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With this thought, we hereby present to you

WHITE BLACK LEGAL: THE LAW JOURNAL

THE LACUNAE IN THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSES
TOWARDS THE ECONOMIC CALAMITY ON THE
MIGRANT WORKERS

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ABSTRACT

Today, the whole world is passing through the severe disruption brought in by the spread of novel COVID-19 pandemic crisis and the consequent prolonged lockdown. Although the lockdown has not really affected the upper-middle class group of people, but has left a cringing impact on under-privileged with no option but to commit suicide. Due to this, there is chaos and unpredictable voices & confusion amongst all the downtrodden sections of the society. The imposed lockdown has compelled 40 million migrant workers to leave their host states, and peddle way back to their state of origin due to shutdown of industries and factories. The situation is more severe for these daily wage workers who do not have any savings to live in this lockdown and hence want to go to their homes. This paper would investigate the problems and challenges faced by all the unprivileged people and migrant workers across the government. It also highlights the various human rights that have been infringed of these daily wage labourers, presently. With this what all measures and steps have been taken up by the government to deal with the issue and looking into the different aspects of governance by recommending the feasible long-term policies or laws to address the issues of these migrant workers in the Post- COVID-19 world.

Keywords – migrant workers, transportation, no food and water, lockdown

INTRODUCTION

“The epidemic of coronavirus was transpired on December 31, 2019 when China apprised the World Health Organisation (WHO) of a number of cases of pneumonia of an unknown cause in Wuhan City in Hubei Province. Subsequently the disease spread to more Provinces in China, and then to the rest of the world. The WHO then declared it a pandemic. The virus has been named SARS-CoV-2 and the disease is hence called COVID-19.

Recently, it has been responsible for millions of infections globally, causing hundreds of thousands of deaths. PM Narendra Modi ordered nationwide lockdown on 24th March for 21 days after a 14-hour voluntary public curfew. Since then, till today, the lockdown has been extending. Currently, the lockdown 5.0 is going on. However, there have been a number of relaxations and hence it is termed as “Unlock 1”. People have lost their jobs, and those who have, are suffering from a deduction in their salaries. The worst hit however are the downtrodden sections of the society, especially the migrant workers. Due to the lockdown, they have lost their jobs and hence are suffering from the problems of no cash to pay rents and buy their daily necessities. As a result, they are also suffering from food and water shortage. Though the government has taken sufficient steps for the same, it has failed to meet the necessary requirements. The worst problem now is that due to so many numbers of non-working days, inability to pay rents and send remittances to their homes, these people also want to go to their native places of residence. Additionally, they felt that going back to their hometowns, they could return to farming and take up small jobs under the MGNREGA.¹ However, due to non-availability of transportation, they are unable to do so. Recently there have been a number of news articles and clips that show the suffering of these migrant workers who have set on foot to their native places trying to cover of around of kilometres on foot in the scorching heat, that too with limited food & water and with young children. As per a report, nearly 40 million people have decided to go to their native places from their host state, either by foot or by bicycle. This has caused many people to commit suicide because they cannot see their families in such desperate and devastating state.

This has led to the human rights violations in every aspect. The scale and severity of COVID-19 pandemic clearly rises to a level of the public threat that could be justified the restrictions, on certain rights such those that result from the imposition of quarantine or isolation and restricting the freedom of movement.

However, been obliged to the International Bill of Human Rights, an individual belonging to a downtrodden section of the society have been facing some or the other way of their human rights violation, their rights have been infringed on the grounds of race, sex, discrimination and including the socio-economic inequalities in this unprecedented crisis of COVID-19. Even the ‘right to health’ is an internationally recognised fundamental and human right.

¹ "AP PHOTOS: An Army of Indian Migrant Workers Heads Home". The New York Times. The Associated Press. 16 May 2020. ISSN 0362-4331. Retrieved 16 May 2020.

But as a world, facing an unprecedented and grave humanitarian crisis on a scale as with the severe consequences has reflected on the rights of the people. With the COVID-19, has exacerbated the vulnerability of at least protecting society. It is highlighting the deepest economic and social inequalities health and social protection system that requires the urgent need attention on part of the public health responses. Nevertheless, one of the biggest challenges since COVID-19 is that it has contributed to human rights abuses, where individuals have not been welcomed, resulting in scapegoating and biases, the rooting of these concerns has come to the present scenario.

In addition to this, when we talk about the people belonging from the marginalised sections of the society, where the COVID-19 produces a vicious loop in which high rates of disparities drive its growth, which in effect deepens disparity.

