekta Parishad along with head of the local self governance visited the quarantine center of Niladriprasad gram panchayat of Banpur block of Khordha district and discussed with migrant laborers for their problems relating shelter and food.

An activist helped the train ticket for migrant laborers of Odisha

Chennai/Khordha @ Sneha Mohanty: An eminent social worker of Tamilnadu Mr. Ananta Sayanam arranged the train ticket for 10 migrant laborers of Damia Berbera gram panchayat of Banpur block of Khordha district of Odisha stranded in Chennai since lockdown period. All the migrant laborers reached their home safely. Mr. Ravi Badri helped them many times for financial assistance, food materials and shelter in



a guest house in Tamilnadu during the lockdown period after the conversation with Sneha Mohanty. All these laborers were stranded and became helpless after spending all the money on food whatever they earned. After that they contacted with the Ekta Parishad for help.

NYP

NYP members provided foods and water in different places



Joura @ Shital Jain: National Youth Project, New Delhi has been working for humanitarian response in Corona epidemic in different states. Office bearer Mr. Shital Jain told that state unit of NYP Telengana provided rice and vegetables to destitute families with the help of local contributors. Youths of NYP has provided food packets and drinking water to the rail passengers in Betul railway station.



STORY ON MIGRANT

Lockdown and foot march of migrant labour

Sheopur @ Rajkumar Chouhan: Netram a tribal migrant labour, A resident of Gothra village of tribal block Karahal in Sheopur district, walked for about 100 km from Sabalgarh, Morena to his village in two days with his wife, 3 years old boy and 6 month girls on 4th of May. In Sabalgarh, he was stopped for medical checkup and after the medical checkup, he was left with a stamp on his hand. He spent one night in Sabalgarh. There was no means to come to Sheopur from there. So early in the morning on the second day, they walked towards their village on foot. 12 kg of potatoes and some important items kept with him for the house were thrown on the road side because it was burden on the foot-march and created problems.

Actually, Netram was coming from Agra via Dhaulpur in a pickup vehicle, and then his rental vehicle was stopped by the Rajasthan police on the Chambal bridge. After being thirsty and hungry for 7-8 hours, when the child started crying, his patience was answered and he threatened to jump into the Chambal River and committing suicide with the family, then the police release him. Some people had served him

food there also. After entering in Morena district, the district administration provided a bus for Sabalgarh from Morena.

In the hope of daily wages, Netram went to Agra from Sheopur on February 17 for wages to extract potatoes. If the husband and wife worked as a laborer, his three-year-old boy would take care of the little 6 month old baby girl. The husband and wife along with other laborers used to live in a cloth hut on the farm itself. Both earned Rs 500 per day as wages. Due to rain, sufficient wages were not received and it was only 8 days that the lockdown was announced. Whatever they earned, they spent on eating. The contractor arranged food for a few days later he also refused. When nothing was left, after a lot of pleading with the contractor, a carriage was arranged to send it.

Netram's economic condition is not good. He and his wife maintain their family through daily wages. Sometimes, one day's wages they have to be spent throughout the week to manage food. As a result, they do not get nutritious food. Regular wages are not available in the village. So he went to Agra for agricultural wages with his family. They left their home and village and went Badni village of Agra district in Uttar Pradesh with a contractor in the hope that they would arrange about 4 months of expenses after 1 month of migration.

After nearly 3 months of long struggle, Netram reached home. His house was broken due to storm before he reached and there was no ration in the house. Now, he gets one to two days wages in a week and he arrange food for his family. Netram says that the coming 4 months of rainy season is going to be very difficult, how will he be able to take care of his children when wages are not available. He is worried and says that he has escaped from Corona but how can he survive without employment in the rain.

