

# ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକ

Prabasi Shramika



ରାଜ୍ୟ ଗ୍ରନ୍ଥ ସଂସ୍ଥାନ

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

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ରାଜ୍ୟ ଶ୍ରମ ସଂସ୍ଥାନ

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରର ସାମ୍ବାଦିକ ପତ୍ରିକା

ପ୍ରଥମ ବର୍ଷ - ୨୦୧୩-୧୪

ପ୍ରଥମ ସଂଖ୍ୟା

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଉପଦେଷ୍ଟା

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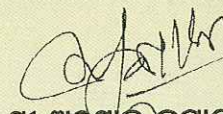
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## ମୁଖ୍ୟ ସଂପାଦକଙ୍କ କଲମରୁ...

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଏକ ଶ୍ରମିକ ବହୁଳ ରାଜ୍ୟଭାବେ ପରିଚିତ । ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକାରର କୁଶଳୀ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଓ ଅଣକୁଶଳୀ ଶ୍ରମିକରେ ଭରପୁର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ସମ୍ବଳ ଭାବେ ପରିଗଣିତ । ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ୧୯୮୦ ଦଶକରେ ଯେଉଁ କର୍ମ ଅଭାବ ଜନିତ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଯୋଗୁଁ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକଭାବେ ଅନ୍ୟରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଯାଇ ରୋଜଗାର କରିବାକୁ ପଡୁଥିଲା, ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ସମୟରେ ଦ୍ରୁତ ଶିଳ୍ପାୟନ ତଥା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ବିଭିନ୍ନ କର୍ମନିୟୁକ୍ତି ଯୋଜନାର ସଫଳ ରୂପାୟନ କର୍ମସଂସ୍ଥାନର ଅଭାବକୁ ପୂରଣ କରୁଥିଲେ ସୁଧା ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କ ସଂଖ୍ୟା ସେଇ ମାତ୍ରାରେ କମିବାର ଦେଖାଯାଉନାହିଁ । ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ମୁଖ୍ୟତଃ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସାମାଜିକ କାରଣରୁ ରଣଗ୍ରସ୍ତ ହୋଇ ରଣ ଶୁଝିବା ସକାଶେ ଠିକାଦାର ବା ଦଲାଲମାନଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଦାଦନ (ଅଗ୍ରିମ) ପାଇ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ହେବାକୁ ଏକରକମ ବାଧ୍ୟ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି । ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏତେ ପ୍ରଭୁତ ଯୋଜନା ଏବଂ ଶିଳ୍ପାନୁଷ୍ଠାନରେ ଥିବା ପ୍ରର୍ଯ୍ୟାପ୍ତ କର୍ମନିୟୁକ୍ତି ସୁଯୋଗ ତାଙ୍କୁ ନିଜ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ କରିରଖିପାରୁନାହିଁ । ଏଭଳି ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କୁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ବାହାରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଲଗାଭାଗି ଲତ୍ୟାଦିରେ ନିୟୋଜିତ କରାଯାଇ ଦଲାଲମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ନାନାଦି ନିର୍ଯ୍ୟାତନା ଦିଆଯାଉଥିବା ବିଷୟରେ ବହୁ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିକୁ ଆସୁଥିବାବେଳେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ପରିସରରେ କିଭଳି ଭାବରେ ଏକ ସୁସ୍ଥ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ପରିବେଶ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରାଯାଇପାରିବ ଓ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ସମସ୍ତ ଆଇନଗତ ସୁବିଧା ସୁଯୋଗ ମିଳିପାରିବ ସେଥିପାଇଁ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ବୁଝାମଣା କରିବା ସହ ଶ୍ରମ ବିଭାଗର ଅଧିକାରୀମାନେ ସତର୍କ ପ୍ରହରୀ ଭଳି ସତତ ଚେଷ୍ଟାରତ ଅଛନ୍ତି । ଆବଶ୍ୟକସ୍ଥଳେ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କୁ ନିଜ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଫେରାଇ ଆଣିବା ପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଉଛି ।

କିନ୍ତୁ ଏସବୁ ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କୁ ନିଜର ଆଇନଗତ ଅଧିକାର ଓ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ପାଇଁ ସଚେତନ କରିବା ସକାଶେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସ୍ତରରେ ବହୁ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନିଆଯାଉଛି । ଏହି ସମସ୍ୟାକୁ ଆଖି ଆଗରେ ରଖି ରାଜ୍ୟ ଶ୍ରମ ସଂସ୍ଥାନ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଏହି ସାମ୍ବାଦିକ ପତ୍ରିକା “ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକ” ପ୍ରକାଶନ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଏହି ପତ୍ରିକାଟିର ବିଷୟବସ୍ତୁ ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ, ଶ୍ରମିକ ସଂଗଠନ, ସରକାରୀ ବିଭାଗ, ତଥା ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ସକାଶେ ନିଶ୍ଚିତ ଉପଯୋଗୀ ହେବ ବୋଲି ଆଶା କରେ ।

  
 ଶ୍ରୀ ଅଶୋକ କୁମାର ଭୂୟାଁ  
 ମୁଖ୍ୟ ସଂପାଦକ



**Dr. S. C. Jamir**  
Governor, Odisha



**RAJBHAVAN**  
**Bhubaneswar-751008**

### **MESSAGE**

I am glad to know that State Labour Institute, Bhubaneswar is bringing out the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of half yearly bulletin "PRABASI SHRAMIK" shortly.

The bulletin, I hope, will not only spread awareness on labour rights and issues but also will enlighten them on basic labour laws and human rights. Those working in unorganized sector are perhaps the most vulnerable. We all have to join hands to ensure that our labourers are not exploited, especially women and landless labourers. Safety of labourers is of paramount importance. The bulletin, I am sure, will highlight all these and many other topics in simple language.

I wish the publication all success.

**(S. C. Jamir)**



**NAVEEN PATNAIK**  
CHIEF MINISTER, ODISHA



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### MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the State Labour Institute, Bhubaneswar is publishing its first edition of "**Prabasi Shramik**" shortly.

I hope the publication will help educate the readers and make them aware of various labour issues. I wish the publication all success.

(NAVEEN PATNAIK)



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**SHRI BIJAYSHREE ROUTRAY**

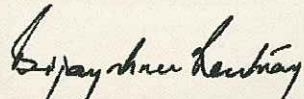
MINISTER  
Forest & Environment,  
Labour & ESI ODISHA

**MESSAGE**

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that State Labour Institute, Bhubaneswar is going to publish a bulletin under the caption “**Prabasi Shramik**” in which the activities on implementation of the labour laws, decision of the Supreme Court and High Court on labour laws, articles, success stories etc. shall be published.

The noble endeavour of State Labour Institute will definitely inspire the Trade Unions, NGOs, Students, Officials and Public in general.

I convey my greetings and wish grand success of the publication of the “**Prabasi Shramik**”.

  
(Bijayshree Routray)



**Shri R. K. Sharma, IAS**

Principal Secretary to Govt.  
Labour & ESI Department,  
Govt. of Odisha and  
Vice-Chairman, SLI

**MESSAGE**

I am glad to know that the State Labour Institute, Bhubaneswar is going to publish the 1st edition of "Prabasi Sharmik"

I am sure that the articles published in the periodicals will be of help and guidance to officials and civil society community working for protection of the rights of the migrant workmen.

I wish the publication success.

( R. K. Sharma )

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## STATE LABOUR INSTITUTE ON MIGRANT WORKMEN

● **Sambit Kumar Pattnaik**  
Deputy Director, SLI.



State Labour Institute (SLI) is an autonomous body sponsored by Labour & E.S.I. Department, Odisha registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 vide registration No. KRD-6196-415 of 1994-95. The Institute has a General Council with the Minister for Labour & E.S.I., Odisha as its Chairman, Secretary to Government, Labour & E.S.I. Department as Vice-Chairman, Director of the Institute, Labour Commissioner, Director of Employment and Director Factories & Boilers as Ex-Officio members and 12 other Members drawn in equal numbers, from the trade unions, employer organizations and academicians nominated by the State Government

once in every three years. The Director of the Institute acts as the convener of the General Council

The objectives of the State Labour Institute are to initiate and promote professional activities in the field of labour related matters, educational and other training programmes, capacity building/training & evaluation, surveys, studies, research, publication etc. sponsored by Government as well as other agencies from time to time.

Besides various issues of labour problems SLI is giving much more thrust on the issue of migrant labour. While concentrating its efforts on migrant labour, SLI has undertaken various activities such as conducting Migrant Labour Survey in different districts to ascertain the ground realities of the status of Migrant Workmen at the destination area and conducting workshop/training/ awareness camp at districts and block level to create awareness among the migrant workmen and implementing agencies about the benefit flowing from the different statute to reduce the distress migration mitigate their probable exploitation by the erring agencies. In its widespread activities the SLI has taken the following steps.



**One day Training-cum-Workshop on ISMW for the Block/District Level Officers held at Nuapada**



Training Programme at Bhanjanagar for Anganwadi Supervisors and CDPOs for conducting migrant labour survey in Ganjam District

Training Programme at Chatrapur for Anganwadi Supervisors and CDPOs for conducting migrant labour survey in Ganjam District



Training Programme at Chatrapur for Anganwadi Supervisors and CDPOs for conducting migrant labour survey in Ganjam District addressing by DSWO

Training Programme at Chatrapur for Anganwadi Supervisors and CDPOs for conducting migrant labour survey in Ganjam District imparting training by Resource Person





**Participants in the Training Programme at Berhampur for Anganwadi Supervisors and CDPOs for conducting migrant labour survey in Ganjam District**

**Monitoring of Migrant Labour Survey in Bolangir district by Officer of Labour Directorate at Patanagarh**



**Addressing by the Collector, Koraput in Training Programme at Koraput for Anganwadi Supervisors and CDPOs for conducting migrant labour survey in Koraput District**



**Participants in the Training Programme at Koraput for Anganwadi Supervisors and CDPOs for conducting migrant labour survey in Koraput District**



## Implementation of Inter State Migrant Workmen (RE & CS) Act. 1979 in the State.

• P. K. Baliarsingh

Assistant Labour Commissioner, Hqrs

Migration of workmen is a regular phenomena in the state of Odisha but the migration along with families for a particular period in the post khariff season in search of work has created concern for the Government of Odisha. This seasonal migration takes place during October-May every year and people migrate to the neighbouring States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. This is mostly done through middlemen who not only exploit them by taking away a sizeable portion of the earnings from the migrant workmen but also abuse them physically, mentally and socially both in source and destination states. Although the distressed migration is largely prevalent in the western part of the State, the Labour Department, Government of Odisha has identified eleven migration prone districts in the State. Focussed activities are taken in the districts of Balangir, Sonepur, Nuapada, Bargarh and Kalahandi.

The Government of Odisha being concerned about the prevalence of large scale migration into brick manufacturing unit of other states that engage poor and vulnerable migrant workers, had initiated discussions with the Government of Andhra Pradesh with facilitation from the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), Government of India and the ILO to develop a coordination mechanism between the sending and receiving states. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Govt. of India (Ministry of Labour & Employment) and State Labour Department of Governments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh under which both the states have formulated a time-bound and result oriented action plan to benefit migrant workers, especially those working in the brick kilns sector.

Awareness Camps at the G.P / Village level are in progress in Balangir district since July 2013. The camps focus on safe migration, social security of migrant workers, wage benefits, health insurance and education for children to make Balangir a Model District.

An Action Plan by the Government of Odisha is already in force for identifying, registering and regulating establishments recruiting seasonal migrant workers and out of school children etc. A Tripartite Meeting in this regard has already been held at Balangir on 29.10.2013 under the Chairmanship of District Collector, Balangir. The Labour Department Officials of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, Senior officials from Police and District Administration from Balangir, Nuapada and Kalahandi and the Brick Kiln Owners from Andhra Pradesh participated in the Tripartite Meeting. The meeting focused on proper wage and other social benefits like PDS, Health Insurance- etc. for migrant workers. It has been assured by the Labour Department Government of Andhra Pradesh to ensure minimum wage, hygienic living with facilities of accommodation and drinking water and other benefits like PDS and ICDS facilities for the migrant workers.

The Labour Department, through convergence initiatives has been able to coordinate with the Education Department, Government of Odisha for opening of Seasonal Hostels in the districts of Balangir, Bargarh and Nuapada for the children of migrant workers to continue their education when their parents migrate for a season.

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# ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କ ସମସ୍ୟା ଓ ପ୍ରତିକାର

● ଉମାଶଙ୍କର ମିଶ୍ର

ଅବସରପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ଆଇ.ପି.ଏସ୍

ଦେଶ ଭିତରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଯାଇଁ ଯେଉଁ ଶ୍ରମିକ ସମୂହ କାମ କରନ୍ତି ସେହିମାନଙ୍କ ବିଷୟରେ ବିଶେଷ ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚା ନାହିଁ କିମ୍ବା ତାଙ୍କର ସମସ୍ୟାକୁ ନେଇ ସରକାର ବା ନାଗରିକ ସମାଜର ଧ୍ୟାନ ଥିଲାପରି ମନେହୁଏନା । ବଡ଼ବଡ଼ ସହରମାନଙ୍କର ଝୋଟି ଝୋପଡ଼ିରେ ରହୁଥିବା ‘ଆମ୍ ଆଦମ୍’ ଘରେ ଘରେ କାମ କରିବାଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ସେଠାର ଶିଳ୍ପ, ରାସ୍ତା, ଓଭରବ୍ରିଜ୍ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ନିର୍ମାଣରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଯୋଗଦାନ ଅତୁଳନୀୟ । ଏଇ ଯେଉଁ ଶ୍ରମିକ ସମୂହ ଗାଁ ଗଣ୍ଡାରୁ ଚାଲିଆସି ସହରରେ କେମିତି କେଉଁଠି ମୁଣ୍ଡ ଗୁଞ୍ଜି ରୋଜଗାର ଆଶାରେ ଆସନ୍ତି ତାଙ୍କର କିଏ ଖୋଜଖବର ରଖେନାହିଁ । ଏଇମାନଙ୍କର ସଂଖ୍ୟା ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ବହୁତ ବଢ଼ିଯାଇଛି । ଏଣୁ ଏମାନଙ୍କୁ ଶୁଖିଳିତ କରି ଯଥାକ୍ରମେ ସୁବିଧାସୁଯୋଗ ଯୋଗାଇବା ସରକାର, ବେସରକାରୀ ସଂସ୍ଥାଙ୍କର ଯେ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ, ସେକଥା କେହି ଭାବୁନାହାନ୍ତି । ଭାରତର ପ୍ରାୟ ଗାଁଗୁଡ଼ିକରୁ ଗରିବ ଲୋକମାନେ ଏଇ ସହରମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆସି ରୋଜଗାର କରନ୍ତି ।