The data demonstrates now how long-standing inequality and unequal structural determinants of health leave particular people and communities unfairly impacted by the virus, despite both human loss and livelihood. It is also heeding the attention which unfortunately spotlights in this situation, that discrimination rear in its ugly head. The all other nations have undergone the acts of discrimination, xenophobic, prejudice and violence on individuals have been scapegoated for transmitting the epidemic. In the other nations, including India, the members have used labels to define COVID-19 as "foreigner's disease." Stigmatization of those diagnosed with the virus is increasing, for an example : Indian Muslims have been targeted several times and have been "Labeled" as that they are the one's as a community which is spreading the virus, which is completely depriving of their human rights by accusing them for spreading the virus.

On the other hand, in terms of the women, where for women, entrenched gender inequality, expanded socio-economic deprivation, intensified lock-down domestic abuse and frontline - Roles as carers and emergency professionals have also required greater vulnerability and precariousness. So, children everywhere see their right to education violated, as well as forced alienation from parents and guardians, and abuse at school." The crisis has been throwing the spotlight and concerns of triggering acute worry for the Marginalized, and society's most insecure. Vulnerability is generated by marginalisation. The situation reveals exactly who many people are impacted overwhelmingly — for example, through over-representing illness and mortality statistics. Containment measures themselves have a disproportionate impact on the poorest populations who cannot work from home and live at subsistence levels, with shows the scale and severity of the human rights violation."

PROBLEMS FACED BY WORKERS

The nationwide lockdown will be a very bitter pill to swallow for many, especially the poor population, as it has led to severe catastrophic effects for them. The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdown has aggravated the already entrenched economic and social problems for these people.

The first most challenging problem for the migrant labourers is that they have been left stranded and scrambled in cramped conditions with no food & water supplies to feed themselves due to their loss of jobs and hence loss of income. Over 80% of the country's migrant and daily wage population fears that they will completely run out of food before the end of lockdown. Currently, over 40% of the migrant workers did not have any food supplies. Either, they do not have ration for now, or have ration to last not more than 2 weeks. *'I started to feed my three young girls rice with a chutney made of crushed tomato, as I am running out of money and food'* a migrant worker said. Another problem they are facing is the treatment of the maids by their employer households. Some of them have been labelled for spreading the virus. However, they were still called for work, but when they asked about their salaries, no replies. The prolonged extension of lockdown has made survival precarious for the millions of domestic workers across the country. However, the employer cannot be totally faulted for not giving salaries because they themselves do not have money to fetch their basic salaries.

“In addition to these, they are unable to pay their rents to the landlords due to lockdown. This is the primary reason for the migrant workers for leaving their host states. The majority of migrant workers are residing in unauthorised colonies and are under pressure to pay all the rents and electricity bills or vacate their premises. The lockdown has hence a triggered a huge exodus of migrant labourers, in the scorching heat and temperature without inadequate food and water and with young children after being rendered unemployed and homeless. Moreover, some migrant workers have delivered babies while peddling their way back to their villages. The situation with them was that delivered babies, rested for two hours and then continued walking. Besides, many were arrested for violating the lockdown, after being caught at inter-state borders, forests between states and even on boats to cross rivers.² Some of the migrants died of exhaustion.³ Others died in accidents on the roads after walking or

² Babu, Venkatesha; Saini, Sachin; Swaroop, Vijay (8 May 2020). "Across the country, migrants still forced to walk thousands of miles". Hindustan Times. Retrieved 9 May 2020.

³ Elsa, Evangeline (21 April 2020). "Coronavirus lockdown: 12-year-old Indian migrant worker walks 100 km, dies just 11km away from home". Gulf News. Retrieved 9 May 2020.

hiding in vehicles.⁴ On 31 March, as many as 120 migrant workers were allegedly beaten up by the police in Gujarat and forcefully rounded up in a single lorry and dropped in Maharashtra, despite being wounded.⁵ In Aurangabad, 16 migrants were killed on 8 May after a freight train ran over them while they were sleeping on the tracks, exhausted from walking.

