

# **STATUS OF MIGRANT LABORERS FROM 60 VILLAGES OF DEVELOPMENT BLOCK TARWA, MEHNAGAR AND JAHANAGANJ IN AZAMGARH DISTRICT DURING LOCKDOWN**

**A BRIEF REPORT (22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020)**



Report by

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## **Org. Background-**

ROSA Sansthan is a registered social organization currently working for the social upliftment of underprivileged communities in 124 villages of district Azamgarh, Chandauli and Maharajganj in Uttar Pradesh.

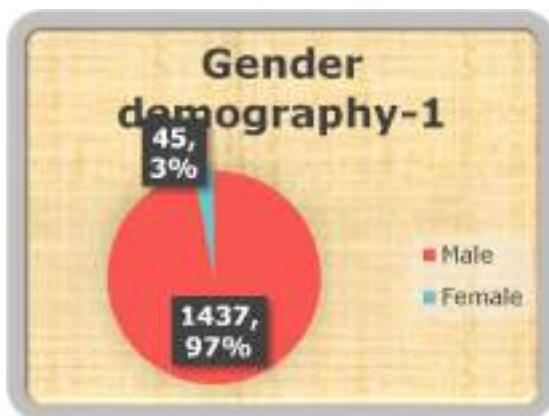
Under the guidance of Human liberty network in 60 villages of development blocks of district Azamgarh of Tarwa, Jahanaganj and Mehnagar, ROSA Sansthan is working on the issue of prevention of human trafficking, bonded labor and child labor. The organization focuses on the issue of health, education, livelihood and social security and advocacy with public participation for the welfare of the unorganized laborers and their family members. Particular efforts are made for social and economic upliftment of child laborers, bonded laborers and persons affected by trafficking especially in villages.

Based on the data of Uttar Pradesh government, due to the effects of Covid-19, the employment of about 35,00,000 migrant laborers has come back due to the termination of employment. Out of this, about 1,65,000 migrant laborers returned home in district Azamgarh.

The ROSA Sansthan has surveyed 1482 migrant laborers by conducting a basic survey in 60 villages of Tarwa, Jahanaganj and Mehnagar, development blocks of Azamgarh district and collected data through interviews. After analyzing the data, a brief report is made, which is as follows –

### ***1. BASIC STATUS OF MIGRANT LABORERS –***

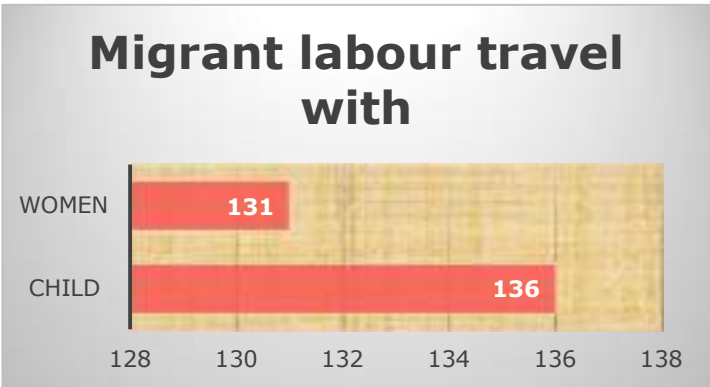
Based on the pie chart, we find that out of total 1482 migrant laborers, 45 migrant



laborers are women and 1437 male migrant laborers. In this way we can say that most of the migrant laborers are from the male class. This shows that there is a participation of women in the migrant from district Azamgarh. Yet women constitute only 3% of the trainees. Depending on the district, the number of women out of 165000 migrant

