

AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव
Home Secretary
भारत सरकार
Government of India
North Block,
New Delhi

D.O. 40-10/2020-DM-I(A)

16th May, 2020

Dear Chief Secretary,

As you are aware, Government has allowed the movement of migrant workers by buses and 'Shramik' special trains to enable them to travel to their native places. To capture the information regarding movement of migrants and facilitate the smooth movement of stranded persons across States, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has developed an online Dashboard namely, National Migrant Information System (NMIS), on the existing NDMA-GIS portal.

2. The portal will maintain a central repository and help the sending as well as receiving State/ district to ask for and give their acceptance in an online format seamlessly. This system will help in speedy communication between states without creating additional work at the level of the field officers. It has additional advantages like contact tracing, which may be useful in overall COVID response work. A brief note on NMIS is enclosed. Some of key features of the system include the following:

- States can upload batch file of individual data on the portal. As many States have already collected migrant data, this can be integrated through Application Programming Interface (API).
- The key data pertaining to the persons migrating has been standardized for uploading such as name, age, mobile no, originating & destination district, date of travel etc which States are already collecting.
- States will be able to visualize how many people are going out from where and how many are reaching destination states.
- The mobile numbers of people can be used for contact tracing and movement monitoring during COVID-19.
- A unique ID is generated for each migrant, which can be used for all transactions.
- GOI nodal Ministries can also monitor the movement of migrants through this portal.

3. I urge upon you to use the online portal NMIS for capturing the information on movement of migrants and for better inter-State co-ordination.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Ajay Bhalla)

To

The Chief Secretaries of all States

Brief Note on National Migrant Information System

1. Introduction

The transportation services for migration during the current COVID crisis are being facilitated by operating Shramik Special trains and buses. These are planned with the cooperation of the Origin state, Destination state and the transport provider (railway or buses) . There are many issues involved in the movement of migrants including contact tracing, planning of trains, planning of quarantine facilities in destination states, planning of return when the migrants want to return etc. So far, it is expected that about 3.5 lakh migrant workers have been moved in 350 trains. More such journeys are being planned.

Further to provide facility of contact tracing, both individual particulars and spatial identifiers (origin, destination address) need to be captured.

It may also be noted that many of the workers may undertake reverse journeys in the near future. A ready database can be of help in planning such return journeys in a systematic manner.

Data of these people is being handled by States / districts. There is no common platform where the exact data can be viewed for decision making process.

There is a potential scope to streamline the operations. Automation of the process of labour migration will provide a central repository, which can be used by each stakeholder with their login credentials as a decision support tool.

By keeping this in mind, NDMA has developed a National Migrant Information System (NMIS) Dashboard on the existing NDMA-GIS portal.

2. National Migrant Information System (NMIS) Dashboard

NDMA has developed a geo-spatial platform as a decision support system for current pandemic situation. In the portal various dashboards have been created i.e. Public dash board, logistic management, risk index, quarantine alert etc which are being used by states for containment of spread of corona virus.

The NMIS has following components:

- Database management of migration of stranded people. States/ Uts, Ministry of Railways and other stakeholders would be able to access the portal for decision support.
- States can upload individual data on the portal using the application provided to them. As many States have already collected migrant data, this can be integrated with the NDMA data base through API.
- The key data pertaining to the persons migrating can be standardized for uploading such as name, age, mobile no, aadhar number, originating & destination district, persons accompanying, date of travel etc which already states are collecting. With this data states will be able to visualize how many

people are going out from where and how many are reaching where. Accordingly, they will be able to know about logistic requirement.

- The mobile numbers of people can be used for contact tracing and movement monitoring during Covid 19
- The movement of trains will be subject to consent of destination states taking in to account the quarantine capacity, logistical requirement for further travel etc. When the origin and destination states agree on number of people and dates, Railways will book the trains.
- Each migrant is generated unique ID, which can be used for all transactions. The IDs of people moving by a particular train will be given to Railways by the Origin State, when giving the requisition of trains. In this way the data will be visible to destination states too and can be used for further monitoring.
- It may be noted that the system may not require any substantive additional work on part of the field officials. It will also not take away the governance power from the State Government, within the overall guidelines of MHA.

Key features of NMIS include the following, among others:

- Standardized Data Model with proper State & District ID
- Auto-generation of Unique ID for each Request
- Auto-generation of Unique ID for Passengers
- Validation Checks for State ID, District ID, Name, Mobile, Age
- Auto-population of Dates in Approval Workflow
- Dropdown Selection wherever possible
- Capturing data creator ID details with Date/time in an automated way for validation
- Table View with Export option
- Messages for incorrect data

3. Activities for States

The states have to undertake the following activities for smooth working of the National Migrant Information System

- i. Deputation of a nodal officer for this purpose at State and district level
- ii. Smooth flow of the data from the states to NMIS portal in the requisite data formats
- iii. Sharing of data using online portals/through API in cases where, the States have their own online platform

4. Benefits:

1. Destination states can plan their logistics much more effectively. They will have exact numbers with details before the migrants arrive.
2. Origin states will also have all the data at one place for transportation as well as future planning.

3. As the transportation levels increase, manual system will become difficult to implement and may lead to delays. On line centralised portal will give seamless connectivity.
4. At latter stage , Railways can examine giving a passenger manifest till coach level, which would serve the purpose for the nodal officers to be assigned to each coach and each quarantine facility for system of embarkment at destination to be seamless
5. NDMA central repository can be used to plan and also keep in touch with the migrants for giving them benefits by states (if any), or plan their return journeys.
6. Migrants can be sent alerts on their mobiles for various services like date of journey, coach number (if allotted by railways) and in future for benefit transfer or contact with employers.

5. Expected Outcomes

The following outcomes are expected with the National Migration Information System:

- i. Standardized National level Migration Information System
- ii. Centralized system for facilitating the transportation of stranded people
- iii. Seamless communication between states through the portal
- iv. Transmission of NOC from destination states through the portal
- v. Availability of the database on the single platform for effective utilization by various stakeholders
- vi. Easy availability and accessibility of data through login credentials at centralized location for planning such as logistics arrangements, contacts tracing, isolation/quarantine facilities management etc.
- vii. Easy accessibility of the database to the railways and other transportation management system to plan the movement of the stranded people
- viii. Generation of e-pass online through the centralized platform
- ix. Easy monitoring of the movement of stranded people through the centralized Migrant Information system