

Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan -Govt. to provide jobs to 6.7 mn migrant workers

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Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently said the government will provide jobs to over 6 million migrant workers in six states by bringing together various government schemes.

Based on data gathered from states, the government has estimated around 10 million workers have migrated back to their villages after the national lockdown was enforced in March-end to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Key Highlights

- The Centre will front-load Rs 50,000 crore of funds for the Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan, which will focus on migrant workers who had returned to their villages after a nationwide lockdown was enforced in March-end to contain the spread of coronavirus. The scheme will be targeted towards workers with some skill sets and will cover 25 areas of work in 116 districts over the next 125 days.
- The scheme will be formally launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi through video conferencing from Bihar's Khagaria district. The scheme will encompass various schemes of the government which will be rolled

out in districts with high influx of migrant workers.

- The six states which had the highest influx of migrants who have “settled” in their districts were: Bihar (32 districts), Uttar Pradesh (31), Madhya Pradesh (24), Rajasthan (22), Odisha (4) and Jharkhand (3). These states had 116 districts, each with at least 25,000 returning migrant workers who will benefit from the plan. These districts had around 6.7 million migrant workers, and account for two-thirds of “returnee” workers.
- The money will go towards construction of national highways and rural road connectivity, construction of wells, plantation, railway activities, community sanitation complex, horticulture, farm ponds, cattle sheds, among others. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras in villages will also help in imparting skills to the workers. The workers will be paid according to the stipulated minimum wage in the respective schemes of the government.

SOURCE: *Business Standard*