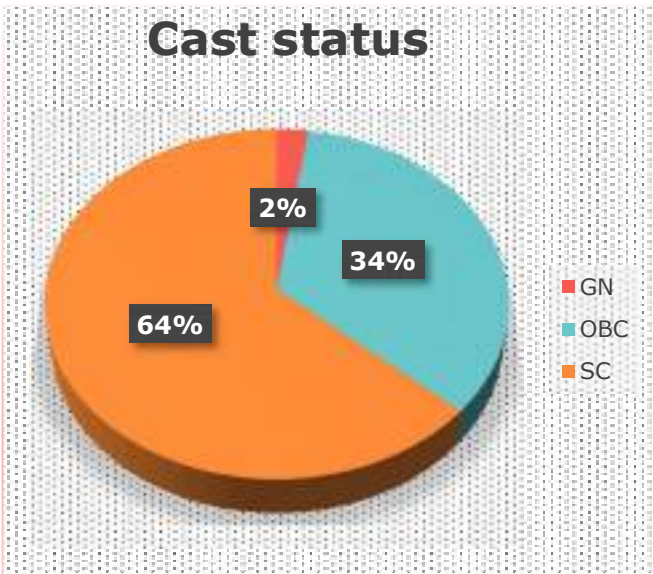
laborers is also considerable where the risk is high during migration.

Based on Chart 2, you find that along with 1482 migrant laborers, 131 women and 136 children also returned home facing challenges. Women and children faced many troubles during their return home and the migrant laborers on their own made their families and children return home efficiently. It was a risky step for migrant laborers and lessons for life.



**2. STATUS OF CASTE AMONG MIGRANT LABORERS –**

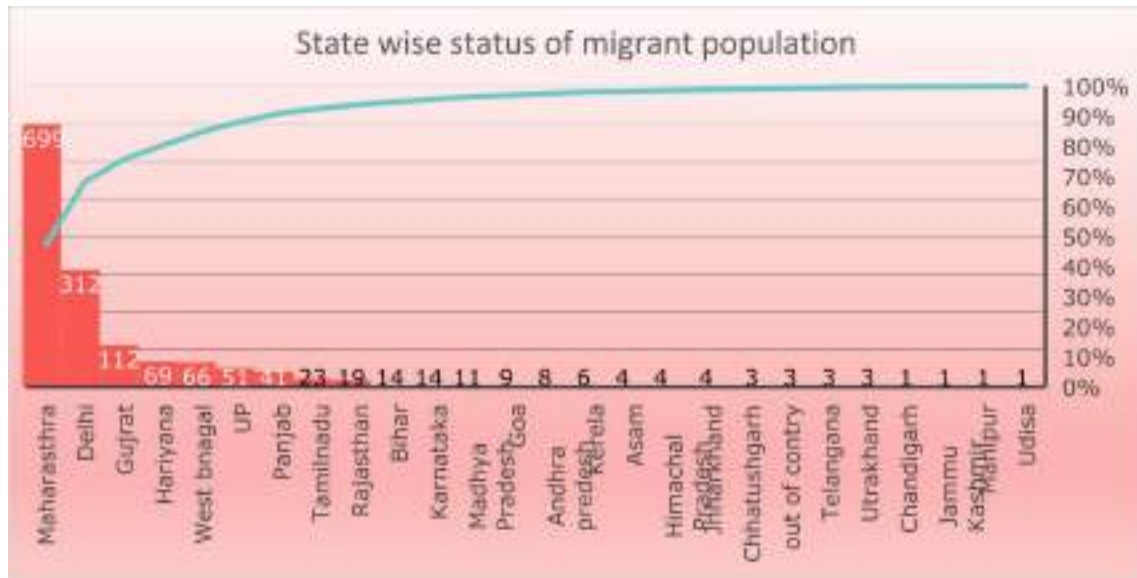
Looking at the caste status of migrant laborers based on the pie chart, we find that out of 1482 migrant laborers, the highest number belongs to the scheduled community. This is followed by the backward caste community and the lowest general class community. On this basis, we can say that for the livelihood, 64% of the migrant laborers from the district belong to the scheduled caste who migrated for their livelihood and remained the most affected in this lockdown.



Based on this pie chart, we can that migrant laborers should be linked with livelihood with special focus on scheduled caste and backward caste community so that they can be able to fight the effects of lockdown.

