

All India Central Council Of Trade Unions

Delhi State Committee



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S.No...AICCTU/ DELHI/ CORONA- GOV / RELIEF - 20

Date...29.03.20.....

To
The Chief Minister / Lieutenant Governor
Delhi Government

**Subject: Regarding Relief to Workers Stranded In Different Areas of Delhi & Other
Issues Arising Out Of Current Crisis**

You are well aware of the current exodus of the workers triggered by cruel-inhuman implementation of 'lockdown' due to corona. Not only has the very purpose of 'distancing' been defeated by the thoughtless, unplanned, hasty and cruel functioning of central and state governments; such implementation of disease control methods have led to increased vulnerability to COVID-19 infection.

Your office has failed to initiate any kind of relief measure for lakhs of workers stranded on the roads of Delhi. Despite registration of several workers in dire need of food, ration and other necessary items, on the internet site run/provided by Delhi Government (<https://epass.jantasamvad.org/epass/relief/hindi/>)- no relief has reached even the registered workers. The compensation amount of Rs 5000 was announced only for workers registered with the Delhi Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, even when the government is aware that the number of registered workers is just a small fraction of total number of workers engaged in the construction sector! It is even more problematic that the registered construction workers have also not got the announced scheme. People are waiting in long queues to get essential ration supplies. Police atrocities have peaked and mostly poor workers are being threatened, abused and beaten – many workers have conveyed that they are too afraid to even go out for getting groceries or eating at 'night shelters' because of police excesses. Proper preventive masks, sanitizers etc are selling at higher prices, reports of black-marketing are also abundant. Shopkeepers and vendors are being harassed by police as well. No relief has been announced for lakhs of self employed and domestic workers.

Tenants – mostly migrant workers and students are being harassed by landlords. Many workers who work and live inside factory premises have complained that factory-owners are forcing them to go back to their home-states. Migrant workers willing to go home are being charged hefty amounts by transporters. The Prime Minister as well as the CM & LG of GNCTD had said that no one will go hungry in the country but the truth has come out in open- millions of workers are doing long marches, just to survive the cruelty unleashed by their governments. The responses of Central & State Governments clearly demonstrate lack of will to help the poor and most hard working population of the country- which is grossly criminal on part of elected governments, be it Central or State. That the governments have engaged in gagging political dissent including that of anti-CAA protesters and dismantling of relief camp being run for Delhi riot victims is very disturbing.

Elected representatives of the people are shying away from their responsibilities and falling abysmally short of offering any kind of help. Workers providing essential services in Government & Private hospitals, Delhi Transport Corporation etc., especially those engaged on contractual basis/ engaged in sanitation work are not being given any PPEs. Many distress messages are being received by our union officials regarding retrenchments/ pay cuts/ harassment by managements even during times of such huge crisis triggered by Corona and Government policies. In view of such a huge and unprecedented crisis triggered by government policy, we demand the following –

1. Immediately provide food, medicines, money, rent-waiver and arrange for necessary medical facilities for free-screening/testing etc. to all the workers living/ stranded in Delhi. Hoarding, black-marketing should be stopped immediately and price rise must be arrested. These arrangements should be made for all the people of Delhi especially the poor working-class population - criteria like registration with welfare boards or availability of ration card, Aadhaar card etc should be done away with. Exodus cannot be stopped until door-to-door delivery of these essential needs is ensured by the government. AICCTU would be more than willing to pledge volunteer services for such arrangements.
2. Provide cash relief of amount not less than the notified minimum wages to all workers. Remove all artificial criteria like registration in welfare boards etc. for providing relief to people.
3. Make immediate arrangements for Delhi-riot victims. Ensure proper arrangements for their shelter, food, medicines and other needs. Provide for quick disbursement of compensation to all riot victims. Open relief camp with all necessary arrangements.

4. Open all the government and private schools, MCD halls, DDA owned community properties and empty clusters of DDA flats for the migrant workers stranded in Delhi and bordering areas. A compensation amount of at least Rs 1,00,00,000 should be given to family members of workers who are succumbing to death due to these long marches. Arrangements should be made for proper food and medical facilities to all the workers without any restrictions.
5. In order to facilitate the relief work, all MP bungalows, five-star hotels, farm-houses and unoccupied apartments should be converted into well-equipped relief camps/hospitals/quarantine centres/relief camps.
6. Immediately put-end to all police excesses and brutalities. Punish officers guilty for allowing such instances.
7. All the private hospitals, labs and nursing homes should be immediately taken over by Delhi Government to compensate for inadequate government health infrastructure and access to all public.
8. Instances of retrenchment of workers – temporary, casual, apprentice, contractual, etc. should be immediately dealt with. Labour department officials should be instructed to act swiftly in such cases and ensure that crisis does not escalate further due to re-trenchments/ pay-cuts/ harassment of workers in all private and government establishments. Paid-leave should be guaranteed for all categories of workers who cannot remain present on duty.
9. Ensure that PPEs of proper make and in adequate quantity are provided to all health sector workers, scheme workers, other workers engaged in relief work and essential services. Workers should be given special pay/ risk pay of not less than Rs 15,000 for at least three months or till the time such situations persist.
10. Ensure payment of all dues and benefits to contract/ contractual workers at par with permanent workers. Any worker injured or harmed during relief work or maintenance of essential services should be provided proper care by appropriate government and given adequate compensation. Proper facilities and protection should be extended to all workers.
11. Government agencies responsible for maintaining health, hygiene, taking care of stray animals etc. must be provided all required funds and arrangements.
12. The Delhi & Central governments must take note of the fact that the labour laws which are being continuously destroyed/weakened in the Parliament and state assemblies, are actually providing relief in these times, BOCW Act, 1996 – because of

which welfare board for construction workers came into being is such an example. Similarly PSUs have come forward for manufacturing of ventilators and Indian Railways has converted its coaches into quarantine facilities. It is the government hospitals which are offering maximum relief to people. All proposals/bills for abrogation of labour laws and attempts to privatize all government establishments/ PSUs must be immediately stopped.

AICCTU Delhi would like to reiterate that it would be more than willing to provide volunteers and other resources available with it, and therefore suggest that the government take active help from trade unions and other organizations willing to volunteer for relief work.

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Cc -

1. Labour Minister, GNCTD
2. Labour Commissioner, Shamnath Marg