Besides, dying from reason like starvation, exhaustion and accidents, this lockdown has compelled people to commit suicide, as they could not see their children famish and unfed without food and water. The situation being acute food and water shortage has pushed more people to edge. Due to lockdown, there are insecurities and vulnerability everywhere. Besides this, the implications of COVID-19 lockdown on children has been more intense. The children are one such that have affected as one of vulnerable group. It heeds attention on those children who have been left behind back in the village, as their parents have moved to urban areas for undertaking the employment. They rely and hinge on remittances which are sent back home. This income is also critical to their food security, to support for the education sector and assisting in the healthcare expenditure. Nonetheless, remittances are the primary source of income for their sustenance. The reduction or elimination of the wages indirect and instant impact on the outcomes of children. Secondly, the children who migrate with their parents, when they are young and in need of extended care. The report shows 80% of the accompanying migrant children are unable to access the education, 39% never enrolled in schools, and were found to be living in most hazardous and unhygienic conditions. The third group in the children who undertake migration for employment, to support their families, or in extreme conditions facing physical abuse and exploitation of child labour.”

GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO AID THE MIGRANT WORKERS

“Seeing the migrant workers in such devastating and dire state, the central government has issued various directives to the state government and has taken various steps to subside their predicament. However, the government schemes have various lacunae that needs to be filled so that it can actually be beneficial for the workers/labourers.

Many of these migrant workers are daily wage workers and lack adequate nutrition. Due to the lockdown the factories and construction sites were closed so as to prevent the spread of the virus. However, this resulted in the migrant workers losing their jobs and hence have little

⁴ Warsi, Zeba (7 May 2020). "42 Migrant Workers Died in Road Accidents While Trying to Return Home during Lockdown: Report". News18. Retrieved 9 May 2020.

⁵ Shantha, Sukanya (7 April 2020). "Gujarat Police to Probe Allegation That Migrant Workers Were Forced into Container Trucks". The Wire.

or no availability of food & water. As per the recent government reports, there was sufficient food grain stored up in the FCI godowns to feed the needy for at least more than an year.⁶ While the schemes assured that the poor would be able to get additional rations during the lockdown, the distribution system turned out to be ineffective as the ration cards are area-specific and fair price shops were mostly inaccessible. Besides, the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' system is present only in a couple of states, as of mid-April, 2020.⁷ While the scheme permitted migrant workers to collect cereals and other food grains for free anywhere in the nation, most of the people had no clue about such measure and hence, very few were able to take the benefit of the same. In addition to this, the scheme also required biometric authentication of the poor, which was discontinued due to the apprehension of the mutation of virus through common fingerprint sensors.⁸ In Telangana, many people could not retrieve the ration due to the absence of Aadhaar cards.⁹ As a consequence, many people are left sans food owing to covid-19.

With no occupation and no cash, and lockdown restrictions bringing a halt to the transport facilities, millions of migrant workers went walking or bicycling thousands of kilometres reach their native residences.¹⁰ Many workers did so while starving.¹¹ Social distancing was unable to be held for these migrants since they went together forming large groups.¹² According to some of them, they would rather die from the virus at their own village than starve because of no work in the city.¹³

In the month of March, the UP government arranged buses at Delhi's Anand Vihar bus station to take the migrants back to their villages at free of cost. Huge masses then arrived at the bus station.¹⁴ However, with the extension of the lockdown, many remained left in their host states till the end of April, because the state governments were allowed by the central

⁶ Singh, Siddhartha; Parija, Pratik (24 March 2020). "India Has Enough Food to Feed Poor If There's a Prolonged Shutdown". BloombergQuint.

⁷ Kumar Gunjan, Rounak (15 April 2020). "Impatient, Starving, Angry: As India Extends Lockdown, Stranded Migrant Workers Emerge as Crisis in Making". News18. Retrieved 9 May 2020.

⁸ Jebaraj, Priscilla (8 May 2020). "Inter-State ration card portability usage very low: Food Minister". The Hindu. ISSN 0971-751X. Retrieved 9 May 2020.

⁹ Vadlamudi, Swathi (19 April 2020). "Sans Aadhaar, no ration for migrants". The Hindu. ISSN 0971-751X. Retrieved 19 May 2020.

¹⁰ Pandey, Vikas (20 May 2020). "The Covid-19 migrants who never got home". BBC News. Retrieved 23 May 2020.

¹¹ Jaiswal, Pankaj (26 March 2020). "Coronavirus update: A long walk home on empty stomachs for masked migrants". Hindustan Times. Retrieved 9 May 2020.

¹² Sharma, Mihir (1 April 2020). "Coronavirus Exposes India's Official Callousness". BloombergQuint.

¹³ Dutt, Barkha (15 May 2020). "There is a humanitarian crisis in India. Lift the lockdown, now". Hindustan Times. Retrieved 22 May 2020.