### 3. STATE-WISE STATUS OF RETURN OF MIGRANT LABORERS –

If we look at the statistics of the return of migrant laborers of district Azamgarh,

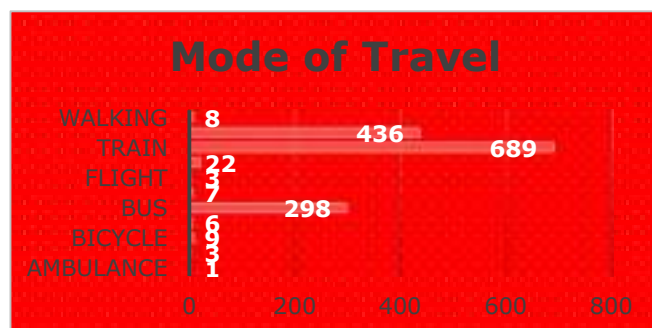


we find that the laborers have returned home from 25 states & out of country. But if we look at the top 5 states, we find that Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana and West Bengal are the maximum. It is followed by Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Bihar and Karnataka. On this basis, we can say that the workers of the district get maximum employment opportunities in Maharashtra. In the early stages, Corona has also had the most influence in Maharashtra and Delhi. On this basis, we can say that along with employment opportunities in migrant laborers, there are also the dangers of Covid – 19.

### 4. STATUS OF MODES OF TRANSPORT ADOPTED BY MIGRANT LABORERS FOR RETURN –

The status of the means of transport adopted for the return of migrant laborers can be understood on the basis of this chart.

Most of the people used the train to return home to the migrant laborers of district Azamgarh. After this, the others used trucks and then used buses. 22 people



used private means while 9 people came back by bike. Based on the above chart, we can understand the means of traffic adopted by migrant laborers. The most surprising thing is that 8 people came back on foot. With this we can easily understand the challenges of migrant laborers.

**5. HEALTH STATUS OF MIGRANT LABORERS –**

Based on this chart, we can say that out of the migrant laborers who returned home in district Azamgarh, only 1 migrant was ill while 1481 migrant laborers were healthy and, on the way, they did not face any health problems which can be understood through this chart. According to migrant laborers, his health was checked in the district.

Nevertheless, Covid – 19 patients were later found in his workplace

**6. STATUS OF WORK OF MIGRANT LABORERS –**

The status of the work of 1482 laborers who returned to the district can be understood on the basis of this pie chart. Based on this chart, we can say that out of 1482 migrant laborers, only 40% of migrant laborers worked as skilled laborers while 60% migrant laborers worked unskilled and made their livelihood.



On this basis, we are able to say that skill training should be encouraged in the district so that more and more laborers are able to get better livelihood.



## **7. STATUS OF WORK OPPORTUNITIES OF MIGRANT LABORERS –**

Looking at the data of 1482 laborers who returned to the district Azamgarh, only

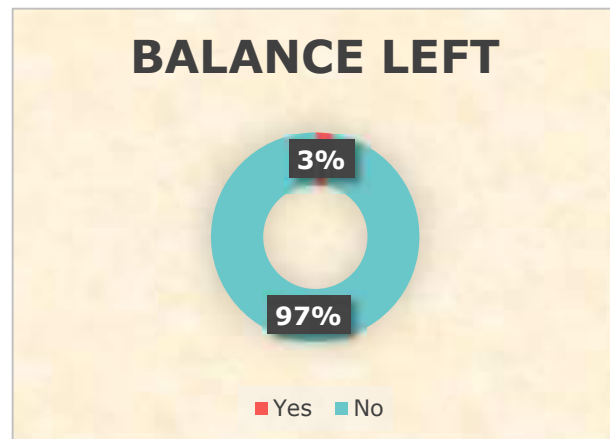


24% of migrant laborers had access to employment opportunities in the organized sector while 76% of migrant laborer used to earn their livelihood by employing the unorganized sector, we can say that due to the large number of unskilled laborers in the district, the laborers are not

able to access the opportunities available in the organized sector. There is a need to provide skill training to more and more laborers.

