

**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India**

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**Proactive coordination among States and Railways essential to run more trains for smooth transport of Migrant Workers; District Authorities must give their requirements to Railways**

**Run more Buses, ensure their Smooth Transition across States and inter-State borders  
Create en-route Rest Places with basic amenities for people on foot, till they are guided to bus/rail stations**

**Dispel rumours, give clarity on train/bus departures: MHA to States**

**New Delhi, May 19, 2020**

In a communication to the States, Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has noted that fear of COVID-19 infection and apprehension of loss of livelihood are the main driving factors for the movement of stranded workers towards their homes. In order to mitigate the distress of migrant workers, the communication stresses on a number of measures that may be taken by the State governments, pro-actively in coordination with the Centre. These are:

- Operation of **more special trains** by pro-active coordination between States and with Ministry of Railways;
- **Increase in number of buses** for transporting migrants; allowing entry of buses carrying migrants at inter-state border;
- **More clarity may be given about departure of trains/ buses**, as lack of clarity coupled with rumours caused unrest amongst the workers;
- Arrangement of **designated rest places**, with adequate facilities for sanitation, food and healthcare, could be made by the States on routes where migrants are known to be already travelling on foot;
- District Authorities may **guide workers** moving on foot to designated rest places, nearby bus terminals or railway stations by arranging transportation;
- **Special attention** may be given to the specific requirements of women, children and elderly amongst the migrant workers;
- District Authorities may involve **NGO representatives** at rest places etc, to alleviate the notion of long quarantine at rest places. Workers may also be encouraged to remain at places where they are;
- **Enlisting the migrants** with their addresses and contact numbers. This may be helpful in contact tracing in due course.

The communication reiterates that District Authorities must ensure that no migrant worker has to resort to walking on roads or railway tracks to reach his/her destination. They may request Ministry of Railways for running trains, as per requirement.

**To see Official Communication to States**↓

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**VG/SNC/VM**

AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव  
Home Secretary  
भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
North Block,  
New Delhi

D.O. No. 40-10/2020-DM-I(A)

18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

Dear *Chief Secretary,*

I am writing in continuation to my D.O. letter of even number dated 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

2. As you may be aware, fear of COVID-19 infection and apprehension of loss of livelihood are the main driving factors for the movement of stranded workers towards their homes. In order to mitigate the distress of migrant workers, I would be grateful if the following measures could be implemented:

- i) Operation of more special trains by pro-active coordination between States and with Ministry of Railways;
- ii) For routes where the migrants are known to be already travelling on foot, arrangement could be made by the States, which are *en route*, for designated rest places, taking into account requirement of sanitation, food and health;
- iii) District Authorities may guide workers moving on foot to designated rest places, nearby bus terminals or railway stations by arranging transportation ;
- iv) Enlisting the migrants with their addresses and contact numbers, which may be helpful in contact tracing in due course;
- v) Involvement of NGO representatives at rest places etc;
- vi) Alleviation of notion of long quarantine at rest places by District Authorities/ NGO workers;
- vii) Increase in number of buses for transporting migrants;
- viii) Allowing entry of buses carrying migrants at inter-state border;
- ix) Adequate arrangement of food, health care and counseling to encourage the workers to remain at places where they are;
- x) More clarity about departure of trains/ buses, as lack of clarity coupled with rumors caused unrest amongst the workers;
- xi) Special attention may be given to the specific requirements of women, children and elderly amongst the migrant workers.

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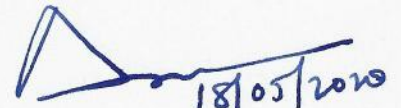
3. **District Authorities may be directed to request Ministry of Railways for running trains, where required and ensure that no migrant worker has to resort to walking on roads or railway tracks to reach his destination.** As you may be aware, Area officers in Ministry of Home Affairs are already assisting State Nodal Officers and Railway Nodal Officers in movement of stranded labour. We would be happy to facilitate the process further.

4. I would also like to draw your attention to the MHA Order no. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 relating to the movement of stranded persons. In the said order, it was *inter alia* directed that the States/ UTs falling on the transit route will allow the passage of such persons to the receiving State/ UT. District Authorities may ensure smooth and unhindered movement of buses transporting stranded persons.

5. I would be grateful for your cooperation in pro-active monitoring and resolution of the situation.

*With regards,*

Yours sincerely,

  
18/05/2020  
(Ajay Bhalla)

**Chief Secretaries of all States**  
(As per Standard list attached)