ଭାରତର ଅର୍ଥନୈତିକ ଗୁଣଗାନ ହେବା ସଙ୍ଗେ ସଙ୍ଗେ ଏଇମାନଙ୍କର ସଂଖ୍ୟା ବଢ଼ିଛି ଏବଂ ଗୋଟିଏ ରାଜ୍ୟରୁ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଯିବାର ଲୋକସଂଖ୍ୟା ବି ଭବିଷ୍ୟତରେ ବହୁତ ବଢ଼ିବ । କିନ୍ତୁ ସେମାନେ ଯାହା କାମ କରନ୍ତି ତା’ ତୁଳନାରେ ବିଶେଷ କିଛି ପାଆନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ । ଆମ ଦେଶରେ ମଜୁରି ପାଉଣା ପୃଥ୍ବୀର ପ୍ରାୟ ସବୁଦେଶଠାରୁ କମ୍ । ଏ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ପ୍ରଥମେ ସରକାର କିଛି ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେଉନାହାନ୍ତି । ସରକାର ଏଭଳି ଆନ୍ତଃରାଜ୍ୟ ଗମନଶୀଳ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କୁ ଏକ ସମସ୍ୟା ରୂପେ ଭାବୁଛନ୍ତି । ସରକାରଙ୍କର ସବୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଗୋଟିଏ ଆଧାର ଉପରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ, ତାହା ହେଉଛି ଲୋକେ ନିଜ ଗ୍ରାମ ବା ସହରରେ ହିଁ ରହନ୍ତି । ଜାତୀୟ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ନିର୍ଣ୍ଣିତ କର୍ମନିୟୁକ୍ତି ଯୋଜନା (ଏନଆରଇକିଏସ୍)ର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ଓ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହେଉଛି ସେଠା ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ କାମ ଯୋଗାଇବା । ଯେଉଁମାନେ ବାହାରେ ଯାଇ କାମ କରୁଛନ୍ତି, ତାହା ତାଙ୍କର ପରିସର ବାହାରେ ବା ସେ ବିଷୟରେ ଚିନ୍ତା ବି ନାହିଁ ।

ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟରେ ଆମର ଯେତେ ବେସରକାରୀ ସେବା ସଂସ୍ଥା (ଏନ୍.ଜି.ଓ) ଅଛି ସେମାନେ ବି ତାଙ୍କର କାମ ଗ୍ରାମ ଓ ସହରରେ ଥିବା କୃଷକ, ଶିଶୁ, ଅକ୍ଷମ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଇତ୍ୟାଦିଙ୍କ ଏକ ସମଷ୍ଟିକୁ ନିଶାଣ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ବହୁତ କମ୍ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଏଇ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କ ଉପରେ କାମ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଶ୍ରମ ବଜାରରେ ଏଇ ଅସଂଗଠିତ ଶ୍ରମ ଶକ୍ତି ଉପରେ କାହାର ନଜର ପଡ଼ୁନି । ଏଇ ଭ୍ରମଣଶୀଳ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କୁ ସେମାନେ ଭାବନ୍ତି ଯେ ସେମାନେ ସବୁବେଳେ ସ୍ଥାନ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ କରନ୍ତି ଓ କୌଣସି ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ ଜାଗାରେ ମିଳନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ । ତୃତୀୟରେ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ଶ୍ରମିକ ସଂଘମାନେ ବି ଏଇ ଭ୍ରମଣଶୀଳ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କୁ ତାଙ୍କ ତାଲିକାରେ ରଖନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ । କାରଣ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଗତିଶୀଳ କରିବା କଷ୍ଟ ଓ ତାହା କରିବା ଦ୍ୱାରା ତାଙ୍କର କିଛି ରାଜନୈତିକ ଫାଇଦା ହେଉନି । କାରଣ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଠିକଣା ପରିଚୟପତ୍ର ଇତ୍ୟାଦି କିଛି ନଥାଏ । ରାଜନୈତିକ ନେତାମାନେ ବି ଏଇମାନଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଭୋଟ ଆଶା କରନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ । ଏଣୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ବିଷୟରେ ଜାଣିବା ପାଇଁ ବି ଇଚ୍ଛା ପ୍ରକାଶ କରନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ ।

ଚତୁର୍ଥରେ ବଡ଼ ନିଗମ ଏବଂ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳର ଶିଳ୍ପ ଅର୍ଥନୀତି ଏଇମାନଙ୍କର ସାମୟିକ ସେବା ନିଅନ୍ତି କିନ୍ତୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏକ ସଂଗଠିତ ସମଷ୍ଟି ବୋଲି ଭାବନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ ।

ଏଇ ବିଷୟରେ ବଡ଼ ନିଗମ ଏବଂ ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳର ଶିଳ୍ପ ଅର୍ଥନୀତି ଏଇମାନଙ୍କର ସାମୟିକ ସେବା ନିଅନ୍ତି କିନ୍ତୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏକ ସଂଗଠିତ ସମଷ୍ଟି ବୋଲି ଭାବନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ ।

ଏଇ ବିଷୟ ନେଇ ଆମର ଦେଶରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଆଇନ ଅଛି । ସେଇଟି ହେଲା ଅନ୍ତରାଜ୍ୟ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଅଧିନିୟମ (ନିୟୁକ୍ତି ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ଓ ସେବା ସର୍ଭ) । ଏଇ ଆଇନରେ ଯାହା ଅଛି ତାହା ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ପାଇଁ ସୁଗୋପଯୋଗୀ ନୁହେଁ । ଏହା ୧୯୭୦ ଦଶକରେ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଏଥିରେ କେବଳ ଯେଉଁ ଠିକାଦାରମାନେ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଯୋଗାଡ଼ କରନ୍ତି ତାଙ୍କ ଉପରେ କଟକଣାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିଛି । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ସମସ୍ୟା ବୃହତ୍



ଆକାର ଧାରଣ କଲାଣି ଓ ଏଭଳି ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କ ସ୍ତ୍ରୋତ ଚାଲିଛି । ଏଣୁ ଅନ୍ୟ ଏକ ଆଇନ କରିବା ବା ଏହି ଆଇନକୁ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ କରିବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ପଡ଼ୁଛି ।

ଦେଶର କେତେକ ଜାଗା ଅଛି ଯେଉଁ ସ୍ଥାନରୁ ହିଁ ବହୁତ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ସହର ଆଡ଼କୁ ସ୍ତ୍ରୋତ ଛୁଟୁଛି । ସେଇ ଜାଗାଗୁଡ଼ିକ ସରକାରଙ୍କୁ ଜଣା, ତେଣୁ ସେଇ ସ୍ଥାନର ଉନ୍ନତି କରାଇ ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ନିୟୁକ୍ତି ଯୋଗାଇବା ପାଇଁ ଆଉ ଗୋଟିଏ ମତ ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଉଛି । ଏଇ ସମସ୍ୟାକୁ ବି କେତେକାଂଶରେ ଧ୍ୟାନ ଦେବା ଉଚିତ । ଆମେ ଜାଣୁ ଯେ ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଓଡ଼ିଶା, ପୂର୍ବ ଉତ୍ତରପ୍ରଦେଶ, ଦକ୍ଷିଣ ରାଜସ୍ଥାନ ଓ ମଧ୍ୟପ୍ରଦେଶର ପଶ୍ଚିମାଞ୍ଚଳ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଅଞ୍ଚଳରୁ ବହୁତ ସଂଖ୍ୟାରେ ଲୋକେ ମଜୁରି ପାଇଁ ସହର ଆସୁଛନ୍ତି ଓ ସେମାନେ ଗରିବ ସୀମାରେଖାର ବହୁତ ତଳେ । ସେଇସବୁ ଜାଗାରୁ ଲୋକେ ବାହାରକୁ ଯାଆନ୍ତୁ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଏହାକୁ ତିନି ପ୍ରକାର ଉପାୟରେ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରିତ କରାଯାଇପାରିବ । ପ୍ରଥମେ ସେସବୁ ଜାଗାରେ ସରକାର ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ କରିବା ଦରକାର ଏବଂ ଏଇସବୁ ଜାଗାରେ ସେହିଭଳି ନିୟୁକ୍ତି ଓ ବିକାଶ ହେବା ଦରକାର ଯେଉଁଭଳି ଭାବରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ କେବିକେ ଯୋଜନା ଚାଲୁଛି । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ କ’ଣ ହେଉଛି କହିହେବନି । ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟରେ ଏହି ଜାଗାରୁ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ବାହାରକୁ ଯିବା ଅବସ୍ଥାକୁ ଠିକ୍ ଭାବରେ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରାଯାଉ । କାରଣ ଏଥିରେ ଏକ ଗୁରୁତର ମାନବ ପଣନ (ହ୍ୟୁମାନ ଟ୍ରାଫିକିଙ୍ଗ)ର ସମ୍ଭାବନା ରହୁଛି । ତୃତୀୟରେ ଯଦି ସରକାର ବା ବେସରକାରୀ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଜାଣିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ଗୁଜରାଟ ଓ ମହାରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରରେ ଅଛନ୍ତି ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ତେବେ ତାଙ୍କୁ ଚିହ୍ନଟ କରି ତାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସ୍କୁଲ, ହସ୍ପିଟାଲ, ସାମାଜିକ ସହାୟତା, ସେବା ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଯୋଗାଇଦେବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ । ଗୋଟିଏ ସର୍ତ୍ତରୁ ଜଣାପଡ଼ୁଛି ଯେ ସୁରାଟରେ ଯେଉଁ ଓଡ଼ିଆ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଅଛନ୍ତି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଭିତରୁ ଅନେକ ଏର୍ଆଇଭି ଏଡ୍‌ସ ରୋଗରେ ଆକ୍ରାନ୍ତ । ଚିକିତ୍ସା ବା ଶିକ୍ଷାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ନାହିଁ ।

ଦେଶ ବାହାରକୁ ଯାଉଥିବା ଶ୍ରମିକ ବା ପେସାଦାର କେତେକାଂଶରେ ସୁନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରିତ । କାରଣ ଦେଶ ବାହାରକୁ ଗଲେ ପାସପୋର୍ଟ ବା ଭିସା ଇତ୍ୟାଦି କଟକଣା ରହିଛି । ସେଇମାନଙ୍କର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସୁବିଧା ଅସୁବିଧା ପାଇଁ ସେ ଦେଶରେ ଥିବା ଆମ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରଦୂତ ଅଫିସ ପୁରା ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ନେବା ଉଚିତ । ଯେଉଁ ଦେଶ ପଠାଉଛି ଓ ଯେଉଁ ଦେଶ ନେଉଛି ତାଙ୍କର କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ହେଉଛି ଏମାନଙ୍କୁ ସୁନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରିତ କରିବା । ଠିକ୍ ସେହିପରି ଆମ ଦେଶରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ରାଜ୍ୟରୁ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଯାଉଥିବା ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କ ସମସ୍ୟା ବୁଝିବା ନିହାତି ଦରକାର । ଆମ ଦେଶ ବହୁତ ବଡ଼ । ଏହାକୁ ଏକ ଉପମହାଦେଶ କହିଲେ ଚଳିବ । ଏଣୁ ଏକ ଆନ୍ତରାଜ୍ୟ ସହାୟତା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ରହିବା ନିହାତି ଦରକାର । ରାଜ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଭିତରେ ସମନ୍ୱୟ ଓ ଏକ ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ରହିବା ଦରକାର । ତେବେ ଯାଇ ଏଇ ସମସ୍ୟାକୁ ଠିକ୍ ଭାବରେ ସାମନା କରାଯାଇପାରିବ ।

ସମ୍ବିଧାନ ସବୁ ନାଗରିକଙ୍କୁ ମୌଳିକ ଅଧିକାର ଦେଇଛି । ସେମାନେ ଦେଶରେ କୌଣସି ସ୍ଥାନରେ ବି କାମ କରିପାରିବେ । କିନ୍ତୁ ସମସ୍ୟା ହେଉଛି ଏ ଦେଶର ଦାରିଦ୍ର୍ୟ । ଯାହା ଆଗରୁ ଲେଖିଛି କେତେକ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ ଜାଗାରୁ ଓ ପ୍ରାୟ ଗରିବ ଲୋକମାନେ ଉପଯୁକ୍ତ ନିୟୁକ୍ତି ନପାଇପାରିବାରୁ ଗାଁମାନଙ୍କରୁ ସହରକୁ ପ୍ରତିଦିନ ଶହ ଶହ ସଂଖ୍ୟାରେ ଯାଉଛନ୍ତି । ସବୁ ଦେଶାନ୍ତରୀଣ ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ୟା ନାହିଁ । ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଉଚ୍ଚଶିକ୍ଷିତ ଓ ଭଲ ରୋଜଗାର କରି ଭଲ ପରିବେଶରେ ଅଛନ୍ତି ତାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସମସ୍ୟା ନାହିଁ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଗ୍ରାମାଞ୍ଚଳରୁ ଗରିବ ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କର ଏପ୍ରକାର ଯେଭଳି ଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଦଶାଜନିତ ଦେଶାନ୍ତରଣ ହେଉଛି ତାକୁ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣଭାବରେ ବିଚାର କରାଯିବା ଦରକାର । ଗମନାଗମନ ସୁବିଧା, ଶିକ୍ଷାୟନ ଓ ମୁକ୍ତ ବଜାର ଯୋଗୁ ଏହାର ସଂଖ୍ୟା ଆହୁରି ବଢ଼ିଯିବ । ତେଣୁ ସରକାର, ବେସରକାରୀ ସଂସ୍ଥା, ମେଡିଆ ଓ ନାଗରିକ ସମାଜ ଏହାକୁ ବିଚାରକୁ ନେଇ ଏକ ମାନବତାବାଦୀ ପ୍ରସଙ୍ଗ ଭାବି ଏହାର ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ଓ ସମାଧାନ କରିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ ।

ପୂର୍ବତନ ସିବିଆଇ ଡାଇରେକ୍ଟର,  
ଉପସଭାପତି ଇଣ୍ଡରପୋଲ

୧୦ ଅଗଷ୍ଟ ୨୦୧୨





# ଆଉ ଫେରିଲାନି କାଳିଆ

● କିଶଳୟ ଶତପଥୀ

ଦାଣ୍ଡ ଦୁଆରେ ସଜନାଗଛମୂଳେ ଶତୁରା ମା' ବୁଢ଼ୀ ମାଟିକୁ ଅଣ୍ଟାଳି କାନ୍ଦୁଛି କୋହରେଇ କୋହରେଇ । ସଜନା ଗଛର ଗଣ୍ଡିକୁ ଆଉସି କେତେ କ'ଣ ବାହୁନି କାନ୍ଦୁଛି । ତା' କାନ୍ଦରେ ଗାଁ ଦାଣ୍ଡ ଫାଟି ପଡ଼ୁଛି । କାଳିଠୁ ଶତୁରା ଘରେ ରୁଲି ଜଳିନି । କାଳିଆ ଆଉ ନାହିଁ । କାଳିଆ ମା' ଏଖବର ପାଇ ପାଗଳି ଭଲିଆ ଭୋ ଭୋ ଖାଲି କାନ୍ଦୁଛି । ସତୁରୀ ସରିକି ଘରର ଗାଁ ଜୀବନପୁରରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ନୀରବ, ନିସ୍ତବ୍ଧ । ସବୁଆଡ଼େ ଦୁଃଖ ଆଉ ଶୋକର ଛାୟା । ଆଜି କେହି କାମକୁ ଯାଇନାହାନ୍ତି । କାଳିଆର ଲାସ୍ ଧରି ଫେରୁଛି ତା'ର ଖୋଦ ଦାଦା ପୁଅ ଭାଇ ନାଲୁ ଓ ତା' ସାଙ୍ଗରେ କାମକୁ ଯାଇଥିବା ଆଉ ୧୨ ଜଣ ।

