

“Those who spread rumours that migrant workers are being attacked in Tamil Nadu are against the Indian nation; they cause harm to the integrity of the country. It is highly condemnable that some people are indulging in doing such dirty politics on social media” – Statement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru M.K. Stalin.

Tamil Nadu is known for its hospitality and supports people who come and settle here. People who have come to Tamil Nadu from the northern states and live here will vouch for this better than we do. Recently, a video clip of a woman from North India, who spoke on a talk show platform hosted by a private TV channel, went viral on social media. She said, "When I came to Tamil Nadu with my child who could not speak, I got a ration card and thereby got coverage under the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme and my child received treatment worth lakhs of rupees at free of cost. Now my child is talking and the credit goes to Tamil Nadu". Tamil Nadu has always been a cradle of mercy that always extends a helping hand to mankind and it will always remain the same.

People from different states have been coming to Tamil Nadu over the years for trade, profession, health, education and work. They have also risen in life and raised Tamil Nadu's economy. In the recent past, there has been an increase in the number of workers from other states coming to Tamil Nadu in search of employment opportunities. This is due to the fact that here, employment opportunities exist in various sectors such as service sectors, construction, small and large industries. The reason why a large number of labourers from different states come to the State is the assurance that if one arrives in Tamil Nadu, he/she

will certainly get work and have a peaceful life. The Government of Tamil Nadu provides necessary basic amenities to the workers of all the States who come with such confidence and the State also ensures that their due benefits and protection under various Labour Welfare Protection Laws are extended to them.

During the second wave of Covid, control rooms were created in all the district to help workers from the northern states who wanted to return to their home states. Help desks have been established at railway stations in Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Salem districts.

During that time, the Greater Chennai Metropolitan Corporation, local bodies and NGOs jointly provided food items and transport facilities to the migrant workers. I also visited the camp where they were staying and ensured that they were provided with proper facilities. Similarly, 1,29,440 migrant workers who did not have ration cards and lost their jobs at that time were given 15 kg of rice, 1 kg of toor dal and one kg of edible oil.

A sum of Rs.6.27 crore has been disbursed so far to all state workers as accident compensation during the service period since 1.4.2021. Awareness training camps are also being conducted for them in the construction industry to work safely and avoid accidents. So far, 456 training camps have been conducted and 43,000 workers have been trained. A website has also been created for all

migrant workers in Tamil Nadu to register their names. We are taking care of all the workers from outside the state with kindness.

Some people who cannot tolerate this peaceful atmosphere are trying to denigrate the culture of the Tamil people with the ill-intention of bringing a bad name to the Government. Their ulterior intentions will not be fulfilled. The workers from other states here know of the peaceful situation that is naturally prevailing here. That is the reason why even now, labourers are constantly coming to Tamil Nadu from other states, and Tamil Nadu welcomes them as always.

Strict legal action will be taken against those who deliberately spread rumours and cause fear and panic in Tamil Nadu with videos and pictures of certain incidents that took place in other states.

Those who spread rumours that migrant workers are being attacked in Tamil Nadu are against the Indian nation; they cause harm to the integrity of the country. It is highly condemnable that some people are doing such dirty politics on an issue that does not exist.

The workers from the North need not have any fear. If someone threatens them, they may seek help through the helpline numbers of the police department that have been notified, and I assure that action will be taken on receipt of information / complaints.

I would like to kindly inform the labour brothers who have come from other States to here that this Government and the people of Tamil Nadu will be a bulwark for all the state workers here and I request you not to have any fear on the basis of false news.

It all started with a journalist from Bihar who spread a news of private conflict between two individuals that took place in some other state as if it had happened in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, I appeal to the TV channels, social media channels/platforms and those who use the social media platforms to realise their social responsibility and publish news in accordance with media ethics and not to publish news for sensationalism without checking the facts.

In this regard, I have spoken to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar, brother Thiru. Nitish Kumar and assured him that all the workers in the State are our own workers, they help us in the development of our state and that no harm will happen to them.

Issued By: - DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai – 9

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