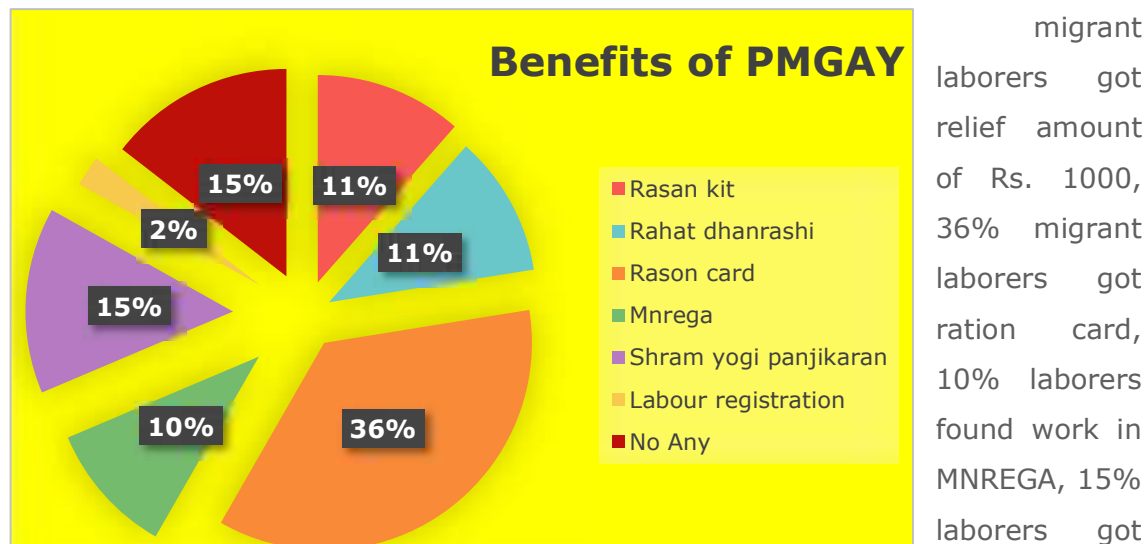
## **8. STATUS OF ARREARS OF WAGES/LOAN OF MIGRANT LABORERS –**

Based on the data of 1482 migrant laborers who returned home in the district, it was found that 3% of the workers' wages are owned to the outstanding owners while 97% of the workers have no arrears. Talking to 3% of the workers from them, it was found that there is an arrear of about Rs. 900 to Rs. 70000 which water is challenging for the present. The government should plan to get their dues back.



## 9. STATUS OF BENEFITS RECEIVED BY MIGRANT LABORERS –

Based on this pie chart, we can say that 11% migrant laborers got ration kit, 11%



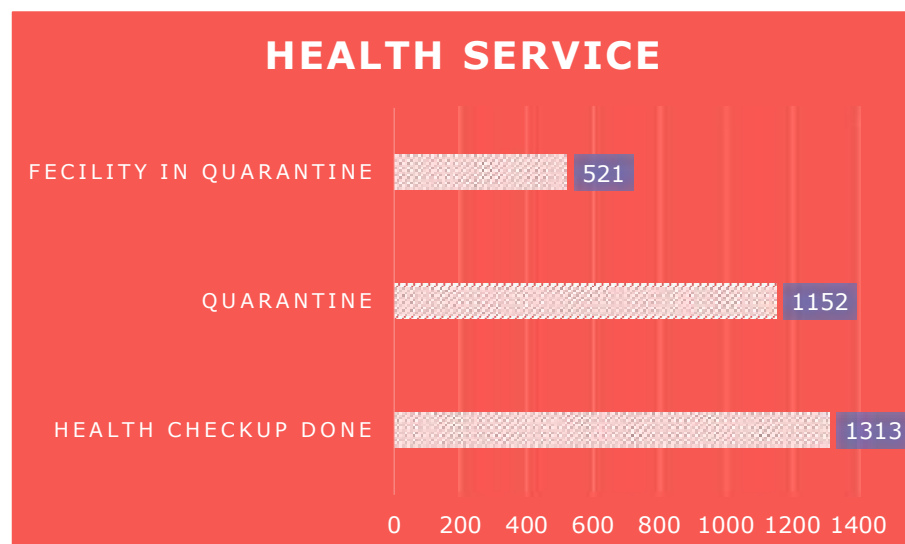
migrant laborers got relief amount of Rs. 1000, 36% migrant laborers got ration card, 10% laborers found work in MNREGA, 15% laborers got

Shram Yogi Registration, only 2% laborers got involved with labor registration and 15% migrant laborers stayed away from access to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Anya Yojana. On this basis, we can say that workers who are deprived of schemes should be linked with benefits.