କାଳିଆ ଶତୁରାର ଗୋଟିଏ ବୋଲି ପୁଅ । ମୂଲଲାଗି ପାଉଥିବା ପଇସାରେ ପାଠଶାଠ ପଢ଼ାଇ ପାରିଲାନି ସିନା, ଖୁଆଇ ପିଆଇ ବେଶ୍ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଦେଇଥିଲା ପୁଅକୁ ଶତୁରା । କାଳିଆଯେତେବେଳେ ଗାଁ ଦାଣ୍ଡରେ ସାଇକେଲ ଧରି କାମ ଲାଗି ବାହାରିଯାଏ, ସାହି ଝିଅ ତା'ର ଯୁଆନ ଭେଣ୍ଟା ଦେହଟା ପ୍ରତି ନଜର ଲଗେଇ ଦିଅନ୍ତି । ଗାଁରେ କାଳିଆ ବାରି ହୋଇପଡ଼େ ନିଆରା ଭାବେ । ଯିଏ ଯେତେବେଳେ କାମକୁ ଡାକେ ଯାଏ, ମୂଲଲାଗି ମଜୁରି ଆଣେ । ଏକା ଦି'ଟା ମଣିଷର କାମ କରିପାରେ । ସେଇ ପଇସାରୁ ସାଇକେଲଟିଏ କିଣିଛି । ସବୁବେଳେ ହସ ହସ । କାଳିଆ ପାଲଟି ଯାଇଛି ଗାଁରେ ସଭିଙ୍କର ଅତି ପ୍ରିୟ ମଣିଷଟିଏ । ତା'ର ବଳିଳା ବଳିଳା ସୁଠାମ ଦେହଟା ଆଉ ତା'ର ମିଠା ମିଠା କଥାରେ ଆକର୍ଷିତ ହୋଇପଡ଼ିଛି ଜାଇନ । କାଳିଆ ଗାଁ ଦାଣ୍ଡରେ ଯିବାବେଳେ ଝରକା ବାଟେ ଅନେଇ ରହିଥାଏ ଜାଇନ । ବାସ୍ ଟିକିଏ ଦେଖିଦେଲେ ଦିନଟାଯାକ ପାଇଁ ମନଟା ଶୀତଳ ହୋଇଯାଏ । କେତେ କ'ଣ ବାହାନା କରି କାଳିଆ ସହିତ ସାମ୍ନା ସାମ୍ନି ହୋଇଛି । ହେଲେ ସାହସ କରି ମନକଥା କହିପାରିନି ତାକୁ । ତା'ର ମନର ମଣିଷ କାଳିଆକୁ ନେଇ କେତେ କ'ଣ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ଦେଖିଛି ଜାଇନ । ବେଳେବେଳେ କିଛି ଆଲରେ କାଳିଆ ଘରକୁ ପଲେଇଯାଏ ଜାଇନ । କାଳିଆ ବୋଉ ସହିତ ଭଲମନ୍ଦ କଥା ହେଉ ହେଉ ପାଖରେ କାଳିଆକୁ ପାଇ ମନ ପୁରେଇ ଦେଖିନିଏ ତାକୁ । ତାର ଦେହକୁ ମନକୁ । ତା'ର କଣେଇ କଣେଇ ଚାହାଣୀରୁ କାଳିଆ ବୁଝିଛି ଜାଇନର ମନକଥା । କିନ୍ତୁ ତା' ଲାଜକୁରା ଗୁଣ ଯୋଗୁ କହିପାରିନି କିଛି । ତାଙ୍କ ସମ୍ପର୍କ ଏତିକିରେ ସୀମିତ । ତଥାପି ଉଭୟଙ୍କ ମନରେ ଅସୁମାରୀ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ । ଆଗକୁ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ହିଁ ଗାଇବ ତାଙ୍କ ଯୁଗଳ ଜୀବନର ପ୍ରଣୟ ସଂଗୀତ ।

ଗଲାସନ ଏକ ଅଜଣା ରୋଗରେ ପଡ଼ି ଶତୁରା ମରିଗଲା । କାଳିଆ ଅନେକ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କଲା । ଗାଁ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନାରୁ ବୁଝୁପୁର ବଡ଼ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନା ନେଇ ବଡ଼ ଡାକ୍ତର ପାଖରେ ଚିକିତ୍ସା କରାଇଲା । ଧାର ଉଧାର କରି ବହୁତ ପଇସା ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ କରିବା ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ ତା ବାପାକୁ ବଞ୍ଚାଇ ପାରିଲାନି । ମା'ର ସୁନା ଗହଣା ଏମିତିକି ସାଇକେଲ ଖଣ୍ଡିକ ବି ଏଇଥିରେ ବିକ୍ରି ହୋଇଗଲା । ଆଉ ଧାର ଉଧାର କରି ବାପାକୁ ହରାଇ କାଙ୍ଗାଳ ହୋଇଗଲା କାଳିଆ । ତଥାପି ଯୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହରାଇ ନଥିଲା କାଳିଆ । ଅଣ୍ଟାରେ ଗାମୁଛା ଭିଡ଼ି ରାତିଦିନ ଖଟି ରୋଜଗାର କରି ମା, ଭଉଣୀକୁ ପୋଷିଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ କରଜର ଆଘାତ ସହି ପାରିଲାନି । ସେ ଦିନ ଗାଁକୁ ଆସିଥିଲା ଦାଦନ ଠିକାଦାର ବଳରାମ । ବାଙ୍ଗାଲୋରରେ କୋଠା ନିର୍ମାଣ କରିବା ପାଇ ତାଙ୍କ ଗାଁରେ ୧୨ ଜଣଙ୍କୁ ୧୦ ହଜାର ଲେଖାଏଁ ଅଗ୍ରୀମ ଦେଇଥିଲା । ଯେତେବେଳେ କାଳିଆ ଶୁଣିଲା ଦୌଡ଼ିଲା ଠିକାଦାର ପାଖକୁ । ନେହୁରା ହୋଇ ପନ୍ଦର ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ଅଗ୍ରୀମ ମାଗିଲା । ୧୨ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା କରଜ ଶୁଝିଦେଇ ୩ହଜାର ଘରେ ମା' ଓ ଭଉଣୀର ଖାଇବା ପାଇଁ ରଖିଦେଇ ସେ ଯିବ ଦାଦନ ଖଟିବାକୁ । ଠିକାଦାର ତା' ଭେଣ୍ଟା ଚେହେରା ଓ ବଳୁଆ ଡେଣାକୁ ଦେଖି ୧୫ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ଦେଇଦେଲା । ଗାଁରେ କେତେ ଲୋକ ମନାକଲେ । ତୁ ନୁଆ କରି ଦାଦନ ଯାଉଛୁ, ଏ ଠିକାଦାର ଗୁଡ଼ା ଭଲ ଲୋକ ନୁହଁ । ତୋ ରକତ ଶୋଷି ନେବେ । ଏ କଥା ଶୁଣି କାଳିଆର ମା ମନାକଲା । ବହୁତ କରି କହିଲା, ଆମର ଶାଗ ଭାତ ଭଲ, ତୁ କାହିଁକି ବିଦେଶ ଯିବୁ ? ବୁଝେଇଲା ନଯିବାକୁ । କାଳିଆ କିନ୍ତୁ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଯୋଗୁ ଜିଦ୍ ଧରିଲା ଦାଦନ ଯିବ ବୋଲି । କହିଲା ବୋଉ ତୁ କାହିଁକି ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ହେଉଛୁ ? କାମ କରିବାକୁ ଏ ଦେହରେ ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ବଳ ଅଛି । ଆମ ଗାଁ ଲୋକ ତ ସମସ୍ତେ ଯାଉଛନ୍ତି । ମୁଁ କ'ଣ ଏକା





ଯାଉଛି ଯେ ଡରିବି ? କାଳିଆ ଦାଦନ ଖଟିବାକୁ ବିଦେଶ ଯାଉଛି ଶୁଣି ଜାଲନ ବ୍ୟତିବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ହୋଇ ପଡ଼ିଲା । ଯାହାକୁ ସେ କେବେ ମୁହଁ ଖୋଲି କଥା ପଦେ କହିନଥିଲା ଆଜି କିନ୍ତୁ କାଳିଆ ଗାଁ ଛାଡ଼ିଲା ବେଳେ ସମ୍ଭାଳି ନପାରି କହିଦେଲା ନାହିଁ କାଳିଆ ଭାଇ ତୁ ଯା'ନା । ତତେ ଦିନେ ଗାଁରେ ନଦେଖିଲେ ମୁଁ ରହିପାରିବିନି । କାଳିଆ ଜାଲନ ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ହାତ ବୁଲେଇ ହସି ଦେଇ ଚାଲିଗଲା । ଦୁଇମାସ ପରେ କାଳିଆର ଚିଠି ଆସିଲା । କାଳିଆ ଲେଖୁଥିଲା ବାଙ୍ଗାଲୋର ଉପକଣ୍ଠରେ ତାର ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଜୀବନର କରୁଣ କାହାଣୀ । ସେ ଲେଖାରୁ ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟଭାବେ ବାରିହୋଇ ପଢୁଥିଲା କେତେ କଷ୍ଟ ସାଧ ସେ ଜୀବନ । ଠିକାଦାର ତାକୁ ସକାଳ ୭ଟାରୁ ରାତି ୮ଟା ଯାଏଁ ଜୋର ଜବରଦସ୍ତ କାମରେ ଲଗାଇ ଦିଏ । ସେ କୁଆଡ଼େ ବଳୁଆ ବୋଲି ତାକୁ ଇଟା ବୁହା, ବେଲତା ମରା କାମରେ ଲଗେଇ ଦଉଛି । ଗଲାବେଳେ କହିଥିଲା ସପ୍ତାହକୁ ୨ଥର ମାଛ, ୩ଥର ଅଣ୍ଡା ଓ ରବିବାରେ ଚିକେନ ତରକାରୀ ଦବ ବୋଲି । ସେ ସବୁର ତ ନା ନାହିଁ ଭଲ କରି ଭାତ ମୁଠେ ମିଳୁନାହିଁ । ୧୧୦ ଜଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ରୋଷେଇରେ ଦେଉଳିଲୋ ଭାଲିରେ ଆଳୁ ୨ କେଜି ଅମୃତଭଣ୍ଡା ୨ କେଜି ଆଳୁ ପକେଇ ଦେଇ ଯେଉଁ ଭାଲମା ହୁଏ ସେଥିରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଖାଇ ବଞ୍ଚିଛନ୍ତି । ଅତି ଖଟଣୀ ଯୋଗୁ କାଳିଆର ଦେହଟା ଦି ମାସରେ ଅଧା ଶୁଖି ଗଲାଣି । ୧୨/୧୪ ଘଣ୍ଟା କାମ ନକଲେ କାଠ ଫାଳିଆରେ ମାତ ଦିଅନ୍ତି ଠିକାଦାର ପୋଷା ଗୁଣ୍ଡାମାନେ ।

ଝାଡ଼ା ପରିସ୍ରା ଗଲେ ଜଗି ରହନ୍ତି କାଳେ କିଏ ଖସି ପଲେଇବ । ଏତେ ଦେହ କଷ୍ଟ କାଳିଆ କେବେ ଭୋଗି ନଥିଲା । ଏହାର ପ୍ରକୋପରେ ତାକୁ ଜ୍ୱର ହୋଇଗଲା । ପାଖରେ କେହି ନାହିଁ । ଏକୁଟିଆ ଚାଦର ଘୋଡ଼ିହୋଇ ତିନିଦିନ କଷ୍ଟ ପାଇଲା । ଶେଷରେ ତାଙ୍କ ଗାଁର ମଦନ ଔଷଧ ଆଣି ଦେବାରୁ ଜ୍ୱର ଛାଡ଼ିଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ ଏ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦୟ ଠିକାଦାରଟା ତା ଆରଦିନ ତାକୁ ଚାଣି ଚାଣି ନେଇ କାମରେ ଲଗେଇଦେଲା । ତାକୁ କାଳିଆ ଯେତେ ନେହୁରା ହୋଇ କହିଲା ମତେ ଆଜି ବହୁତ ଦୁର୍ବଳ ଲାଗୁଛି ପେଟରେ ତିନିଦିନ ହେଲା ଆହାର ପଡ଼ିନି ଦିନେ ଦି ଦିନ ପରେ କାମ କରିବି । ଏତକ ଶୁଣିବାକୁତ ଠିକାଦାରର ଧୈର୍ଯ୍ୟ ନଥିଲା । କାଳିଆ ଲେଖୁଥିଲା ଯୋଉ ମାତଲୋ ବୋଉ, ତୁ ଓ ବାପା ଦିନେ ବୋଲି ମୋ ଦେହରେ ହାତ ଦେଇନଥିଲ । କେତେ କଷ୍ଟରେ ଖୁଆଇ ପିଆଇ ଏତେ ସରି କରିଥିଲ । ମୁଁ ଏଠି ବଡ଼ କଷ୍ଟ ପାଇ ଖାଲି କାନ୍ଦୁଛି ମତେ ତୋ କଥା, ଚୁନି ମିନି କଥା ଖାଲି ମନେ ପଡୁଛି ।

କିନ୍ତୁ ଠିକାଦାର ନଛୋଡ଼ବନ୍ଧା । ଶହେ ଦୁଇଶହ ନୁହେଁ, ପନ୍ଦର ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ଦେଇଛି ମାନେ 'ହାତ ଚମଡ଼ା ତୋ ବାପା ମା'ର, ମାଉଁସ ତକ ମୋର' । ଖଟି ଖଟି ମାଉଁସ ତକ ମତେ ଦେଇଦବୁ । ଗଲାବେଳେ ହାତ ଚମଡ଼ାକୁ ନେଇ ଘରକୁ ଫେରିବୁ । ଏ କଥା ଗୁଡ଼ାକ ଶୁଣି ଭାରି ଡରିଯାଇ କାଳିଆ ମା'କୁ ଚିଠି ଲେଖୁଥିଲା, କ'ଣ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିବୁ ମୋତେ ଏଇଠୁ ମୁକୁଳେଇ ନବୁ । କାଳିଆ ମା' ଚିଠି ପାଇ ବଡ଼ ବ୍ୟତିବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ହୋଇ ଯା ତା ଦୁଆରକୁ ଦୌଡ଼ିଲା । ସରପଞ୍ଚଠୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି କେତେ ଅର୍ପିସ ଯାଇ ଯେତେ ନେହୁରା ହେଲା କିନ୍ତୁ କିଛି ଫଳ ହେଲାନି । ଦିନ ଯେତେ ଗଡୁଥାଏ ପୁଅର ଦେହକଷ୍ଟ ବିଷୟରେ ଭାବି ଭାବି ଚିନ୍ତାଗ୍ରସ୍ତ ହୋଇପଡ଼ିଲା କାଳିଆ ମା । ଛଅମାସ ପାଇଁ ଜବାବ କରି ସାତମାସ ଯାକେ ଖଟେଇଲାଣି ଠିକାଦାର । କାଳିଆର ଖବର ଅନ୍ତର ଠିକ୍ ପାଇପାରୁନି । ଗାଁର ଅନ୍ୟ ସବୁ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ବି ସମସ୍ତେ ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ।

