

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Diary No. 10846-2020

IN THE MATTER OF

ARUNA ROY AND ANR.

...Petitioner

Versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ANR

...Respondent

STATUS REPORT

1. It is submitted that the Central Government sponsored scheme namely Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment [MGNREGA] is a scheme to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing guarantee wage employment to every household whose adult member do unskilled manual work. In order to ensure that relief measure reaches not only to poor people and migrant workers but also their families / dependents in a sustainable manner, the Central Government has announced Rs.1.70 lakh crore relief package under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana to fight battle against corona virus. The salient features of the package are as under:

- i. Insurance cover of Rs 50 Lakh per health worker fighting COVID-19 will be provided under the Insurance Scheme.
- ii. 80 crore poor people will be provided 5 kg wheat or rice and 1 kg of preferred pulses, free of cost, every month for the next three months.
- iii. 20 crore women Jan Dhan account holders will be given cash assistance of Rs 500 per month per person for next three months.
- iv. 8 crore poor families registered under the scheme of Ujjwala will get 1 Gas cylinder, per family, per month free of cost for the next three months.

- v. MNREGA wage to be increased Rs 202 a day from Rs 182, which will benefit 13.62 crore families.
- vi. An ex-gratia financial assistance of Rs 1,000 per person will be given to 3 crore poor senior citizen, poor widows and poor disabled.
- vii. Government will front-load Rs 2,000 to farmers in first week of April under the existing PM KisanYojana to benefit 8.7 crore farmers.
- viii. Wage-earners earning below Rs 15,000 per month in businesses having less than 100 workers, would be given 24 percent of their monthly wages into their PF accounts, per person, per month for next three months.
- ix. Central Government has given orders to State Governments to use Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund to provide relief to Construction Workers and support to 3.5 Crore registered workers.

2. It is submitted that MGNREGA wages are already being increased from Rs.180 per day to Rs.202 per day which will benefit 13.62 crore such poor families.

3. It is also submitted that subsequent to the issue of the above measures as per available reports [up to 4.4.2020] the States and UTs have set up 23,924 relief camps as per the directions of the Central Government in which they are providing food, shelter and medical facilities as per the requirements of migrant workers. Around 12,48,245 persons have been provided shelter; 75,04,299 persons have been provided food. These facilities are being provided for the poor and the destitute, the stranded migrant workers, for workers who need access to food as also for workers who have reached their destination but are required to be quarantined as per standard health protocol.

4. It would be clear from the above that issues related to all MGNREGA registered households as well as other entitlements are being duly addressed in an overall and comprehensive manner by the Central Government and the State Governments during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

