

IMPORTANT MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT THE COVID-19

Relief package under Prime Minister Gareeb Kalyan Scheme

Today, Hon'ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a slew of measures to deal with the economic distress caused due to the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lockdown announced to deal with the situation. She announces Rs. 1.70 lakh crore package under the Prime Minister Gareeb Kalyan Scheme'. This scheme includes food security and cash transfers benefitting over 80 crore people. Following are the major announcement made under the scheme:

Medical Insurance Cover for Health Workers

- Medical insurance cover of Rs. 50 lakh per health worker (sanitation workers, ASHA workers, doctors, nurses, paramedics) for three months who are fighting with the Covid-19. It will cover 20 lakh workers.

Food Security

- Over and above 5kg of rice/wheat that is already given, another 5 kg per person will be given free to around 80 crore people through PDS. Besides, one kg of preferred and region specific choice of pulse will also be given. It can be availed in two instalments.

Farmers

- First instalment of Rs 2,000 under PM Kisan scheme will be given in first week of April. Around 8.69 crore farmers will get immediate benefit out of it.

MNREGA

- Increase in wage rate from Rs 182 to Rs 202 amounting to increase of Rs 2000 per worker leading to benefitting 5 crore people.

Old age/widows:

- An additional ex-gratia amount of Rs 1,000 to be provided to the Poor widow/ Disabled/ pensioners above the age of 60 years for the next three months in two instalments. It will benefit 3 crore widows and senior citizens.

Women Jan Dhan account holders

- Ex gratia of Rs 500 per month for next three months will Jan Dhan account holders which will benefit 20 crore women.



Women Ujjawala scheme beneficiaries

- Under the Ujjawala scheme, women will be given free LPG cylinders for the next three months which will benefit 8.3 crore families below poverty line.

Women Self Help Groups

- The Deen Dayal National Livelihood Mission, collateral free loan will be given up to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh earlier. Impact on 7 crore holders through 63 lakh SHGs.

Organized sector workers under EPFO

- Centre will pay the EPFO contribution both, of the employer and of the employee (12 percent each) for firms with over 100 employees for the next three months.
- EPFO regulation will be amended so that workers can draw up to 75% for their contingency expenditure non-refundable advance or three months of wages in advance whichever is less. This will benefit 4.8 crore workers.

Construction Workers

- State governments to be directed under Buildings and Other Construction Workers' Fund to utilise an existing Rs 31,000 crore welfare fund for benefit of 3.5 crore construction workers.

District mineral funds

- States have been asked to utilise the funds available under the district mineral fund for testing activities, medical screening and providing health attention needed to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Notification

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has issued a notification dated 25.03.2020 regarding setting-up a control room to monitor in real time the status of transportation and delivery of goods, manufacturing, delivery of essential commodities to common man and the difficulties being faced by various stakeholders during the lockdown period from 25.3.2020 to 14.4.2020.

If any manufacturing, transporter, distributor, wholesaler or e-commerce companies facing ground level difficulties in transport and distribution of goods or mobilization of resources, the same may reach-out to Department at the following telephone number/
email:- Tel: + 91-11 23062487, Email:controlroom-dpiit@gov.in