

## Press Release

### **NAILU Condemns Central Government's Failure to Keep Data on Migrant Workers Affected During COVID-19 Lockdown**

**February 2021**

**For Immediate Release**

**The National Alliance of Independent Labour Unions (NAILU)** has expressed deep disappointment and outrage over the central government's failure to maintain accurate data on migrant workers who lost their jobs and lives during the COVID-19 lockdown. In a shocking revelation, Minister of Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar informed the Lok Sabha that the Ministry had no data on the number of migrant workers impacted by the lockdown, despite widespread job losses and fatalities.

**Dr Golak Behari Nath, Policy and Research Director**, echoed these concerns, stating, "Data is the foundation of policy. Without it, the government cannot claim to address the needs of migrant workers. This is not just an administrative failure, but a human one."

**National Convener Mr. A.R. Anupam** strongly criticized the government's negligence, stating, "This is an unacceptable oversight that shows a complete lack of concern for the most vulnerable section of our workforce. Migrant workers, who are the backbone of India's economy, deserve better."

**Dr. R.S. Tiwari, National Campaign Coordinator**, added, "The absence of such critical data not only denies justice to the workers who suffered during the pandemic but also makes it impossible to develop effective policies for their rehabilitation. This failure reflects the government's indifference towards those who were worst hit by the lockdown."

**Mr. Bikash , Media and Communications Coordinator**, highlighted that accurate data collection is fundamental to accountability and policy-making. "By failing to record the struggles of migrant workers, the government has not only ignored their plight but has also made it harder to address the long-term economic impact of the pandemic on them and their families."

**Mr. Gopinath Barik, Labour Rights Advocate**, emphasized the legal implications of this failure, noting, "The government's inability to maintain data on job losses and deaths of migrant workers is a violation of their basic rights. Without proper documentation, there can be no legal recourse or compensation for the families who have lost their loved ones or their livelihoods."

NAILU demands immediate corrective measures from the government, including:

1. Urgent efforts to collect and publish comprehensive data on migrant workers affected by the COVID-19 lockdown.
2. Implementation of a national registry for migrant workers to track their employment status, health, and social security needs.
3. Adequate compensation and support to families of workers who lost their lives or jobs during the pandemic.

NAILU reiterates its commitment to fighting for the rights of migrant workers and will continue to advocate for justice, transparency, and accountability in addressing the needs of India's labor force.