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Title: Need to provide continuous employment under MGNREGA to migrant workers from Western Odisha to check their migration.

SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): During the lean agricultural months, thousands of families migrate from the western districts of Odisha to the brick kilns of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and some other States.

18.01 hrs (Shri Satpal Maharaj *in the Chair*)

These workers migrate from Bolangir, Koraput, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Bargarh districts of western Odisha in KBK area which is one of the poor areas of Odisha.

Migrants are lured with advance payments and are subjected to work in harsh living conditions. They undergo 18 hours work days and physical violence. Workers do not have access to the basic facilities of food, healthcare and education for the children. They are also forced to work for a pittance. As per the Minimum Wages Act, a pair of workers should be paid Rs.367 for making 1000 bricks. This is based on certain assumptions. But in reality, a family of 3-4 members is paid just Rs.150 to Rs.200. If the workers make an attempt to walk out, they are physically assaulted and beaten up. Child labour in these brick kilns is rampant. Children are used to flip bricks while they are drying because the heavier palms of adults may lead to cracks in the bricks. Despite laws that protect and safeguard migrant labourers' rights, working conditions for migrants continue to worsen.

In view of this, I urge upon the Government to provide social security entitlements to migrant workers and undertake efforts to strengthen enforcement of labour rights. I also urge the Government to expand the coverage and compensation provided by MNREGA and other employment programmes in the areas western Odisha which I have mentioned just now to check distressed migration.