ହଠାତ୍ ଗତକାଳି ଖବର ଆସିଲା, କାଳିଆ କାମ କଲାବେଳେ ଛାତ ଉପରୁ ଖସି ପଡ଼ି ମରିଗଲା । ଠିକାଦାର କୁଆଡ଼େ ଲୁଚି ପକାଇଲା । ସବୁ ଗାଁ ଲୋକ କମ୍ପାନୀକୁ କହି କିଛି ବାଟ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଧରି ଟ୍ରେନ କାଳିଆର ଶବଧରି ଫେରୁଛନ୍ତି । ସାରା ଗାଁ କାଳିଠୁ ନିସ୍ତନ୍ଧ । କାହା ଘରେ ଚୁଲି ଜଳିନି ! ଯାଜନ ଖବର ପାଇ ମନ ଫଟେଇ କାନ୍ଦୁଛି । କିଛି ସମୟ ପରେ କାଳିଆ ଶବ ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଲା । ସମସ୍ତେ ଦେଖି ଆଶ୍ଚର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଏଇଟା କ'ଣ କାଳିଆର ଶବ । ଏତେ ସୁନ୍ଦର ସୁଠାମ ବଳିଷ୍ଠ ଦେହଟା ପାଲଟି ଯାଇଥିଲା କଂକାଳ ସାର ମଣିଷଟିଏ । ଛାତ ଉପରୁ ତଳେ ପଡ଼ିଯାଇ ବେକ ଭାଙ୍ଗିଯାଇ ମରିଗଲା କାଳିଆ । ଆହା ଆହା ତୁ ତୁରେ ଗାଁଦାଣ୍ଡ ପାଟି ପଡ଼ିଲା । ସତରେ ଠିକାଦାର ଯାହା କହୁଥିଲା 'ହାତ ଚମଡ଼ା ତୋ ବାପା ମା'ର, ମାଉଁସ ତକ ମୋର' ସବୁ ରକ୍ତ ମାଂସ ଶୋଷି ନେଇ କଂକାଳସାର କରି ଛାଡ଼ିଦେଇଥିଲା ଠିକାଦାର । ସେତକ ନେଇ ବି ସେ ଫେରିପାରିଲାନି ।

ଏ ପରିବେଶରେ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ଉଠୁଥିଲା କେବେ ଏ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦୟ ଠିକାଦାର ମାନଙ୍କଠୁ ଏ ଗରିବ ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କୁ ନିସ୍ତାର ମିଳିବ ?  
ସହକାରୀ ଶ୍ରମ କମିଶନର, ସମ୍ବଲପୁର





# ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କ ସମସ୍ୟାର ସମାଧାନ ପାଇଁ ସଚେତନତା ଏକ ବଳିଷ୍ଠ ମାଧ୍ୟମ

## • ଅଜୟ କୁମାର ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ

ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ବହୁ ସଂଖ୍ୟକ ଶ୍ରମିକ ନିଜେ ନିଜେ କିମ୍ବା କୌଣସି ମଧ୍ୟସ୍ଥି ବା ଠିକାଦାର ଜରିଆରେ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବାକୁ ଯାଇଥାନ୍ତି । କେତେକ ଘରୋଇ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ ବାଧ୍ୟ ବାଧକତା ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟ କେତେକ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଚାହିଦା, ଆଉ କେତେକ ଅଧିକ ରୋଜଗାର ପାଇଁ ଯାଇଥାଆନ୍ତି । ଉପକୂଳ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ଏକାକୀ ଏବଂ ପଶ୍ଚିମାଞ୍ଚଳର ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ସପରିବାର ପ୍ରବାସୀ ହେବାକୁ ପସନ୍ଦ କରିଥାନ୍ତି । ପଶ୍ଚିମାଞ୍ଚଳ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ନଭେମ୍ବର ବା ନ୍ୟୁଆଖାଇଠାରୁ ଜୁନ୍ ମାସ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ପ୍ରବାସ କରି ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସାମୟିକ ରତ୍ନଭିତ୍ତିକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ନିଯୋଜିତ ହୋଇଥିଲାବେଳେ ଉପକୂଳ ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସଂଗଠିତ ଶିଳ୍ପ ବା କାରଖାନା, ହୋଟେଲ ଆଦିରେ କାମ କରିଥାନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଯିବା ଆସିବା ବର୍ଷସାରା ଲାଗିଥାଏ । ହୁଏତ ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କ ଭିତରୁ କିମ୍ବା ଆପଣଙ୍କ ଜାତିକୁରୁମ୍ଭ ବା ପଡ଼ୋଶୀମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରୁ କେହି କେହି ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକରିବାକୁ ଯାଇଥିବେ, ବା ଯାଉଥିବେ । ଗୋଟିଏ ରାଜ୍ୟରୁ ଅନ୍ୟ ଗୋଟିଏ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ କାମ କରିବାକୁ ଯିବାପାଇଁ ଭାରତର ସମ୍ବିଧାନ ସମସ୍ତ ନାଗରିକଙ୍କୁ ସାମ୍ବିଧାନିକ ଅଧିକାର ଦେଇଛି । ଏପରି ଯିବାର କୌଣସି ବାରଣ ବା ଆଇନଗତ ପ୍ରତିବନ୍ଧକ ନାହିଁ । ମାତ୍ର ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଯାଇ ହଇରାଣ ହରକତ ବା ନିର୍ଯ୍ୟାତ୍ତିତ ହେଲେ ସେଇଠି ସମସ୍ୟା ଉପୁଜିଥାଏ । ସାଧାରଣତଃ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ଠିକାଦାର, ଏଜେଣ୍ଟ ବା ସର୍ଦ୍ଦାରମାନଙ୍କ ଜରିଆରେ ବାହାରକୁ ଗଲେ ହଇରାଣ ହରକତ ହୋଇଥାଆନ୍ତି । ଆପଣମାନେ ଖବରକାଗଜ ପୃଷ୍ଠା ଓଲଟାଇଲେ ଦେଖିବେ କୋରାପୁଟର ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ସୁଦୂର ମୁମ୍ବାଇ ସହରରେ ନିର୍ଯ୍ୟାତ୍ତିତ, ଭଞ୍ଜନଗରର ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଜମ୍ମୁ କାଶ୍ମୀରର ଠିକାଦାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ଵାରା ଶୋଷିତ ଏବଂ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଉଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ ପିତାମାତାଙ୍କର ସରକାରଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ନିବେଦନ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ।

ଏଠାରେ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ଉଠେ ଆମେ ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ କାହାକୁ କହିବା । ସାଧାରଣତଃ ଠିକାଦାର, ଏଜେଣ୍ଟ, ସର୍ଦ୍ଦାରମାନଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଅଗ୍ରୀମ ଟଙ୍କା ନେଇ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଚାଲାଣ ହୋଇଥିବା ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ବୋଲି କୁହାଯାଇଥାଏ । କାରଣ ଦାଦନ ଶବ୍ଦର ଅର୍ଥ ହେଉଛି ଅଗ୍ରୀମ । ଅଗ୍ରୀମ ଅର୍ଥ ହେଲା ବଜନା । ଏହାକୁ ସ୍ଥଳବିଶେଷରେ ଜାଜନ ବା ଦାଦନ କୁହାଯାଇଥାଏ । ଏହି ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଆନ୍ଧ୍ରରାଜ୍ୟ ପ୍ରବାସିକ ଶ୍ରମିକ ନିୟୁକ୍ତି ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ଓ ସେବା ସର୍ଦ୍ଦାରମାନ ୧୯୭୯ ପ୍ରଣୟନ କରାଯାଇଛି । ସାଧାରଣତଃ ଏହି ଆଇନ ୫ ବା ତଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଧ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଠିକାଦାର, ଏଜେଣ୍ଟ ବା ସର୍ଦ୍ଦାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ଵାରା ନିୟୁକ୍ତ ହୋଇ ଗୋଟିଏ ରାଜ୍ୟରୁ ଯାଇ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଥିବା ସଂପୃକ୍ତ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଓ ଠିକାଦାର, ଏଜେଣ୍ଟ ବା ସର୍ଦ୍ଦାରଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି ଲାଗୁ ହୋଇଥାଏ । ନିଜେ ନିଜେ ବା ଠିକାଦାରଙ୍କ ବିନା ସହାୟତାରେ ପ୍ରବାସ ହେଉଥିବା ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏହି ଆଇନ ଲାଗୁ ହୁଏ ନାହିଁ । ଏହି ଆଇନ ଥିବା ନିଜର ଅଧିକାର ଏବଂ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ବିଷୟରେ ଆମେ ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଭାଇ ଓ ଭଉଣୀମାନେ ଜାଣିରଖିବା ଦରକାର ଯେ :

୧. ଶ୍ରମିକ ସଂଗ୍ରହ ନିମନ୍ତେ ସଂପୃକ୍ତ ଠିକାଦାର ଜଣକ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଶ୍ରମ ଅଫିସରୁ ଲାଇସେନ୍ସ ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ହୋଇଥିବେ ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟର ମୂଳ ନିୟୁକ୍ତିଦାତାଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଅନୁମତିପତ୍ର ଆଣିଥିବେ ।
୨. ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଚାଲାଣ କରିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଠିକାଦାର ପ୍ରତି ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କୁ ଗୋଟିଏ ଫର୍ମୋ ସହ ଚିହ୍ନଟ କାର୍ଡ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବେ । ସେଥିରେ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଜଣକ କେଉଁ ସ୍ଥାନରୁ କେଉଁ ସ୍ଥାନକୁ ଯାଉଛନ୍ତି ତାହା ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ ଭାବେ ଲେଖାହେବା ଦରକାର ।
୩. ଶ୍ରମିକ ଜଣକ ଗାଁ ଛାଡ଼ିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଠିକାଦାର ତାଙ୍କୁ ବାସଚ୍ୟୁତ ଭତ୍ତା ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବେ । ଯାହାକି ପନ୍ଦର ଦିନର ମଜୁରୀ ସହ ସମାନ ହେବା ଦରକାର ।
୪. ସଂଗୃହୀତ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କର ଯିବା ଆସିବା ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଓ ରାସ୍ତାର ଖାଦ୍ୟପେୟ ସଂପୃକ୍ତ ଠିକାଦାର ବହନ କରିବେ ଏବଂ ଏ ବାବଦରେ ଅର୍ଥ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କର ମଜୁରୀରୁ କଟାଯାଇ ପାରିବ ନାହିଁ ।



- ୫. ସଂଗୃହୀତ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟର ବିବରଣୀ ସହ ଏକ ତାଲିକା ଠିକାଦାର ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଶ୍ରମ ଅଫିସକୁ ପଠାଇବା ଦରକାର ।
- ୬. ଗାଁ ଛାଡ଼ିବା ପରଠାରୁ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ଠିକାଦାରଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ଯୋଗଦେଲା ବୋଲି ଧରି ନିଆଯିବ ଓ ରାସ୍ତାର ଯିବା ଆସିବା ସମୟର ମଜୁରୀ ମଧ୍ୟ ପାଇବେ ।
- ୭. କାର୍ଯ୍ୟସ୍ଥଳରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିବା ପରେ ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କ ସମସ୍ତ ସୁରକ୍ଷା, ମଜୁରୀ, ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଠିକାଦାର ବହନ କରିବେ ।
- ୮. ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ମୃତ ବା ଆହତ ହେଲେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟସ୍ଥଳର ନିୟୁକ୍ତିଦାତା ବା ମାଲିକମାନେ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କର ପରିବାରକୁ କ୍ଷତିପୂରଣ ଦେବେ ।
- ୯. ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ଯେଉଁ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ କାମ କରିବେ ସେହି ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଘୋଷିତ ସର୍ବନିମ୍ନ ମଜୁରୀଠାରୁ କମ୍ ମଜୁରୀ ପାଇବେ ନାହିଁ ।
- ୧୦. ଠିକାଦାରମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକରିବା ପାଇଁ ଯିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ସଂପୃକ୍ତ ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଜଣକ କେଉଁ ସ୍ଥାନକୁ କେଉଁ ଠିକାଦାର ଜରିଆରେ ଏବଂ କେତେଦିନ ପାଇଁ କାମ କରିବାକୁ ଯାଉଛନ୍ତି ଓ ସେଠାରେ ତାକୁ କେତେ ମଜୁରୀ ମିଳିବ ତାହା ଜାଣିବା ଉଚିତ୍ ।
- ୧୧. ଗାଁ ଛାଡ଼ିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଚିହ୍ନଟ କାର୍ଡ ଓ ଅଗ୍ରାମ ଭତ୍ତା ଠିକାଦାରଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ନିଜ ଗ୍ରାମରେ ଥିବା ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ, ଥାନା ଏବଂ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ଶ୍ରମ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଜଣାଇକି ଯାଆନ୍ତୁ । ସଂପୃକ୍ତ ଠିକାଦାରଙ୍କର ଶ୍ରମିକ ସଂଗ୍ରହ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଲାଭସେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଅଛି କି ନାହିଁ ତାହା ପରଖି ନିଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ୧୨. କାର୍ଯ୍ୟସ୍ଥଳରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିବାକ୍ଷଣି ସଂପୃକ୍ତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟସ୍ଥଳୀର ବିବରଣୀ ନିଜ ଗ୍ରାମରେ ଥିବା ପରିବାରକୁ ଜଣାନ୍ତୁ ।
- ୧୩. ବ୍ୟାଧି କି ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ଘଟିଲେ ସେମାନେ ମାଲିକଙ୍କ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚରେ ଚିକିତ୍ସିତ ହେବେ ।
- ୧୪. କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ସେମାନେ ଶୁଖିଲିତ ହୋଇ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବେ ଏବଂ ଅସୁବିଧା ଉପୁଜିଲେ ସେଠାକୁ ପରିଦର୍ଶନରେ ଆସୁଥିବା ସଂପୃକ୍ତ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଶ୍ରମ ଅଫିସରଙ୍କୁ ସାକ୍ଷାତ କରି ବା ପତ୍ରଦ୍ୱାରା ସମସ୍ତ ବିଷୟ ଜଣାଇବେ ।
- ୧୫. କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବା ସମୟରେ ଚାକିରି ସର୍ତ୍ତ ସମ୍ପନ୍ନାୟ ବିବାଦ ଉପୁଜିଲେ କାମ କରୁଥିବା ରାଜ୍ୟର ଶ୍ରମ ଅଫିସରଙ୍କୁ ଦରଖାସ୍ତ କରିବେ ।
- ୧୬. କାର୍ଯ୍ୟସାରି ଫେରିବା ପରେ ଠିକାଦାରଙ୍କଠାରୁ ବାକିଆ ପାଉଣା ପାଇବାକୁ ଥିଲେ ନିଜ ଘର ପାଖରେ ଥିବା ଶ୍ରମ ଅଫିସରେ ଦରଖାସ୍ତ କରିବେ ।