## 10. STATUS OF HEALTH SERVICES RECEIVED BY MIGRANT LABORERS –

Based on the data received from migrant laborers, it was found that out of 1482

migrant laborers, 1152 migrants followed the standards of quarantine on 14 days out of which 521 reported that they enjoyed government



facilities during the quarantine whereas out of 1482 migrant families, only 1313 underwent health screening. On this basis we find that according to the standards, there has been some gap at every level.

## 11. STATUS OF DEBT AMONG MIGRANT LABORERS –

Based on the data received from migrant laborers, it was found that 11% of the

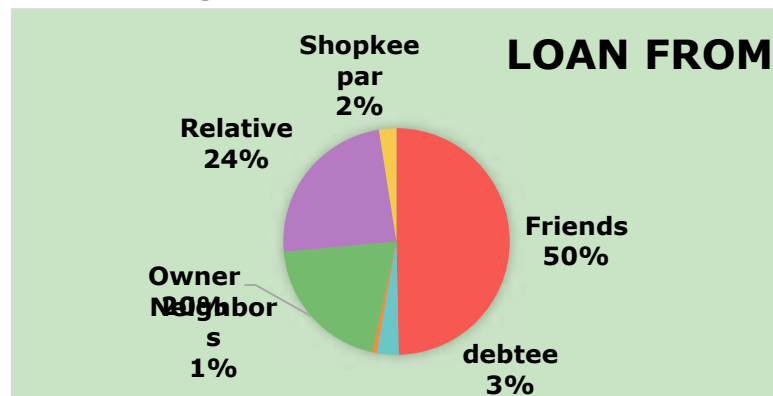


workers took loans while 89% of the workers have not taken any loan. On the basis of the information received, the laborers who have taken loans have borrowed/loaned from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 60000 at different levels with the

condition that they will repay it. In this, most of them have taken their owners, relatives and friends. A major challenge for people with debt is that they have no means of livelihood. Therefore, the government should take initiative in this direction and connect more and more laborers at local level.

## 12. STATUS OF SOURCE OF DEBT IN MIGRANT LABORERS –

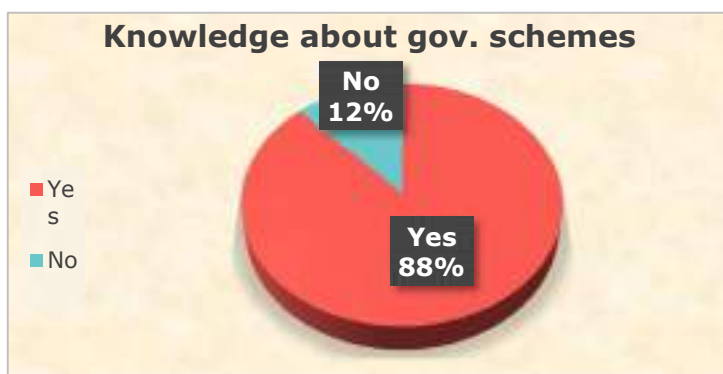
Based on this pie chart, 11% of the migrant laborers can understand the source of loans taken by the workers. Based on the pie chart, Covid – 19 was the most supportive of friends and relatives during the crisis. Nevertheless, the borrower of 20% had to take loan from the owner associated with his work. There is a compulsion for bonded labor somewhere. Information levels of government schemes to migrant laborers.





### 13. INFORMATION LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES TO MIGRANT LABORERS –

Based on this pie chart, we can say that 88% of migrant laborers are aware of

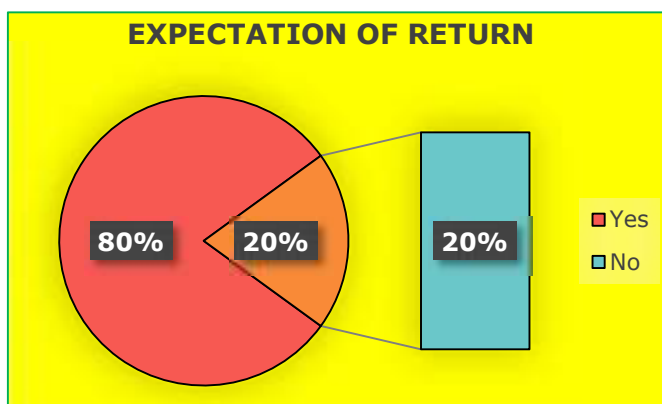


government schemes whereas 12% are migrant laborers who are not fully aware of the schemes of the government and they are not even trying for those schemes. On this basis, we need to make

special efforts on those migrant laborers for information and access to government schemes.

