

No.12035/01/2015-Fy(WU)
Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Department of Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 28th March, 2020

To
The Principal Secretaries/Commissioners/
Director of Fisheries of all the States/Union Territories.

Subject: Security and health concerns of migrant fish workers during 21 days lockdown-reg.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the captioned subject and to inform that it has brought to the notice of this Department that due the 21 days lockdown imposed with effect from the midnight of the 23rd March, 2020 by the Government to combat novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), a large number of migrant workers from different states have been stranded on fishing vessels and fish-landing sites across the country. It has been further informed that such migrant fish workers do not have any avenue to return to their own villages, and thus are stranded in unfamiliar locations.

2. In this context it is requested that all the State Governments/UT Administrations may kindly review the situation in their respective State/UT and advise the concerned officials and field functionaries to take immediate measures as below:

- (i) To personally look into the situation and intervene as needed to ensure that the fish workers are contacted and reassured about their safety.
- (ii) To ensure that adequate food, water, shelter, essential sanitary supplies in the light of Covid 19 and wages are continued to be made available as per the directives issued by various central Ministries and State Governments in this regard.
- (iii) To ensure that all boat owners and their organisations, as well as cooperative societies are directed not to terminate the employment during the lockdown period and ensure that fish workers in their employment are kept safe.
- (iv) To ensure that a tally of migrant workers with their full names, residence details and a contact number are made available in order to communicate back to their families about their condition.
- (v) To ensure that their families in the respective States/UTs are supported with rations and essential supplies.

3. It is further requested that the action/measures taken on the aforementioned points may please be forwarded to this Department at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

(Shankar L)
Joint Commissioner (Fisheries)
Telefax: 011-2338 9212

Copy to :

1. The Chairperson, National Fishworkers' Forum, The SFSS Soc. Ltd., Post Satpati, Tal & Dist Palghar, Maharashtra, PIN-401405. This has a reference to your letter No. NFF/Covid-19/20/003 dated 27th March, 2020.
2. **Delhi Office :** National Fishworkers' Forum, Secretariat, F 10/12, Basement, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi, 110017.

(Shankar L)
Joint Commissioner (Fisheries)