ପ୍ରବାସିକ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଆଇନର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଧାରା ଖିଲାପ ଅଭିଯୋଗରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ନିୟୁକ୍ତ ପରିଦର୍ଶକମାନେ ସଂପୃକ୍ତ ଠିକାଦାର ବା ନିଯୋଜ୍ଞଙ୍କ ବିରୁଦ୍ଧରେ ମୋକଦ୍ଦମା ଦାଏର କରିପାରିବେ । ନ୍ୟାୟାଳୟଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ଏହି ମୋକଦ୍ଦମା ଫଏସଲା କରି ଦୋଷୀଙ୍କୁ ସର୍ବୋଚ୍ଚ ଦୁଇହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ଜରିମାନା କିମ୍ବା ଦୁଇବର୍ଷ ଜେଲ ବା ଉଭୟ ଦଣ୍ଡରେ ଦଣ୍ଡିତ ହେବା ନିମନ୍ତେ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିପାରିବେ ।

ଆମର ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ, ଶ୍ରମିକ ସଂଗଠନ, ସରକାରୀ ଅଫିସରମାନଙ୍କର ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅନେକ କିଛି କରିବାର ଅଛି । ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନମାନେ ଶ୍ରମିକ ସଂଗଠନ, ସରକାରୀ ଅଫିସରମାନଙ୍କର ଅଧିକାର ଓ କର୍ତ୍ତବ୍ୟ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ବ୍ୟାପକ ଜନସଚେତନତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବା ଦରକାର । ଗାଁ ଗହଳିରେ ଚାଲିଥିବା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଦାରିଦ୍ର୍ୟ ଦୂରୀକରଣ ଯୋଜନା ଯଥା-ଆଦୁନିୟୁକ୍ତ ଯୋଜନାରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଭୁକ୍ତ କରାଇଲେ ବ୍ୟାପକ ସଂଖ୍ୟାରେ ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ନିଜ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକରି ପାରିବେ ଓ ବାହାର ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ କାମପାଇଁ ଯିବାକୁ ମନ ବଳାଇବେ ନାହିଁ ।

ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କର ଅନେକ ସମସ୍ୟା ରହିଛି । ଗୋଟିଏ ରାଜ୍ୟରୁ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ କାମ କରିବାକୁ ଗଲେ ସମସ୍ୟା ତ ଉପୁଜିବ । ତାହାର ସମଧାନ କରିବା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ନିଜେ ସଚେତନ ହେଲେ ଏହି ସମସ୍ୟା ଅଧିକାଂଶରେ ସମାଧାନ ହୋଇପାରିବ ।

ସହକାରୀ ଶ୍ରମ କମିଶନର, ଜଗତସିଂହପୁର





# ବଞ୍ଚିବାର ମୋହ

• ସୌରାବନ୍ଧୁ କର

ଚିରୋଳି ଗାର୍ଡନସ ହୋଟେଲ ଶୀତତାପ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରିତ ହଲ୍ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବସି ଭାବୁଥିଲେ ତକ୍କର ହେଲେନ୍ ସେକର । ଦୀର୍ଘ ବର୍ଷ ଧରି ଦେଶରୁ ଶିଶୁ ଶ୍ରମିକ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥାକୁ ଲୋପ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ତାଙ୍କର ଅଦମ୍ୟ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କେତେଦୂର ଫଳବତୀ ହେଲା, ହୁଏତ ତାହା ସେ ଜାଣନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଆଲୁ ଖୋଲୁ ଖୋଲୁ ମହାଦେବ ବାହାରିବା ପାଇଁ ସେ ପୁନରାୟ ପହଞ୍ଚିଛନ୍ତି ପ୍ରବାସୀ, ବନ୍ଧୁଆ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ । ତକ୍କର ହେଲେନ୍ ନିଜ ଜୀବନର ଘଟଣାଚକ୍ରମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ କରୁଥିଲେ ।

କେତେକେତେ ଘଟଣା ଘଟିଯାଇଛି ଏହି ସମୟ ମଧ୍ୟରେ । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ବୟସର ଅପରାହ୍ଣରେ ସେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଛନ୍ତି । କିନ୍ତୁ ତାଙ୍କ ଅନୁସନ୍ଧାନର ମୂଳସ୍ରୋତରେ ସେ ପହଞ୍ଚି ନାହାନ୍ତି ଏଯାବତ୍ । ଶ୍ରମିକର ଦୁର୍ଦ୍ଦଶାରେ ପିଲାଦିନରୁ ସେ ଅସ୍ତବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି ଯେପରି ତାଙ୍କ ଭିତରେ ଅନେକ ଦୁଃଖ ଓ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣାର ଜମାଟବନ୍ଧା ପାହାଡ଼ ।

ପିଲାଦିନର ଘଟଣା ଭାସିଉଠେ, ତାଙ୍କ ଆଖି ଆଗରେ ।

ତାମିଲନାଡୁର ଏକ ଛୋଟ ସହର ଭିଲୁପୁରମ୍ । ସେଇଠି ଏକ ନିମ୍ନ-ମଧ୍ୟବିଭା ପରିବାରରେ ଚାରି ଭଉଣୀ ଓ ତିନିଭାଇ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସେ ଥିଲେ ତୃତୀୟ ସନ୍ତାନ । ବାପା ଛୋଟ ବ୍ୟବସାୟରେ କୁରୁମ୍ପ ପୋଷୁଥିଲେ । ତାଙ୍କୁ ଯେତେବେଳେ ୨ ବର୍ଷ, ବାପାଙ୍କର ବ୍ୟବସାୟରେ ପଢ଼ିଲା ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣଚ୍ଛେଦ । କ’ଣ କରିବେ କିଛି ଚିନ୍ତା କରିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ତାଙ୍କର ଲେଖାଯୋଖା ଜଣେ ମାମୁଁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ ଦେଲେ, ବିଦେଶ ଯାଇ ଅର୍ଥ ଉପାର୍ଜନ କରିବାକୁ ।

“ବୁଝିଲ ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ! ଏଠି ରହି କେତେଟଙ୍କା ରୋଜଗାର କରିବ ? ଅନେକ ଲୋକ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟରୁ ଆରବ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର ଯାଇ ରୋଜଗାର କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ହେଇ, ଉଡ଼ାଜାହାଜରେ ଯାତ୍ରା ରାସ୍ତା । ବର୍ଷକୁ ଥରେ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଫେରିବ । ବିଦେଶ ମୁଦ୍ରା ରୋଜଗାର । ଅଳ୍ପ ସମୟ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବେଶ୍ କିଛି କମେଇବ” ।

“ହଁ, ତୁମକୁ କିଛି କରିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବନି । ଏଜେଣ୍ଟ ସବୁକଥା କରିଦେବ । ଯଦି ହଁ ଭରିବ, ତେବେ ମୁଁ ତାକୁ ସାଙ୍ଗରେ ନେଇ ଆସିବି” । ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ବୁଝିପାରିଲେନି କିଛି । ଦିନେ ଦୁଇଦିନ ପରେ କହିବେ ବୋଲି କହି ସାନମୁଗମ୍‌କୁ ବିଦାୟ ଦେଲେ ।

ରାତିରେ ଜାନକୀ ଆମ୍ମାକୁ କହିଲେ, ‘ଏଠି ତ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ହେଉନାହିଁ । ଛୁଆଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଚିନ୍ତା ମୋ’ ମନରେ ସଦାବେଳେ ଘାରି ହେଉଛି । ଏତେଗୁଡ଼ିଏ ଛୁଆ ଜନ୍ମ ନକରିଥିଲେ ଭଲ ହୋଇଥାଆନ୍ତା” ।

“ମୁଁ କ’ଣ କହୁଥିଲିକି ବହୁ ଲୋକ ଆମ ଏଠୁ ବିଦେଶ ଯାଉଛନ୍ତି । ବେଶୀ ରୋଜଗାର କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ହେଇ, ଆମ ସାନମୁଗମ୍‌ଙ୍କୁ ଦେଖୁନା । ଅଳ୍ପ ଦିନ ମଧ୍ୟରେ କୋଠା, ଟଙ୍କା ପଇସା ଭରପୁର ।”

ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ଜାନକୀ ଆମ୍ମାଙ୍କର ଦୂର ସମ୍ପର୍କୀୟ ଭାଇ । ଗତକାଲି ସେ ଆସିଥିଲା । ବୋଧହୁଏ ଯାଙ୍କୁ କିଛି କହିଛି । ମନେ ମନେ ଚିନ୍ତା କରୁଥିଲେ ଜାନକୀ ଆମ୍ମା ।

“ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ତୁମକୁ କ’ଣ କହିଲା କି ?” ପଚାରିଲା ଜାନକୀ ଆମ୍ମା ।

“କ’ଣ କହିବ ? ଏଇ ବିଦେଶ ଯିବା କଥା । ଭଲ ରୋଜଗାର ହେବ, ବର୍ଷକରେ ଥରେ ଗାଁକୁ ଆସିବ ।”

“ମୁଁ ତାକୁ କିଛି କହିନି । ବରଂ ଦୁଇଦିନ ପରେ ଭାବିଚିନ୍ତି କହିବି ବୋଲି କହିଛି ।”

ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ବିପଦର ଆଶଙ୍କାରେ ଚିହ୍ନି ଉଠିଲା ଜାନକୀ ଆମ୍ମା ।

ତାମିଲନାଡୁର ଭିଲୁପୁରମ୍ କେଉଁଠି । ପୁଣି ଆରବ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର କେଉଁ ଜାଗାରେ ।

“ନା ଗୋ ନା ! ବରଂ ଆମେ ଏଇଠି ଦୁଃଖକଷ୍ଟରେ ଚଳିଯିବା କିନ୍ତୁ ବିଦେଶକୁ ଯିବନି । ମୁଁ ଏକଲା ଏଛୁଆଙ୍କୁ ନେଇ ରହିପାରିବି ନାହିଁ”

“ତୁମେ ଏତେ ଅବୁଝା ହେଲେ କେମିତି ହେବ ? ମୁଁ ତ ଯିବି ଆସିବି । କ’ଣ ସବୁଦିନେ ସେଠି ରହିବି କି ? ଆମର ଅବସ୍ଥା ସୁଧୁରିଯିବ ।”

ଅନେକ ବୁଝାଇବା ପରେ ରାଜି ହେଲା ଜାନକୀ ଆମ୍ମା ।

ମନସ୍ଥିର କଲେ ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ।

ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପକ୍ଷେ ପାଞ୍ଚବର୍ଷ ବିଦେଶରେ ଯାଇ ରୋଜଗାର କଲେ ତାଙ୍କର ଅବସ୍ଥା ସୁଧୁରିଯିବ ।

ଅପେକ୍ଷା କଲେ ସାନମୁଗମ୍ କେଉଁ ଦିନ ଆସିବ ।

ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ଚତୁର ମାଛ ଧରାଳି । ସେ ଜାଣେ ଅସହାୟ ମଣିଷମାନଙ୍କୁ କେମିତି ଖାପଚରେ ପକାଇବାକୁ ହେବ ।

ଦୁଇଦିନ ପରେ ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲା ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍‌ଙ୍କ ଘରେ ।



ଜାନକୀ ଆମ୍ମା କୋଟିନିଧି ପାଇଲା ପରି ସାନମୁଗମ୍‌ର ସକ୍ୱାର କଲେ ।  
 କଥାବାର୍ତ୍ତା ଛିଡ଼ିଲା । ଆସନ୍ତା ମାସ ୧୦ ତାରିଖରେ ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ଯିବ ଆରବ ।  
 ପାସପୋର୍ଟ, ଭିସା କରିବାର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ତା’ର । ଦଶହଜାର ଟଙ୍କାର ଚକଚକିଆ ପାଞ୍ଚଶହ ଟଙ୍କିଆ ନୋଟ୍ ବଢ଼ାଇଦେଲା ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ଜାନକୀ  
 ଆମ୍ମା ହାତକୁ । ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପକ୍ଷେ ତିନିମାସ ଘର ଚଳିବାର ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ । ବୁଢ଼ିଗଲା ଲୋକ କୁଟାଖିଅକୁ ଆଶ୍ରା କରିବା ପରି ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ଆଶ୍ୱସ୍ତ ହେଲେ ।  
 ଅନ୍ତତଃପକ୍ଷେ ପରିବାରରଟି ବଞ୍ଚିଯିବ ।

ପାଖେଇ ଆସୁଥିଲା ଦିନ । ଜାନକୀ ଆମ୍ମାର ମନ ଅଧୟ ହୋଇ ଉଠୁଥିଲା । ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍‌ଙ୍କ ମନରେ ତୁମ୍ଭଲ ଝଡ଼ । ବିଷ୍ଣୁଙ୍କ ସମୁଦ୍ର ଉତ୍ଥାନ  
 ତରଳ ।

କିନ୍ତୁ ଆଉ ବାଟ ନଥିଲା । ଆଗତୁରା ଟଙ୍କା ନେଇ ଦକ୍ଷିଣତ କରି ଦେଇଥିଲେ ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ।  
 ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲା ଦିନ ୧୦ଟାବେଳେ । ଚେନ୍ନାଇରେ ଚେନ୍ନାଇ । ଚେନ୍ନାଇରୁ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ଉଡ଼ାଜାହାଜରେ ଆରବ ।  
 ପୁରୁଣା ବାକ୍‌ରେ ଲୁଗାପଟା ସଜାଡ଼ି ନେଇଥିଲେ ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ସାଥରେ ଭେଲପୁରମ୍ ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନ ଅଭିମୁଖେ । ଦୁଆର ମୁହଁରେ  
 ଛିଡ଼ା ହୋଇଥିଲେ ଝିଅ ପୁଅ ସମସ୍ତେ । ସମସ୍ତେ ନିରବ । ଆଖି ଛଳଛଳ । ସାନପୁଅଟି ବଡ଼ ଝିଅ କୋଡ଼ରେ ଜୋରରେ କାନ୍ଦି ଉଠିଲା ।  
 ଜାନକୀ ଆମ୍ମା ଲୁଗାପଟାତରେ ଆଖିର ଲୁହକୁ ରୋକିବାକୁ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରୁଥିଲେ କାଳେ ତାଙ୍କର ଯାତ୍ରାରେ ଅମଙ୍ଗଳ ହେବ । ରିକ୍ୱାରେ ବସିଲେ  
 ଦୁହେଁ । ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍‌ଙ୍କ ଚାହୁଁଥିଲେ ପଛକୁ - ଛାଡ଼ି ଆସୁଥିଲେ ନିଜ ଘର, ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଓ ସନ୍ତାନମାନଙ୍କୁ । ସମସ୍ତେ ନିରବ । କିନ୍ତୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଆଖିରେ ଲୁହ ।

