

COVID-19 REHABILITATION MEASURES

ODISHA

ADVANCED PAYMENTS -

To boost the morale of health personnel, Odisha announced advanced payment of **4 months' salary for doctors, nurses and paramedical staff**. The Chief Minister personally appealed to citizens to deal respectfully with health professionals and warned against any instances of misbehaviour that would attract a penalty. A sum of Rs. 50 Lakh was announced as compensation for any health worker who unfortunately loses their life in the line of duty. Media personnel covering COVID were also provided with a similar risk cover of Rs.15 Lakh in case of loss of life.

CARE FOR MIGRANT WORKERS -

Odisha was the first state to announce that it would take care of its migrant workers from other states and provide free services during COVID-19. Odisha estimated that around 5 Lakh migrant workers stranded in various parts of the country will return to the state after the lockdown and assigned senior I.A.S officers to all districts as observers for facilitating the care and management of laborers upon their return. The State engaged with around 6700 Sarpanchs in the planning process, who took an oath to take care of the returning migrant laborers. Community-based monitoring was carried out by Gram Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies. Returnees to the State and their friends and relatives were required to register with the Gram Panchayat. Quarantine facilities were provided free of cost for a 14 day period after which returnees were offered an incentive of Rs. 2000. Local communities were engaged to facilitate the identification of returnees who had not registered with a Panchayat-level quarantine facility. Atoll-free number 104 and a web portal were launched for the registration of travellers from the state, within 24 hours of their return. Following registration, individuals were contacted by government officials for detailed enquiries and medical examination, if necessary. A cash incentive of Rs. 15000, along with medical care, was announced for individuals in home quarantine.

SECURITY AND WELFARE PACKAGE -

A comprehensive package of Rs. 2200 Crore was announced by the State Government to address the needs of the most vulnerable sections of society in terms of food security and social welfare. These measures included distribution of rice for a 3-month period and advance payment of pension under various social security schemes and provision of financial assistance for construction workers. A large-scale Urban Wage Employment Initiative was launched to generate employment for at least 4.5 Lakh urban poor families across 114 ULBs.

Agricultural loans were made for marginal and small farmers, and the loan amount was transferred directly to their bank accounts.