¹⁴ Jha, Somesh (29 March 2020). "Fighting Covid-19: After the long walk, jobless migrants head home by bus". Business Standard India. Retrieved 2 May 2020.

government to only open buses, but not trains.¹⁵ Besides, conditions in the buses are predominantly low, with social distancing being impossible due to high congestion and higher charges than promised.¹⁶

On 1st May, the central government authorized the Indian Railways to open "*Shramik Special*" trains for the migrant labourers.¹⁷ On 3rd May, the Ministry of Home Affairs chided the state governments for hurriedly soliciting trains for transportation of migrants, saying that the trains were mainly meant for those who were left due to the sudden lockdown, and not the migrants.¹⁸ Moreover, this service was not free of cost, having additional charges over the normal fares.¹⁹ The Indian National Congress then assured to sponsor the tickets of the migrants on 4 May.²⁰ The government then declared that the Railways would extend an 85% subsidy on the train fares, with the state governments granting the outstanding 15% share.²¹ However, the migrants were still compelled to pay an undisclosed sum at some occasions. The central government initially refused to dispense the details regarding this with the Supreme Court,²² but later admitted that it was not paying for anyone's charges.²³ In addition to this, the central governments' directions regarding which states should pay for the migrants' travel resulted in disagreement between Maharashtra and other states.²⁴

Further, migrants faced many austerities while travelling by these trains. Many reported to have no food and water arrayed for them during their travel.²⁵ A train from Goa to Manipur revealed a 58-hour delay with no proper food or sanitation provisions on the train, and stone

¹⁵ Gunasekar, Arvind (30 April 2020). "*Buses Not Feasible For Moving Migrants, States Appeal To Centre: Sources*". NDTV. Retrieved 9 May 2020.

¹⁶ Anand, P. (28 May 2020). "*An anguished lullaby, fights for seats, water: 24 hours on a Shramik Special*". The Indian Express. Retrieved 29 May 2020.

¹⁷ Bhargava, Yuthika (1 May 2020). "*Coronavirus lockdown | Railways to run 'Shramik Special' trains to move migrant workers, other stranded persons*". The Hindu. ISSN 0971-751X. Retrieved 9 May 2020.

¹⁸ Gupta, Shishir (3 May 2020). "*Send only stranded migrants: Centre tells states*". Hindustan Times. Retrieved 23 May 2020.

¹⁹ "*Shramik special trains | Migrant workers, other stranded people to pay ₹50 more to get home*". The Hindu. 2 May 2020. ISSN 0971-751X. Retrieved 9 May 2020.

²⁰ Anuja; Varma, Gyan (4 May 2020). "*Congress' move to sponsor rail fare for migrants sparks political tussle*". Livemint. Retrieved 9 May 2020.

²¹ "*'Humble Contribution': Sonia Gandhi Says Congress to Bear Rail Travel Cost of Migrant Workers, Slams Govt*". news18.com. 4 May 2020.

²² "*Under Opposition Pressure, Modi Govt Issues Misleading Explanation on Migrants' Rail Fare Breakdown*". The Wire. 5 May 2020.

²³ "*Government can't tell Supreme Court if it is paying 85% rail fare*". The Telegraph. Kolkata. 6 May 2020. Retrieved 23 May 2020.

²⁴ Dhingra, Sanya (28 May 2020). "*Modi govt finally clarifies it's not paying Shramik Express fare, says states footing bill*". The Print. Retrieved 29 May 2020.

²⁵ Saha, Poulomi (4 May 2020). "*Migrants' fare row: States paying for special trains, only Maharashtra charging*". India Today. Retrieved 23 May 2020.

²⁶ Taskin, Bismee (7 May 2020). "*11 hrs in train 'without food and water': Migrant workers on reaching Bareilly from Ludhiana*". ThePrint. Retrieved 27 May 2020.

