



# mines, minerals & PEOPLE

Date: 30-03-2020

To,

Hon'ble Shri Santosh Gangwar

Minister, Department of Labour and Employment,

Government of India, New Delhi

**Subject: To use the unspent fund of the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Fund**

Dear Sir,

mines, minerals & People ,Bandhkam Majdoor Sangthan (Construction Workers' Union) ,Akhil Gujarat Shramyogi Kadar Union has been working for the social security of the unorganized sector workers, migrant workers and mines workers for last 25 years. The country wide lockdown announced to arrest the community transmission of Covid19 has pushed the unorganized sector workers and migrant labourers into dire economic crisis.

As per the central government's act, Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 all the state governments and Union Territories have been collecting not less than 1 percent and maximum 2 percent of the value of the construction project (excluding the cost of land) as a cess. The money so collected would be utilized for the workers' welfare by the state and Union Territories level BOCWW Boards.

However, as we have noticed in Gujarat and other states, the expenditure over the years from the BOCWW Fund has been merely a minor percentage of the fund collected thereby leading to accumulation of unspent balances year after year. As per the latest information, the unspent BOCWW Fund amounts to Rs 52,000 crores.

Since you have already directed the CMs of the different states and LGs of UTs to utilize the funds from BOCWW Boards for the social welfare and for extending the emergency financial assistance package for such workers, but we are yet to see a response from state CMs or Boards in a uniform manner, we would like to make the following suggestions:

1, All the workers who have been registered with the Boards since the constitution of the Board shall be allocated 50 percent of the minimum wages as a subsistence unemployment allowance for next three months by the mode of direct benefit transfer in their bank accounts.

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2, The labour supply contractors often do not register the entire workforce under them in order to bypass labour laws such as Provident Fund Act. The situation that has arisen now demands that all the construction workers need to be brought in to the social welfare benefits of BOCWW Boards. So we suggest that the Boards shall issue directives to cess collecting officers to get the list of all such unregistered construction workers from the licensed labour contractors operating as per Labour Contractors Act, 1970 and register themselves as beneficiaries under respective BOCWW Boards.

Once again during such troubled times as Covid19 Lockdown, we urge you to ensure that not even one informal sector workers remains devoid of the generous financial assistance package from the BOCWW Boards.

Yours sincerely

**Rebbapragada Ravi**

mm&P Chairperson

**Ashok Shrimali**

mm&P Secretary General

**Lalsingh Pargi**

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