॥୨॥

ଚେନ୍ନାଇ ଷ୍ଟେସନରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିବା ମାତ୍ରେ ସାନମୁଗମ୍ କହିଲା, ‘ବୁଝିଲ, ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ଭାଇ ! ତୁମେ ଚିକିଏ ଏଇଠି ଅପେକ୍ଷା କର । ମୁଁ ଅଧ୍ୟୟନ  
 ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଆସିବି । ଏୟାରପୋର୍ଟ ଯିବା ।’

ଦୀର୍ଘ ଦୁଇଘଣ୍ଟା ପରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲା ସାନମୁଗମ୍ । ସାଙ୍ଗରେ ଆଉ ତିନିଜଣ ।  
 “ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ଭାଇ ! ଏ ହେଲେ ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲିଖାନ । ଆମର ସର୍ଦ୍ଦାର । ସେ ତୁମକୁ ନେଇ ଆରବ ଯିବେ । ମୋର ଚିକିଏ କାମ ଅଛି । ମୁଁ ପରେ  
 ଯାଇ ତୁମ ସହିତ ମିଶିବି ।”

ଘରେ ନପଶୁଣୁ ଚାଳ ବାଜିଲା ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍‌ଙ୍କ ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ।  
 ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲି ବେଶ୍ ଡେଜା ହୁଷ୍ଟପୁଷ୍ଟ । ମୁହଁରେ ଦାଡ଼ି । ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ଓ ତମିଲ କହୁଥାନ୍ତି । “ଚଲୋ ଭାଇ ! ଥୋଡ଼ା ଖାନା ଖାଏଲେ । ଇସ୍କେ ବାଦ୍  
 ଏୟାରପୋର୍ଟ ।”

ପାଖରେ ଥିବା ହୋଟେଲରେ ଖାଇ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ବସିଲେ ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲି ଖାନ, ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ଓ ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍‌ଙ୍କ ସମେତ ଅନ୍ୟ ତିନିଜଣ ।  
 ଦୂରରୁ ଉଡ଼ାଜାହାଜର ଶବ୍ଦ ଶୁଣାଯାଉଥାଏ ।  
 ପ୍ରଥମଥର ପାଇଁ ସେ ଉଡ଼ାଜାହାଜରେ ବିଦେଶ ଯିବ ।  
 ଏୟାରପୋର୍ଟରେ ଗାଡ଼ି ଅଟକିଲା ।  
 ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ବିଦାୟ ନେଇ ଚାଲିଗଲା ।  
 ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ଓ ଅଜଣା ତିନିଜଣଙ୍କର ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ଦେଇଗଲା ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲି ଖାନକୁ ।  
 ଏହାର ଭିତର ରହସ୍ୟ ବୁଝିପାରୁନଥିଲା ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ।  
 କେବଳ ଭାବୁଥିଲା ସାନମୁଗମ୍ କ’ଣ ଆରବରେ କାମ କରୁନି ! ତେବେ ସେ ତାକୁ ଆରବ ନେବା ପାଇଁ ଏତେ ଜିଗର କରୁଥିଲା କାହିଁକି ?  
 ବିମାନ ବନ୍ଦରର ଚାକଚକ୍ୟ ଦେଖି ମନରେ ଥିବା ଦୁଃଖକୁ ଭୁଲିଗଲା ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ।  
 ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ହାତରେ ଧରାଇଦେଲା ପାସପୋର୍ଟ ଓ ବୋର୍ଡିଂ ପାସ୍ । ବତାଇଦେଲା କେମିତି ସବୁ ଯାଞ୍ଚ ହେବ । ତା’ ପଛେ ପଛେ  
 ଯିବାକୁ ତାରିଦ୍ କରି ଦେଇଥିଲା ।

ସେମାନେ ଲମ୍ବା କ୍ୟୁରେ ଯାଇ ହଲ୍ ଘରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ । ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲି କହିଲା, “ଆମକୁ ଦୁଇଘଣ୍ଟା ଏଇଠି ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରିବାକୁ ହେବ ।  
 ଉଡ଼ାଜାହାଜ ବିଳମ୍ବରେ ଆସିବ ।”

ବିଳମ୍ବରେ ଆସୁ, ସେମିତି ଚିନ୍ତା ନଥିଲା ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍‌ର । ଅନାଗତ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ଚିନ୍ତା ତାକୁ ଘାରି ଯାଇଥିଲା ।  
 “ଯାହା ଘଟିବାର ଥିବ ଘଟିବ, ସେ ବିଷୟରେ ଶୋଚନା କରି କୌଣସି ଲାଭ ନାହିଁ ।” ଏଇ କଥାକୁ ଭାବି ଚାରିଆଡ଼କୁ ଚାହୁଁଥିଲା ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ।  
 ନୂଆ ଲୋକ । ପ୍ରଥମ ଥର ଉଡ଼ାଜାହାଜରେ ଆସୁଛି । ତେଣୁ କୁଆଡ଼େ ନଯାଇ ରୁପଚାପ ବସି ରହିଲା । ଅନ୍ୟ ତିନିଜଣଙ୍କର ମଧ୍ୟ ତତ୍ପ୍ର ଅବସ୍ଥା ।  
 କେହି କାହା ସହିତ କଥା ହେଉନଥିଲେ କିମ୍ବା ବୁଲୁ ନଥିଲେ ।  
 ବୋଧହୁଏ ଘର କଥା ମନେପଡ଼ି ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ବ୍ୟାକୁଳିତ କରୁଥିଲା ।  
 ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲି ଉଠି ଛିଡ଼ା ହେଲା ।



“ଚଲୋ ଭୈୟା ! ଆ ଗୟା ଫୁଲଇଟ୍ ।”

ତା’ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶରେ ସେମାନେ ତା’ ପଛେ ପଛେ ଚାଲିଲେ ।

ସେ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଛାଇପରି ଜଗିଥିଲା । ଆଦୌ ପାଖରୁ ଅନ୍ତର ହେବାକୁ ଦେଉନଥିଲା । ଯେମିତି ଛୋଟ ଶିଶୁ ସନ୍ତାନକୁ ମା’ ଗୋଡ଼େ ଗୋଡ଼େ ଜଗିଥାଏ ।

ସେମାନେ ଫୁେନ୍ ଭିତରେ ବସିଲେ ।

ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲି ବତାଇ ଦେଲା କେମିତି ବସିବାକୁ ହୁଏ, ବେଲଟ ଲଗାଇବାକୁ ପଡ଼େ ।

କ୍ଲବ୍ ଲାଗୁଥିଲା ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ।

ସିଟ୍ରେ ବସି ହୋଲେଇ ପଡ଼ିଲା । ମଝିରେ କେବଳ ଖାଇବାବେଳେ କ’ଣ ଚିକେ ଖାଇ ଦେଉଥିଲା । ଖାଦ୍ୟ ସବୁ ତା’ ପାଟିକୁ ଲାଗୁଥିଲା ଅଲଗା ଅଲଗା ।

॥ ୩ ॥

ଫୁେନ୍ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲା ଆରବରେ । ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ମନ ଭଲ ଲାଗୁନଥାଏ । କେବଳ ଗୋଟିଏ ଭାବନା ।

କାହିଁକି ସେ ଆସିଲା ଏତେ ଦୂର ? କାହିଁକି ସେ ଭରସିଗଲା ସାନମୁଗମ୍ କଥାରେ ।

ସେ ସତରେ କ’ଣ ଆଉ ଫେରିପାରିବ ତା’ର ପ୍ରିୟ ଜନ୍ମ ମାଟିକୁ ? ଦେଖିପାରିବ ତା’ର ପ୍ରାଣପ୍ରିୟ ସନ୍ତାନମାନଙ୍କୁ ? କିଏ ଜଣେ ଅଜଣା ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ କଥା ?

ସେମାନେ ଏୟାରପୋର୍ଟରୁ ବାହାରିବା ପରେ ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲି ସହିତ କରମର୍ଦ୍ଦନ କଲା ବାହାରେ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରିଥିବା ଗାଡ଼ିର ଭାଇଭଉଣ ।

ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ବୁଝିପାରୁନଥିଲା ତାଙ୍କର ଭାଷା । ଆରବୀ ଭାଷା ।

ତା’ ସହିତ ଥିବା ଅନ୍ୟ ତିନିଜଣ ମଧ୍ୟ । ଏପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସେମାନେ ଚିହ୍ନା ପରିଚୟ ହୋଇନାହାନ୍ତି । କିନ୍ତୁ ହେବାକୁ ହେବ । ସେମାନେ ଯେ ପରସ୍ପରର ଦୁଃଖ ସୁଖର ସାଥୀ ।

କାହିଁ କେତେ ଦୂର ଭାରତର ଚେନ୍ନାଇ ସହର ଓ ଆରବ ।

ଗାଜମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅଡ଼ାଇ ଖୁଆଡ଼ରେ ଭର୍ତ୍ତି କରିବା ପରି ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲି ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏକ ନିରୁଜ୍ଜ ଗାଡ଼ିର ପଛ ପାଖରେ ବସାଇ ଦେଲା । ଆଗରେ ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲି ଓ ଭାଇଭଉଣ ।

ଗାଡ଼ିର କାଚ ଖୋଲା ନଥିଲା । ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରାଘାଟ ଦେଖିବା ଓ ଚିହ୍ନିବା ଥିଲା ଏମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ କଷ୍ଟକର ବ୍ୟାପାର । କାରଣ ନିରୁଜ୍ଜ ଗାଡ଼ି ଭିତରୁ ବାହାରକୁ ଦେଖିବା ସମ୍ଭବ ନଥିଲା ।

ତା’ ଭିତରେ ଥିବା ଚାରିଜଣ ପରସ୍ପର ମୁହଁ ଚାହିଁଲେ ।

ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ପ୍ରଥମେ ପାଟି ଖୋଲି ତାମିଲ ଭାଷାରେ ପଚାରିଲା, “ଆପଣମାନେ କ’ଣ ତାମିଲ ? ଚେନ୍ନାଇର ଲୋକ ?” ସେମାନେ ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ମୁହଁକୁ ବଳବଳ କରି ଅନେଇଲେ, ସତେବା ସେମାନେ ଏହାକୁ ବୁଝିପାରୁନଥିଲେ କିମ୍ବା ଏହି ଅଜଣା ଲୋକଟି କାହିଁକି ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କଲା ବୋଲି ଭାବୁଥିଲେ ।

ସନ୍ଦେହ, ପରସ୍ପର ପରସ୍ପରକୁ ସନ୍ଦେହ ।

ଯାହା ସବୁ ଘଟିଗଲାଣି, ମନରେ ସନ୍ଦେହ ହେବା ସ୍ୱାଭାବିକ ।

ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍ କହିଲା, “ମୁଁ ତାମିଲ୍ । ମୋ ନାଁ ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍, ଚେନ୍ନାଇଠାରୁ ୧୫୦ କିମି ଦୂର ଭିଲିପୁରମ୍ ଆସିଛି । ମୋତେ ମୋର ଜଣେ ବନ୍ଧୁ ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ଏଠାକୁ ଆସିବାକୁ କହିଲା ଏବଂ ରୋଜଗାର ଭଲ ହେବ ବୋଲି ପ୍ରବର୍ତ୍ତାଇଲା । ମୋର ଚାରିଝିଅ ଓ ତିନିପୁଅ । ଗରିବ ଲୋକ । ପରିବାର ଚଳାଇବା କଷ୍ଟ ହେବାରୁ ଏଠାକୁ ଆସିଛି । ମୁଁ ନୁଆ ବିଦେଶ ଆସିବାର । ଆମେ ସବୁ ଚିହ୍ନା ପରିଚୟ ହେଲେ ପରସ୍ପରକୁ ଭଲମନ୍ଦରେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିପାରିବା ଓ ଦୁଃଖସୁଖ ହୋଇପାରିବା ।”

ଏତକ କହିସାରି ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ଚାହିଁଲା ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ମୁହଁକୁ । ସମସ୍ତେ ତା’ ଆଖି ସହିତ ଆଖି ମିଳାଇଲେ । ବୋଧହୁଏ ସେମାନେ ସେଇଆ ଚାହୁଁଥିଲେ ।

ଘନ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ପଶିଯାଇଥିବା ଉପବନର ହରିଣୀଟି ଯେପରି ଭୀତତ୍ରସ୍ତ ହୋଇ ଚାହେଁ, ଠିକ୍ ସେମିତି ସେମାନେ ପରସ୍ପରକୁ ଚାହିଁଲେ ।

ଗାଡ଼ି ଚାଲିଥିଲା ଖୁବ୍ ଜୋରରେ । ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲି କେତେବେଳେ କେମିତି ଛୋଟ କାଚଝରକା ଖୋଲି ଏମାନଙ୍କୁ ଚାହିଁ ଦେଉଥିଲା ।

ଅନ୍ୟଜଣେ ମଧ୍ୟବୟସ୍କ ଲୋକଟିର ମୁହଁରେ ଅଯତ୍ନ ବର୍ଦ୍ଧିତ ଦାଢ଼ି । ଆଖିଗୁଡ଼ିକ ପଶିଯାଇଛି କେଉଁ ଭିତରକୁ । ଦେହରେ ହାପ୍ ସାର୍ଟ । ଚେହେରା ପ୍ରକାଶ୍ କଲା ।

ତା’ର ଆଖି ବୁଲିଆସିଲା ସୁରୁମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ଆଡ଼କୁ । ଚାହାଣୀରେ କିନ୍ତୁ କ୍ଳୋଧ ନଥିଲା ବରଂ ଲୁହ ଭଲଭଲ ହୋଇ ତଳେ ପଡ଼ିବାର ଉପକ୍ରମ କରୁଥିଲା । ଯେମିତି ଜଣାପଡୁଥିଲା ତା’ ମନରେ ଜମାଟ ବାନ୍ଧିଯାଇଛି ଦୁଃଖ । ଦୁଃଖକୁ ଲୁଚାଇବାକୁ ଯାଇ ତା’ର ଅଯତ୍ନ ବର୍ଦ୍ଧିତ ଦାଢ଼ି । ତୁମ୍ କଥା



ଶୁଣି ମୁଁ କଥା ନକହି ରହିପାରୁନି । ମୁଁ ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ପିଲେ । ସେଲମଠାରେ ଘର । ମୋର ଭଲ ରୋଜଗାର ଥିଲା । ବାହା ହୋଇଥିଲି । ପୁଅଟିଏ ପାଠ ପଢ଼ୁଥିଲା । ମୋର ଖରାପ ଅଭ୍ୟାସ ମୋତେ ମୋ' ପୁଅ ଓ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଠାରୁ ଅଲଗା କରିଦେଲା ।

ଭୋ ଭୋ କରି କାନ୍ଦିଲା ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ପିଲେ ।

ସେମାନେ ମୋତେ ଛାଡ଼ି ଚାଲିଗଲେ । ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ ମଧ୍ୟ ପାଖରେ ରହିଲେନି । ଜୀବନରେ ନିରାଶାର ଅନ୍ଧାର ଘୋଟି ଆସିଲା । ଆତ୍ମହତ୍ୟା କରିବି ବୋଲି ଭାବିଲି । ଆତ୍ମହତ୍ୟା କରିବାକୁ ବିବେକ ବାଧା ଦେଲା । ଚାଲି ଆସିଲି ଏଇଆଡ଼େ ।

ମୋର ବା ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ କ'ଣ ?