²⁷ Lahariya, Khabar (15 May 2020). "*'No food, no water, no money': Back in UP's Banda on Shramik Special, migrant labourers look back on long journey home*". Firstpost. Retrieved 27 May 2020.

pelting.²⁸ Others who retrieved food and water supplies, disclosed that the supplies were simply stocked at the entrances, resulting in the workers brawling with each other for their share.²⁹ Many migrants also lost their lives during their train journeys,^{30,31} but the Railways stated that most of them had already existing ailments. As per the report of the Railway Protection Force, there have been around 80 deaths on the Shramik Special trains from 9th May to 27th May.³²

“Hence, despite the launching of special trains and buses by the government, many migrant workers chose to either travel together in large groups in the cargo compartments of trucks and containers, or travel by foot. They did not wait or their turn to board the government-arranged transport, mainly due to starvation.³³”

SUPREME COURT HEARINGS

“On 30 March, the Hon'ble Supreme Court considered a appeal on behalf of migrant employees. The Court directed the central government to file a study on the condition of migrant workers. In its paper, the central government reported that the migrant workers, worrying about their livelihoods, had gone into distress and made fake news that the lockdown would last longer than three months.³⁴

On 21 April, the Court rejected a plea for payment of the minimum wage on the grounds that workers had already been granted free meals.³⁵

On 16 May, the Supreme Court rejected the PIL's request that the District Magistrates identify and provide free relief and transport to migrant workers, stating that it was the responsibility of the state governments. The central government also stated that inter-state

²⁸ Haksar, Nandita (27 May 2020). "Filthy toilets, attacked with stones: For North East workers from Goa, a 119-hour nightmare on rails". Scroll.in. Retrieved 27 May 2020.

²⁹ Bhowmick, Nilanjana (27 May 2020). "They treat us like stray dogs': Migrant workers flee India's cities". National Geographic. Khandelwal, Saumya. Retrieved 27 May 2020.

³⁰ Srivastava, Piyush (25 May 2020). "Migrant on Shramik Express dies hungry". The Telegraph. Kolkata. Retrieved 28 May 2020.

³¹ "10-month-old Baby, Migrant Worker Die on Board Shramik Trains; Kin Blame Railways' Apathy". News18. 27 May 2020. Retrieved 28 May 2020.

³² Dutta, Anisha (30 May 2020). "Railway Protection Force reports 80 deaths on Shramik trains". Hindustan Times. Retrieved 1 June 2020.

³³ Venkatraman, Tanushree; Chauhan, Saurabh; Dey, Sanjoy; Mishra, Ritesh (16 May 2020). "In long walk back home, migrants battle hunger, scourge of Covid-19". Hindustan Times. Retrieved 16 May 2020.

³⁴
³⁵ Chaturvedi, Arpan (1 April 2020). "Government Effort To Restrain Media Coverage Of Pandemic Met With Supreme Court Caution". BloombergQuint. Retrieved 10 May 2020.

transport had already been provided to migrants and asked them to wait for their turn instead of choosing to walk.³⁶

On 26 May, the Supreme Court admitted that the problems of migrant workers had not yet been resolved and that there had been inadequacies on the part of the centre and the state governments. It therefore ordered them to provide free food, shelter and transportation to desperate migrant workers.³⁷ Hours before this ruling, senior lawyers from Mumbai and Delhi wrote a strongly-worded letter to the Court, regarding its "self-effacing deference" towards the government thus far.³⁸

DEATHS

During the lockdown, more than 300 deaths were reported till 5th May, with reasons of starvation, suicides,³⁹ exhaustion,⁴⁰ road and rail accidents,⁴¹ police brutality⁴² and repudiation of timely medical care and facilities. Among the reported deaths, most belonged to the marginalised migrant labourers.

SUGGESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

“The enduring economic disparities have surfaced once again under the public gaze during the nationwide lockdown in India. Following the global pandemic, there was an economic divide discernible in the images as it shows. This unplanned lockdown has created economic havoc in the lives of the millions who are part of the informal sector-not just daily wages, but also workers of the gig economy. So, there are some recommendations to deal with the issue :-

- The government of the host states should be providing all kinds of protection, irrespective of their migration status, during the COVID-19 without any discrimination.

³⁶ G, Ananthakrishnan (16 May 2020). *"Can't stop or monitor their movement on roads': SC rejects plea seeking relief for migrants"*. The Indian Express. Retrieved 16 May 2020.

³⁷ Rajagopal, Krishnadas (26 May 2020). *"Supreme Court orders Centre and States to immediately provide transport, food and shelter free of cost to stranded migrant workers"*. The Hindu. ISSN 0971-751X. Retrieved 27 May 2020.

³⁸ Rajagopal, Krishnadas (27 May 2020). *"Hours before taking up migrant workers issue, Supreme Court got stinging letter from senior lawyers"*. The Hindu. ISSN 0971-751X. Retrieved 27 May 2020.