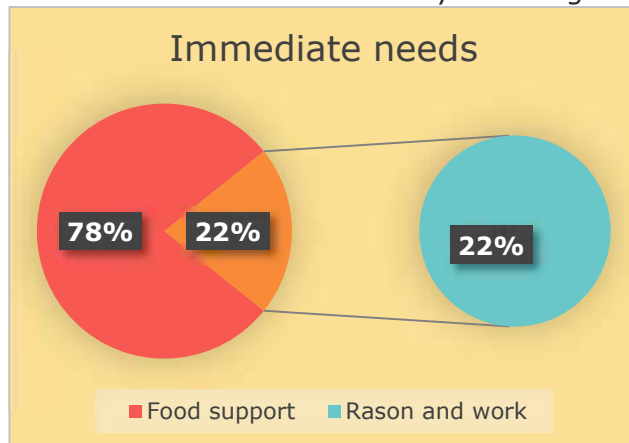
### 14. EXPECTATION OF RETURN OF MIGRANT LABORERS –

80% of the migrant laborers reported that they would again go to the same place from where they came after the lockdown whereas 20% said that they no longer want to go back and live in their village to do farming and daily wages locally. Based on this pie chart one can say that the government should make a long – term plan locally for those 20% migrant laborers and make special efforts for skill development for 80% migrant laborers so that they can go back to skilled laborers. Get work in the form.



### 15. IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF MIGRANT LABORERS –

Looking at this pie chart based on the information received by the migrant laborers, we find that 78% of the migrant laborers need the help of food items while 22% of the migrant laborers want to get food and work in the immediate way so that they are able to meet the immediate needs of their family. On this basis, we can say that 22% of migrant laborers are in urgent need of both ration and work with special focus



### 16. LONG TERM NEEDS OF MIGRANT LABORERS –

Based on the information received from migrant laborers about the long – term needs of about year, it was found that if the 22% of migrant laborers in the survey had stay for year, the government was expected to work locally and make a living. It may be noted that 80% of migrant laborers in the survey have expressed a desire to return after the lockdown.



On the basis of the study of migrant laborers and the data of the above chart, we can say that even though the laborers had a face many difficulties, there are some immediate and some long – term needs to meet the livelihood challenges which the government has to meet and much more effort needs to be made, especially workers from disadvantaged societies.

According to the administrative information of district Azamgarh on the basis of date 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, 94795 workers are registered. Out of which 13278 were

given employment. A total of 3726 migrant laborers have been appointed to connect migrant laborers in the district. Mapping of skill development of migrant laborers went door-to-door by the Department of Revenue and Child Development Nutrition.

Based on the facts of this study, we suggest the following from the local administration –

- *Socially, scheduled castes and backward castes, especially the people of the Musahar community, should be linked to livelihood schemes.*
- *Skill development training should be imparted to the unskilled laborers, especially the young laborers, so that they can access better opportunities during migration and increase their annual income.*
- *The wages of migrant laborers, which remained with the owners (i.e. unpaid) and the provident fund, etc in the organized sector, should be presented to those states for access to the workers.*
- *Workers who has been deprived of PMGAY should be identified and completed the paperwork and they should be provided with the benefits of services.*
- *For the migrant laborers, cheap loan should be arranged through the bank so that the migrant laborer can start his employment while avoiding the burden of heavy debt.*
- *Instructions should be given to village level employees for information and awareness about government schemes and facilities in remote villages.*
- *The migrant laborers who want to return should be identified and their safe return and follow-up should be planned.*
- *For the immediate needs of migrant laborers, arrangements should be made at the village level and a plan should be prepared at the Gram Panchayat level to meet the long-term needs.*

Regards,

MUSTAQUE AHMAD  
Chief Functionary

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2020