ପୁଣି କାନ୍ଦିବାକୁ ଲାଗିଲା ପିଲେ । ତାକୁ ବୁଝାସୁଝା କଲା ସୁବ୍ରହ୍ମଣ୍ୟ ।

ସୁବ୍ରହ୍ମଣ୍ୟ ମନରୁ ତା' ଘର ଆସ୍ତେ ଆସ୍ତେ ଲିଭି ଯାଉଥିଲା । ସେମାନେ ସମୁଦାୟ ଚାରିଜଣ ଥିଲେ ।

ଅନ୍ୟ ଦୁଇଜଣଙ୍କର କୌଣସି ଶାରୀରିକ ପ୍ରତିକ୍ରିୟା ନଥିଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ ସେମାନେ ମନଧ୍ୟାନ ଦେଇ ଏମାନଙ୍କ କଥା ଶୁଣୁଥିଲେ । ଟିକିଏ ଗେଡ଼ା ହୋଇ ଶ୍ୟାମଳ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣର ଲୋକଟି ହଠାତ୍ କହିଲା, ହଇଏ ଶଲେ, ଚାକିରି କରି ଅଧିକ ଟଙ୍କା ରୋଜଗାର ପାଇଁ ତ ବିଦେଶ ଆସିଛ ! ଏତେ ଭଲେଇ ହୋଇ କ'ଣ କଥା ହେଉଛି ।

ମୋ ନାଁ ରଘୁନାଥନ । ମୋର ଘର ଟୁଟି । ମୁଁ ଶଳା କେଉଁଠି କାମ କରିପାରୁନି । ମୋ ମାଲିକ ଶଳାମାନେ ମୋତେ ବାହାର କରି ଦେଉଛନ୍ତି । ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଆଉ ଗୋଟେ ଶଳା ଟୋକା ସାଙ୍ଗରେ ମସ୍ତି କରୁଛି ।

ମୁଁ ପଳାଇ ଆସିଲି ଏଠିକି ।

ତୁମେ ଶଲେ ଘରୁ ଆସି ଏମିତି ବୋବାଳି କାହିଁକି ହେଉଛି ?

ମୁଁ ତୁମ କଥା ବୁଝିବି । ତୁମର ଗାର୍ଡିୟାନ୍ ଆଜିଠୁ ମୁଁ ହେଲି ।

ସମସ୍ତେ ନିଜ ନିଜ କଥା କହି ସାରିଲେ ।

ତେଜା ହୋଇ ମଧ୍ୟବୟସ୍କ ଲୋକଟି ନିଜ ଆତ୍ମ କିଛି କହିବାକୁ ଚାହୁଁନଥିଲା ବୋଧେ । ରଘୁନାଥନ ତାକୁ କାନ୍ଧରେ ଠେଲିଦେଇ କହିଲା, ତୋ କଥା କହୁନୁ ଶଳା । ସମସ୍ତେ ଶୁଣିବେ । ସମସ୍ତେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ କଥା କହିଲେ - ତୁ ଶୁଣିଲୁ ! ତୁ ଶଳା ତୁମ୍ଭ ରହିଲେ କେମିତି ହେବ ?

ରଘୁନାଥନର ଧକ୍କାଖାଇ ଲୋକଟା ପଡ଼ିଯିବାରୁ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଗଲା । ରଘୁନାଥନ ହିଁ ତାକୁ ଧରି ପକାଇଲା ।

“ମୋ ନାଁ, କ'ଣ ମୋ ନାଁ ? ମନେ ପଡ଼ୁନି । ହଁ ହଁ ମନେ ପଡ଼ିଲା ।”

ମୋ ନାଁ ସାଇମନ ଡି ସୁଜା । ମୋ' ଘର ମଦୁରାଇ । ମୁଁ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିୟାନ । ମୁଁ ମାଷ୍ଟର ଥିଲି, ପାଦ୍ରୀ ହେଲି । ସାନଝିଅଟାର କନଫେସନ୍ ଶୁଣୁଥିଲି । ସେ ତା' ବୟସ୍କେଣ୍ଡ ସହିତ କେମିତି ପ୍ରେମ କରୁଥିଲା ସେ କଥା କହିଲା । ତା' ବୟସ୍କେଣ୍ଡ ତାକୁ ବିଗ୍ରେ କରିଦେଲା । ସେ ଆତ୍ମହତ୍ୟା କରିବା ପାଇଁ କନଫେସନ୍ କୁ ଆସିଛି ।

ମୁଁ ତାକୁ ମନାକଲି ଆତ୍ମହତ୍ୟା କରିବାକୁ ।

ସେ ମୋ କଥା ମାନିଲା । ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚକୁ ସବୁଦିନେ ଆସେ । ମୋ' ସହିତ ମିଶେ । ଧୀରେ ଧୀରେ ଆମ ଭିତରେ ପ୍ରେମ ହେଲା ।

ମୋ ବିଛଣାରେ ଶୋଇଲା ।

ହଠାତ୍ ଦିନେ ପୁଣି ତାକୁ କନଫେସନ୍ ବକ୍ତରେ ଭେଟିଲି । ସେ କହିଲା “ଫାଦର ! ମୁଁ ଗର୍ଭବତୀ । ମୋ ପେଟରେ ଆପଣଙ୍କ ସନ୍ତାନ । ଆପଣ ମୋତେ ବିବାହ କରନ୍ତୁ । ନଚେତ୍ ମୁଁ ଆତ୍ମହତ୍ୟା କରିବି ।”

ସେ ମୋ ପାଇଁ ଆତ୍ମହତ୍ୟା କରିବ । ସେ ପ୍ରଥମେ ଯେତେବେଳେ ଆତ୍ମହତ୍ୟା କରିବାକୁ ଆସିଥିଲା, ମୁଁ ତାକୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରିଥିଲି । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ସେ ମୋ ପାଇଁ ଆତ୍ମହତ୍ୟା କରିବ ।

ମୋତେ ଚାରିଆଡ଼ ଅନ୍ଧାର ଦେଖାଗଲା । ମୁଁ ଡରିଗଲି । ମୁଁ ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଛାଡ଼ି ପଳାଇ ଆସିଲି ।

ମୋର ସାନମୁଗାମ୍ ସହିତ ଭେଟହେଲା । ବାସ୍ ମୁଁ ଏଠାରେ । ପ୍ରଭୁ ମୋତେ ମୁଆଡ଼େ ନେବେ ।

ତୁମ୍ଭ ରହିଲା ସେ ।

ହଠାତ୍ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ଝଟକା ଲାଗିଲା, ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ର ଆବୁଡ଼ା ଖାବୁଡ଼ା ଜଣାପଡ଼ୁଥିଲା ।

ଦୁଇଘଣ୍ଟା ସମୟ ଗଲାଣି ପ୍ରାୟ । କାହା ହାତରେ ଘଣ୍ଟା ନଥିଲା । ଘଣ୍ଟା ଥିଲେ ବି ସେମାନେ ସେଠାକାର ସମୟ କିପରି ଜାଣନ୍ତେ ?

ଦୀର୍ଘ ଚାରିଘଣ୍ଟା ଗାଡ଼ି ଚାଲିବା ପରେ ଗାଡ଼କ ଅଟକିଲା । ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଟା ସାମ୍ବା ସିଗ୍ନାଲ ଓହ୍ଲାଇ ଗାଡ଼ିର ପଛପାଖ ଖୋଲିଲା । ଏମାନଙ୍କୁ ଓହ୍ଲାଇବାକୁ କହିଲା ।

‘ସମସ୍ତେ ମୋ' ପଛେ ପଛେ ଆସ ।’ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ଦେଲା ସେ ।

ଚାରିଜଣ ଯାକ ଆଗପଛ ହୋଇ ଚାଲିଲେ । ପାଖରେ କୌଣସି ଘର ଦେଖାଯାଉନଥିଲା । କେବଳ ଘଞ୍ଚ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ । ତା' ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଦୁର୍ଗପରି ଘର ମଧ୍ୟକୁ ପ୍ରବେଶ କଲେ ପାଞ୍ଚଜଣ ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଟା ସହିତ । ଅନେକ ଲୁହା ଗେଟ୍ । ବନ୍ଧୁକଧାରୀ ସୁକୁରିଟି । ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ଶିକାରୀ କୁକୁରମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରି ସେମାନେ ଯେଉଁଠି ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ, ସେଠାରେ ଲମ୍ବା ଲମ୍ବା ଆଜବେଷ୍ଟ ଘର । ନିହାତି ଅପରିଷ୍କାର ଓ କର୍ଦ୍ଦମାଳ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ।



ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲା ଏ ଚାରିଜଣଙ୍କୁ ଗୋଟେ ଆଜବେଷ୍ଟ୍ ଘରେ ରହିବାକୁ ଦେଖେଇ ଦେଇ କହିଲା, ତୁମେମାନେ ଆଜି ଏଠି ରହିବ । କାଲିଠୁ ତୁମ କାମ କରିବା ସ୍ଥିର ହେବା ପରେ, ତୁମେ ସେଠାକୁ ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତରିତ ହେବ । ହେଇ ପାଖରେ ଗାଧୁଆ ଘର, ପାଇଖାନା । ନିତ୍ୟକର୍ମ ସାର । ତୁମ ଖାଇବା ଏଇଠି ପହଞ୍ଚିବ । ମୁଁ ଠିକ୍ ସମୟରେ ଆସି ତୁମକୁ ଦେଖିବି ।

ଗଡକାଲିଠାରୁ ସେମାନେ ଗାଧୋଇ ନଥିଲେ । ନିଜ ନିଜର ନିତ୍ୟକର୍ମ ସାରିବା ପାଇଁ ତପ୍ତର ହେଲେ । ଘର ଭିତରେ ପାଞ୍ଚଗୋଟି ଖଟିଆ । ପାଖରେ ତିନିଆକିଆ ଟେବୁଲ୍ ।

ବଲ୍ ବ ଆଲୁଅ ମିଞ୍ଜିମିଞ୍ଜି ଜଳୁଥାଏ । ଫ୍ୟାନର ସ୍ବିଚ୍ ହାତଟଣା ବିଞ୍ଚଣାଠାରୁ କମ୍ ।

ପରସ୍ପର ପରସ୍ପର ମୁହଁକୁ ଚାହିଁଲେ ।

ସେମାନେ ସେତେବେଳକୁ ଆପଣାର ହୋଇଯାଇଥିଲେ ।

କ୍ଲଡ ଓ ଅବସନ୍ନ ଶରୀର ।

ସେମାନେ ନିଜର ନିତ୍ୟକର୍ମ ଶେଷ କରି ଗଢ଼ିପଡ଼ିଲେ ଖଟିଆ ଉପରେ ।

ନିଦ୍ରାଦେବୀ କେଳାଗ୍ରତ କରିବାକୁ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରିଥିଲେ ଯେପରି । କିଛି ସମୟ ପରେ କବାଟ ଠକ୍ ଠକ୍ ହେଲା ।

ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ କବାଟ ଖୋଲି ଦେଖିଲା ସାମନାରେ ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲା । ଗୋଟେ ହାତଟଣା ଟୁଲିରେ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଧରି ତ୍ରିପଣ୍ଡ କାଳିଆ ମଣିଷଟିଏ । ତା' ପଛରେ ବିରାଟ ଏକ କୁକୁର ।

ଏତେ ବଡ଼ ତେଜା କୁକୁର ଦେଖି ଚମକି ପଡ଼ିଲା ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ । ହୁକୁମ୍ ଦେବା ଭଙ୍ଗୀରେ ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲା କହିଲା, 'ଖାଇନିଅ, କାଲି ଭୋରୁ କାମକୁ ଯିବ । ଆଜି ଦିନଟି ବିଶ୍ରାମ' ।

ସିଲଭର ଟ୍ରେ' ପରି ଥାଳିରେ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଭାଳିଦେଲା ସେହି କଳା ଲୋକଟି । ଭାତ ପୁଞ୍ଜାଏ, ମୋଟା ରୁଟି ଦିଇଟା ଓ ଡାଲିରେ କଖାରୁ ମିଶା ତରକାରୀ । ମୋଟା ଚାଉଳ ଭାତ ସହିତ ଟିକେ ତରକାରୀ ।

ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲା ପୁଣି ତାରିଦ୍ କରି କହିଲା 'ପାଣି କଳରୁ ପିଇବ । ରାତିରେ ବାହାରିବନି । ଏଇ କୁକୁରକୁ ଦେଖ । ଏମାନେ ରାତିରେ ଡୁପଟି ଦିଅନ୍ତି । ସକାଳ ଟାଟା ବେଳକୁ ରେଡ଼ି ହୋଇଯିବ । ଗାଡ଼ି ଆସି ତୁମକୁ ନେଇଯିବ ।'

କେହି ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କରୁନଥିଲେ ତାକୁ । କେବଳ ପରିସ୍ଥିତିକୁ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ କରୁଥିଲେ । ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ଖାଇବା ଥାଳିନେଇ ଭାବୁଥିଲା, 'କାହିଁ ସମ୍ଭର, ରଖମ, ଚଟଣି ଓ ସରୁ ଅନ୍ନ' । ଯାହା ଭୋଗିବାର ଥିବ, ତାକୁ ଭୋଗିବାକୁ ହେବ ।

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॥ ୪ ॥

ଠିକ୍ ପାଞ୍ଚଟାବେଳେ ଗୋଟେ ଗାଡ଼ି ଆସି ଲାଗିଲା । ନିଦ ବାଉଳାରେ ସମସ୍ତେ ନିତ୍ୟକର୍ମ ସାରି ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଗାଡ଼ି ପୁଣି ଚାଲିଲା ଦ୍ରୁତ ଗତିରେ । ବିରାଟ ଏକ ପାହାଡ଼ । ବିସ୍ତୀର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ । ତା' ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଗୁମ୍ଫା । ସେହି ରାସ୍ତାରେ ଏମାନଙ୍କୁ ନିଆଗଲା । ସେମାନେ ଯେଉଁଠି ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ, ସେଠାରେ ଶହ ଶହ ଲୋକ । କିଏ କେତେ ପ୍ରକାର କାମ କରୁଛି ।

ଏମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅଲଗା ଅଲଗା କରି ଦିଆଗଲା । ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ଙ୍କୁ କୁସରରେ ଛୋଟ ଛୋଟ ଗେଟିମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏକାଠି କରି ପାଇପରେ ଭାଳିବା କାମ ଦିଆଗଲା ।

ଅନ୍ୟମାନେ କିଏ କେଉଁଠି କାମ କଲେ ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଲାନି ।

ଚାରିକଡ଼ରେ ଘୋଡ଼ାରେ ବନ୍ଧୁକଧାରୀ ପୁଲିସ । ଯିଏ କାମ ନକରିବ, ତା' ଉପରେ ଲାଠି, ବେତ ଓ ଚାବୁକ୍ ପ୍ରହାର ।

ପ୍ରଥମେ ହାତରେ ମୁଣ୍ଡିଆଟିଏ ମାରି କାମରେ ଲାଗିଲା ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ।

ଝଟାବେଳେ କାମ ଶେଷ ହେଲା ।

ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ବସିଲେ କାମ କରୁଥିବା ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ।

ଚାରିଜଣ ଫେରିଲେ ଗଡ ରାତିରେ ଯେଉଁଠିଥିଲେ ।

ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ରନ୍ ପିଲ୍ଲେ ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ହାତ ଦେଇ ବସିଥିଲା । କ'ଣ କହିବ ସେ ? କପାଳ ଲିଖନ କେ କରିବ ଆନ । ନିଜେ ତ ଅର୍ଜିଛି । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ମନସ୍ଥାପ କଲେ ଲାଭ କ'ଣ ?