*Walked
100 km
with
wife,
3 years son
and
6 month old
daughter
to reach
his house.*



LAND BASED RURAL ECONOMY WILL CHECK THE MIGRATION TREND

By: **Anil Kumar Gupta**

*Mahatma
Gandhi's vision
of self rule
that every
village
becomes
self
reliant*

Kanser Village in Gwalior, MP where the tribal families were entitled ownership right to forest land - encroached by them - four years ago are being used for cultivation. They also collect forest produce from the nearby forest areas for some period of time in a year and sell them and rest of the time they are engaged in labour work. As a result there is hardly any family who migrate from this village. Deogarh has the same story where tribal families have claimed for their rights to forest land. All the families of this village sustain their livelihood by cultivation, collecting forest produce and working locally as a labourer. But still they have not got rights to forest land. The third similar example is of Madaikala Village in Umari where no family has migrated till date. People of this village are more or less self reliant and are dependent on market only

for copy, books, cloths, medicine and salt. Villagers of Madaikala have also worked collectively for rural tourism. The same is true with Mahatma Gandhi's vision of self rule that every village becomes self reliant. In this concept of interdependent model of development village is assumed as one unit of our economy.

Today the economic challenges that have been posed with blindly following the western model of development could only be met with the concept of Gandhi's economic model. As Gandhian thinker JC Kumarappa believes that this is the only model of sustainable economy. Gandhiji believed that participation and involvement of more and more people in the economy is more important for inclusive development than focusing on productivity. This lockdown amid corona virus has raised question on the very basis of



these migrant laborers does not end here and could be increased.

Two months, period of this lockdown has jolted the Indian economy in a way that motivated and put pressure on the government and policy makers to find ways for rejuvenating the Indian economy. At present center, state, district level government machinery is engaged in the efforts of developing traditional means of livelihood with a new vigor. Agriculture sector creates the largest numbers of employments opportunities. Gandhi's vision of self reliant India is still relevant. The need of the hour is to explore the possibilities of its enlargement and extension.

western capitalist model of development that primarily relies on mechanized means for increasing productivity. We all are aware of the plight of workers in the stampede like situation in the country that have laid emphasis on the need of reviewing our own developmental model and agenda.

It is essential that self reliant society should be evolved on the basis of natural resources like water, forest and land with a new vigor. Production of basic amenities should be decentral-

Most of migrant laborers that want to go back to their home villages and towns belong north parts of India, who migrate to the state of Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Maharastra, Gujrat, Haryana and the Punjab for their livelihood and landless. As per government data, 56 percent of families in the rural India are landless. Ekta Parishad advocates for allocating land to the landless, particularly to those communities who are dependent on agricultural labors and physical labour for their livelihood and survival. And with unavailability of livelihood source they are forced to migrate from their homes to work in other parts of India and that too without any protection and security.



Western model of agriculture farming, that involves mechanization, chemical fertilizers, genetically modified seeds and crops and corporate agriculture farming have reduced the number of employment/manpower in the sector and as a result the distance of migration have increased. The plight of migrant labour amid corona virus has prove this fact that there have been no plan or concern at the government level to check/prevent migration trend. According to government data 6.5 lakh migrant labourers of Uttar Pradesh and 15.36 lakhs migrant laborers of Bihar have come back to their respective states. The figure of

ized. Area wise production and food processing small units of agricultural and forest produce should be encouraged. Similarly barren and waste land should be developed as a livelihood based agricultural and forest land. We can generate employment and check the migration trend with learning from above two stories on sustainable development of land and forest based livelihood.

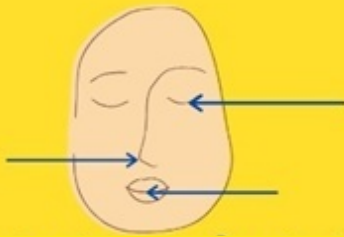
CAUTION IS THE ONLY PREVENTION IN CORONA



Maintain at least one meter distance from each other



Wash your hands frequently with soap and water



Wash hands before touching your eyes, nose and mouth



Use the masks and towel regularly



Pay special attention on old age person and children



See a doctor if you have a cold, cough and fever



Do not spit in public places



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Source: "EP corona response" Whatsapp group