

**Measures taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu to ensure the safety of Migrant workers**

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Government of Tamil Nadu has been taking various measures to protect the welfare of the migrant workers. An exclusive website (<https://labour.tn.gov.in/ism/>) has been designed for the registration of migrant workers in Tamil Nadu. The details of more than 6 lakh migrant workers have been registered on the website by the officials of Labour Department, Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health, Employers and by migrant workers themselves.

Considering the welfare of migrant labours, Government of Tamil Nadu has distributed dry food packages containing 15 kg rice, 1 kg dhal and 1 kg edible oil to 4,16,047 migrant workers in the first phase; 4,66,025 workers in the second phase in the first wave and for 1,29,444 workers during the second wave of pandemic lockdown period. Packages were delivered directly to their places of residence.

In order to protect the welfare of the Interstate Migrant Workers during Covid period, help desks were set up at various Railway stations. Food Packets, Drinking water were also distributed at free of cost to the stranded Interstate Migrant workers in the Railway Stations. Similarly, medical camps and various awareness camps were organised at the dwelling places of migrant workers during Covid pandemic .

Recently, a small unrest was created among the Interstate Migrant Workers as because of the circulation of fake videos of assault in social media. The Police Department has confirmed that it was the videos are fake ones. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has also assured that, "The Government of Tamil Nadu provides basic amenities to all the Inter-State Migrant workers who visit Tamil Nadu and ensures due privileges and protection under the Labour Protection Act to them. The contents on

social media showing the Migrant workers being assaulted in Tamil Nadu are fabricated one. Legal action will be taken against the people who deliberately spread fake news and create a sense of fear among migrant labourers in the state with the videos and pictures of some incidents that took place in other states."

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu visited a glove manufacturing company located in Kavalkinaru, Tirunelveli district today (07.03.2023) and interacted with the labourers from Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. They said that some of them have been working here for six years, many between one and two years and some live with their families too. They have a conducive working atmosphere here and all the facilities including quality food and accommodation have also been provided, they added. The people of Tamil Nadu have brotherly attitude towards them and they live here without any sense of fear as safely as in their own hometown.

The Honourable Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department said, "The northern state labourers face no problem here in Tamil Nadu and they work without any fear and our culture and practice is to welcome those who come to our state with friendly attitude. As a result, the other state workers who come to Tamil Nadu are living in harmonious and peaceful environment."

The DIG of Jharkhand State and his team met Principal Secretary / Commissioner of labour and the officials of Labour Department in the Commissionerate of Labour, Chennai, in the morning of 04<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, and explained that migrant workers employed in the state of Tamil Nadu are safe and the video and news took round in the media are false. The Officials of Labour Department and the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health of Tamil Nadu were also present in the meeting.

Subsequently, a team of representatives from Jharkhand met the Jharkhand state workers engaged in construction work at Pallikaranai and Potheri area in Chengalpattu district in the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, and learned about the actual situation. The Jharkhand State team met and discussed the actual situation with the other state workers working in

the factories at Irungattukottai and Keevalur, Kaatrambakkam panchayat and Sriperumpudur in Kanchipuram district. During these inspections, the labourers from other states informed the team that they work safely and peacefully in Tamil Nadu.

In the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023, a special team from Bihar state comprised of Special Secretary, Labour Department, Secretary, Rural Development Department, Inspector General of Police (CID), Superintendent of Police (Special Task Force) met the Public Secretary, Principal Secretary /Commissioner of labour and Chennai District Collector, in the office of the Collectorate, Chennai. During the meeting the Representatives from Bihari Association of Chennai, Employer Representatives, Revenue Officials, the officials of Labour Department and Directorate Of Industrial Safety & Health of Tamil Nadu were also present. Bihari Association of Chennai informed that there is no threat to migrant workers from various states of india including Bihar state. Further, they informed that the working conditions of the migrant workers is also very good in Tamil Nadu and also the contents published in social media and the press in Bihar were fake .

The officials of the Labour department advised the Employers' Association to ask the Interstate workmen not to believe the rumours taking round in social media in order to bring in confidence. Brief meetings were also conducted in this regard.

In the morning of 06<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, a team from Jharkhand state met the Interstate Migrant workmen in Tirupur district, Udumalaipet Palladam, Vellakoil and Avinasi in person and studied the actual situation. Similarly, a team from Bihar met the Inter State Migrant workmen in Coimbatore district, Annoor, Thoppampatti and Veerapandi division and studied the actual situation. In the above inspections, the Interstate Migrant workmen informed the team that they were working safely and peacefully in Tamil Nadu.

As per the direction of the Hon'ble Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill Development and Additional Chief Secretary, Labour Welfare and Skill Development Department and Principal Secretary / Labour Commissioner, a briefing was held under the chairmanship of the Joint Commissioner of Labour, Erode, on 05.03.2023 to allay the fear of the Interstate Migrant workmen. Union representatives of Tarapuram, Udumalaipet based food companies, union representatives of shops and establishments, dye factory representatives, trade union representatives and government officials took part in this meeting. The representatives who attended this meeting stated that the Interstate Migrant workmen were working in their company without any fear.

In order to ensure the safety of Inter State Migrant workmen working across the districts of Tamilnadu, the District Collectors, District Superintendents of police, the officials of labour department in association with the Department of Industrial Safety and Health have been holding briefings and providing assurances to the Interstate Migrant workmen to bring in more confidence among them.

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