³⁹ Elsa, Evangeline (15 April 2020). *"The human cost of India's coronavirus lockdown: Deaths by hunger, starvation, suicide and more"*. Gulf News. Retrieved 13 May 2020.

⁴⁰ *"Suicide leading cause for over 300 lockdown deaths in India, says study"*. The Economic Times. 5 May 2020. Retrieved 13 May 2020.

⁴¹ Gettleman, Jeffrey; Raj, Suhasini; Kumar, Hari (8 May 2020). *"As India Reopens, Deadly Accidents Break Out"*. The New York Times. ISSN 0362-4331. Retrieved 13 May 2020.

⁴² Mohanty, Debabrata (15 May 2020). *"56-year-old migrant dies on road to home, another dies after police lathi charge"*. Hindustan Times.

- They should be setting up or establishing the institution mechanism for inter-state coordination, these institutions should be set up to ensure the movements of each migrant and should be in cooperation with the other states.
- They should be adopting a four-pronged approach for better protection of rights of workers that defines the roles and responsibilities of the state employers, workers/trade unions/ civil society organisations and emphasizes the use of social dialogue and collective bargaining for promoting the rights of migrant workers.
- The government could also provide some kind of cash assistance, by opening up their bank accounts, or may be opening up a local branch of bank in their area, may be provide some kind of cash transfer of at least Rs. 1000 under may be the '*Prandhamatari Yojana*', it should be an enhanced payment.
- The state government should be also providing them some kind of temporary job cards, in case of the loss of employment during this pandemic, that could be used for in the future reference.
- However, during this lockdown those agencies and NGOs in collaboration with the state governments should be acutely held accountable and responsible to provide with the stocks to those who are extreme needs, and utilise access to appropriate rations for in every 2 weeks.
- There should be expanded public distribution system coverage.
- In the urban areas, there should be shelters available for migrants in the city, as well as on the borders of states to temporarily accommodate migrant workers temporarily until their no resources are found, providing soap and other hand-washing facilities to reduce risk of community transmission. they should be told about social distancing and awareness about COVID-19. In addition to this, there should be a helpline number on the roadside in case of an emergency or a woman in labour pain.”
- There should be no harassment with any migrant workers especially women in the shelters and quarantine centres.
- They should be made more aware through education, launching of wide-spreading messages in regards to washing hands and maintaining social distancing, they should be made aware through launching of public education.

- The centre along with the state governments should be methodologically making arrangements and planned in a phased manner to repatriate all the migrant workers from the host states back to their respective state of origin. In case they find any of migrant workers trudging arduously to walk back to their homes either on the borders or somewhere nearby, the state government of the migrant workers belongs to should be sending the buses to bring back its workers, so they could be brought back to their homes.
- Besides, this register worker by organizing in enrollment camps. The state government should also be ensuring them with the employment in their state of their origin, ensuring accountability regarding the employment for their migrant workers to the states they belong to. These are the suggested measures to combat these issues of people belonging from the downtrodden sections of the society, to even contain the novel COVID-19 pandemic, and avoiding all the social and economic disparities and treating them as equal, under the constitution says so.

CONCLUSION

“The covid-19 resulting lockdown has greatly affected the lives of the people all over the nation. It is both a boon and a bane for the nation. With no vehicular traffic and industries barred, the environment can be seen to be rejuvenating and hence, it is a boon for nature ,Of all the people the worse affected are the downtrodden sections of the society who do not have any money as they are mostly daily wage workers and therefore unable to save any money. Suffering from the problem of the deficiency of food supplies, no finances to pay rent and no occupation, these people resolved to head back to their native places.

The reasons for the mass exodus of migration is due to the unanticipated proclamation of the lockdown to contain the spread of the novel COVID-19 pandemic which is a jeopardizing situation putting one's life in risk. This lockdown had affected at least 40 million of internal migrants, in effect loss of employment, and social distancing prompted a cluttered and confused and painful return of these migrant labourers. This unprecedented crisis seen through the migration lens of the economic crisis induced by the COVID-19 could be even longer, deeper and pervasive than these reports imply. This situation has put them in the dire conditions as these labourers are affected in enlarge amount of not having jobs, could possibly be a problem for them for not sending remittances to their homes in villages , or may be paying for their rent as a living in the hemmed in conditions in the overcrowded slums”

Seeing them in such dire state the centre and the state caucus sat down with great assiduity and responded by issuing various directives such as providing them free ration that can be retrieved anywhere across the nation and asking the landlords to not demand any payment from their tenants so as to abate the economic predicament of these people.

