

Regarding welfare schemes for migrant labours

SHRI ISHA KHAN CHOUDHURY (MALDAHA DAKSHIN): Madam, I would like to bring your attention to the problem caused by lack employment opportunities in Malda and Murshidabad districts of West Bengal where tens of thousands of labourers are forced to migrate from my constituency of Malda Dakshin each year to other States in search of livelihood and jobs. The situation is aggravated because the 100-days MNREGA Scheme is suspended in Bengal.

Tragically, many of these poor migrant labourers and workers face dire working circumstances, and many hundreds of labourers lose their lives each year in workplace accidents during building construction and in electric tower projects across the nation.

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13.00 hrs

As contract labourers, they face poor, unsafe working conditions, and inadequate living conditions, and they have no medical support or coverage when they are sick or injured. Their families often receive no compensation if they die in an accident at workplace. Given the recurrent nature of such incidents, I strongly urge the Central Government to take the lead in cooperation with the States to implement a comprehensive financial and legal welfare scheme. I would particularly like to suggest a universal and national life and health insurance scheme for such poverty-stricken migrant workers and their families.