'ତୁମେ କହୁନା ଆଜି କି କାମ କଲ ?

କ'ଣ କହିବି । ମୁଁ ହେଉଛି ତାମିଲ ନୈଷ୍ଠିକ ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣ । ମୋତେ ଗୋ' ମା'ସର ଚର୍ବିକୁ କଡ଼େଇରେ ପକେଇ ତେଲ କାଢ଼ିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିଲା ।

କ'ଣ କରିବି ଭାଇ ! ବିଦେଶ ଆସିଲି ଅଧିକା ଟଙ୍କା ପାଇଁ; କିନ୍ତୁ ଜାତି ଗଲା । ଘରକୁ ଗଲେ କାହାକୁ ମୁହଁ ଦେଖାଇବି ।

ଅନ୍ୟ ଦୁଇଜଣ କିଛି ନକହି ରୁପ୍ ଥିଲେ ।





ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ ତା'ର ଚିରାଚରିତ ଭଙ୍ଗରେ କହିଲା 'ଶକେ, ବେହିପେ, ଆମକୁ ଆଣି ଏଇ କାମରେ ଲଗେଇବେ ବୋଲି ସାନମୁଗମ୍ କହିନଥିଲା । ଶଳା ଧୂର୍ତ୍ତ । ମଣିଷ ବେପାରୀ । ମୁଁ ଯଦି ଜାଣିଥାନ୍ତି ତାକୁ ସେଇଠି ଟିକ୍ ଟିକ୍ କରି ହାଣି ଦେଇଥାନ୍ତି । ଫାସି ପାଇଥାନ୍ତି ବରଂ । ଶଳା ମାଇକିନିଆଟା ଟୋକା ସାଙ୍ଗରେ ମସ୍ତି କଲା ବୋଲି ପଲାଇ ଆସିଲି ସିନା ହେଲେ ଏ ଶଳା ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ଆମ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଫସାଇ ଦେଲା । ଏ ଶଳା ସେକ୍ ଅଲୁର ବି ଦେଖା ନାହିଁ ।

ଏମାନେ କ'ଣ ଯେ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ କରୁଛନ୍ତି, ଆମକୁ ଜଣାନ୍ତାହିଁ । ପାହାଡ଼ ଗୁମ୍ଫା ମଧ୍ୟରେ କାମ ଚାଲୁଛି । ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଦେଶରୁ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ଆସି କାମ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଜଗୁଆଳୀବାଲା ବନ୍ଧୁକ ଧରି ଜଗୁଛି । ଖାଇବା ଶଳା ପଶୁ ବି ଖାଇବନି । ଟିକିଏ ଫୁର୍ତ୍ତ କରିବାକୁ କେଉଁଠାକୁ ଯାଇ ହବନି ।

ଏତକ କହି ସାରି ଦୀର୍ଘନିଃଶ୍ୱାସଟାଏ ଛାଡ଼ିଲା ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ ।  
ସାଇମନ୍ ତି ସୁଜା ଗୁଣ୍ଡଗୁଣ୍ଡ କରି କ'ଣ ଗାଉଥିଲା । ପାହା ଥିଲା ତ, କେବଳ ଉପଦେଶ ଦେଇ ଜାଣିଥିଲା । ବିଚରା କାମ କରୁନଥିଲା ।  
ମନକୁ ମନ ବିଲିବିଲେଇ ହୋଇ କହୁଥିଲା, 'ପ୍ରଭୋ! ମୋତେ 'କ୍ଷମା କର । ସେଇ ଝିଅଟାକୁ ଭଲରେ ରହିବାକୁ ଦିଅ' । ଏଇମିତି ନିତିଦିନ ଚାଲୁଥିଲା । ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଆସିବା ପ୍ରାୟ ମାସେ ଥିରିଲାଣି । ଟଙ୍କା ପଇସା ଦେବାର ନାଁ ଗନ୍ଧ ନାହିଁ । ମାଲିକ କିଏ ଜଣାପଡୁନି । କାମ କରିବା ରାସ୍ତା କୁଆଡ଼େ, ସେମାନେ କେଉଁଠି ରହୁଛନ୍ତି ତା'ର ଠିକଣା ଜଣା ନାହିଁ ।

ଘରୁ ଚିଠି ଆସୁନି । ସେମାନେ ବି ଚିଠି ଦେଇପାରୁନାହାନ୍ତି ।  
ନିର୍ଜନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ରୋଦନ । ସେମାନଙ୍କ ରୋଦନ ଶୁଣିବାକୁ ବି କେହି ନାହିଁ ।  
ହଠାତ୍ ଦିନେ ଅଘଟଣ ଘଟିଲା ।  
ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ ଯେଉଁଠି କାମ କରୁଥିଲା ତା'ର ସୁପରଭାଇଜରକୁ ଦୁଇ ଚଟକଣା ପକାଇଲା । ବାସ୍ ଏତିକିରେ ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ ଅବସ୍ଥା ସାଂଘାତିକ ।  
ଘୋଡ଼ା କୋରରେ ଛାଲିଦେଲେ ତା' ଦେହକୁ । ରକ୍ତ କୁଡୁବୁଡୁ ଦେହସାରା । ବିକଳରେ ପାଣି ମୁହିଁଏ ପାଇଁ ଚିହ୍ନାର କଲା, ସେତକ ମଧ୍ୟ ମିଳିଲା ନାହିଁ ତାକୁ ।

ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ପରେ ସେହି ଭଙ୍ଗା ଘରକୁ ଫେରିଆସି ଅନ୍ୟ ତିନି ବନ୍ଧୁ ଦେଖିଲେ ବିକଳ ଚିହ୍ନାର କରି ଗଡୁଛି ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ । ପାଣି, ପାଣି ପାଇଁ ଚିହ୍ନାର କରୁଛି ।

ସୁବ୍ରହମ୍ୟମ୍ କଳରୁ ପାଣି ଆଣିବାକୁ ଯାଇଛି କି ନାହିଁ ହଠାତ୍ ସେହି ହେଟା ବାଘ ! ଦିଶୁଥିବା ବିକଟାଳ କୁକୁରଟା ତା' ଉପରକୁ ଲମ୍ଫଦେଲା । ହାତରୁ ପାଣି ମଗଟା ଖସି ଦୂରରେ ପଡ଼ିଲା । ବିକଳ ଚିହ୍ନାର କରି ଫେରିଆସିଲା ସୁବ୍ରହମ୍ୟମ୍ । ରାତିସାରା ଯନ୍ତ୍ରଣାରେ ଚିହ୍ନାର କରୁଥିଲା ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ ।

ଅନ୍ୟ ତିନି ବନ୍ଧୁ କେହି ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିପାରୁନଥିଲେ । ସାମନା ଦୁଆରେ ଯମଦୂତ ପରି ଛିଡ଼ା ହୋଇଥିଲା ସେହି ବିକଟାଳ କୁକୁରଟା । ମଣିଷକୁ ଝୁଣି ମାରି ଦେବା ପାଇଁ ଯେମିତି ତା'ର ଜନ୍ମ ।

ଉପାସରେ ରହିଲା ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ ।  
ରାତିରେ ତିନି ବନ୍ଧୁ ପାଖରେ ଥିବା ମଲମକୁ ତା' ଦେହରେ ଲଗାଇ ଦେଇଥିଲେ ।  
ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଉଦୟ ଓ ଅସ୍ତ ହେବା ଜଣାପଡୁନଥିଲା ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ । ସକାଳୁ ପୁଣି କାମକୁ ଯିବାପାଇଁ ଗାଡ଼ି ଆସିଲା । ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ ଉଠିବସି ପାରୁ ନଥିଲା । ତାକୁ ଦୁଇଟା ମୋଟା ଲୋକ ଜୋରଜବରଦସ୍ତ ଟେକିନେଇ ଲଦିଦେଲେ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ।  
ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାବେଳକୁ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ସେମାନେ ଯେତେବେଳେ ଫେରିଲେ ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ନଥିଲା । କାହାକୁ ପଚାରିବେ ସେମାନେ ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ ବିଷୟରେ ?

ଦିନେ, ଦୁଇଦିନ, ତିନିଦିନ ଏଇମିତି ଗଡ଼ିଚାଲିଲା ।  
ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ ଆଉ ଫେରିଲା ନାହିଁ । ଯାହାକୁ ପଚରା ଯାଇପାରନ୍ତା, ସେଇ ସେକ୍ ଅଲୁର ଦର୍ଶନ ନଥିଲା ।  
ରାତିରେ ସୁବ୍ରହମ୍ୟମ୍ କହିଲା, 'ଭାଇମାନେ, ଆମେ ଚାରିଜଣ ଆସିଥିଲେ । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ତିନିଜଣ । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନଠାରୁ ଉପାୟ ଖୋଜ, କେମିତି ଏ ନର୍କରୁ ବାହାରି ଚାଲିଯିବା ।'

କଥାଟା ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ମନକୁ ପାଇଲା, ମାତ୍ର କିପରି ?  
ଏମିତି ପୁଣି ତିନିମାସ ସମୟ ବିତିଗଲା ।  
ଦିନକୁ ଦିନ ସେଠାରୁ ବାହାରି ଯିବାର ଚିନ୍ତାରେ ସେମାନେ ଘାରି ହେଉଥିଲେ । ପୁଣି ଏକ ଅଭାବନାୟ ଘଟଣା ଘଟିଲା ।  
ସାଇମନ୍ ତି ସୁଜାକୁ ରାତିରେ ଭୟଙ୍କର ଝାଡ଼ା ହେଲା । ରାତିସାରା ପାଇଖାନା ଯାଉ ଯାଉ ସେ ଏତେ କ୍ଳାନ୍ତ ହୋଇଗଲା ଯେ କେତେବେଳେ ଦୁଆର ମୁହଁରେ ପଡ଼ିଯାଇଛି କାହାକୁ ମାଲୁମ୍ ନାହିଁ ।  
ରାତି ଜଗୁଆଳିମାନେ ତାକୁ ଘୋଷାରି ଘୋଷାରି ନେଇଯାଇ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଫିଙ୍ଗିଦେଲେ । ସକାଳୁ ସାଇମନ୍ ଦେଖାମିଳିଲା ନାହିଁ । ତାକୁ କୁକୁରମାନେ ମାରିଦେଇଛନ୍ତି ଭାବି ଦୁଇ ବନ୍ଧୁ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ବସି କାମ କରିବାକୁ ଗଲେ । ସାଇମନ୍ କିନ୍ତୁ ମରି ନଥିଲା ।



ରାତିସାରା ଘନଜଙ୍ଗଲ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ପଡ଼ି ରହି ସେ ସୁସ୍ଥ ଅନୁଭବ କଲା ।  
 ସକାଳ ହୋଇଥିଲା ସତ କିନ୍ତୁ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ମଧ୍ୟକୁ ଆଲୁଅ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରୁନଥିଲା । ସ୍ୱଳ୍ପ ଆଲୋକରେ ସେ ଆଗକୁ ବଢ଼ି ଚାଲିଲା ।  
 ସେ ଜାଣେ ତା'ର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ସୁନିଶ୍ଚିତ କିନ୍ତୁ ବଞ୍ଚିବାର ଲୋଭ ଯୋଗୁଁ ହିଁ ମଣିଷ ମଣିଷ । ଯଦି ଏହି ମୃତ୍ୟୁଯତ୍ନରୁ ରକ୍ଷା ମିଳେ, ତେବେ ସେ ବଞ୍ଚିବାକୁ  
 ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରିବ । ସେଇ ଝିଅଟିକୁ ବାହାହେବ । ମନରେ ଏଇ ବିଶ୍ୱାସକୁ ଦୃଢ଼ କରି ଚାଲିଲା ଆଗକୁ ଆଗକୁ ।  
 ସେ ମୁକ୍ତିଲାଭର ଶବ୍ଦଟି ପାଇଁ ନିଜେ ଚାଲିଯିବାକୁ ଚାହଁଲା ନାହିଁ । ବରଂ ଅନ୍ୟ ଦୁଇ ଜଣଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ଯବନଆଳୟରୁ ମୁକ୍ତ କରିବାକୁ ବିଚାର କଲା ।  
 କିନ୍ତୁ ନରେ ଭୟ ।  
 ପୁଣି ଯଦି ଧରାପଡ଼େ, ବଞ୍ଚିବାର ସାମାନ୍ୟ ମାତ୍ର ଆଶା ରହିବ ନାହିଁ ।  
 ଦ୍ୱିଧାଗ୍ରସ୍ତ ମନନେଇ ସେ ପୁଣି ଚିନ୍ତା କଲା ।  
 ନାଁ, ତାକୁ ଫେରିବାକୁ ହେବ, ତା'ର ବନ୍ଧୁମାନଙ୍କୁ ବଞ୍ଚାଇବା ପାଇଁ, ସେଥିପାଇଁ ନିଜ ଜୀବନର ମୂଲ୍ୟ ତୁଚ୍ଛ । ଯେଉଁବାର ଦେଇ ଯାଇଥିଲା,  
 ସେଇବାର ଦେଇ ଫେରିଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ ଫେରିଲା ସମୟରେ କୁକୁରମାନଙ୍କୁ କିପରି ମୁକାବିଲା କରିବ, ସେଥିପାଇଁ ଟାଣି ଟାଣି ଗୋଜିଥିବା ବାଡ଼ି  
 ଆଣିଲା । କିଛି ଶକ୍ତ ଲତାକୁ ମୋଡ଼ା କରି ଅଣ୍ଟାରେ ବାନ୍ଧିଲା ।  
 ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାବେଳକୁ ଫେରିଆସିଲା ସେହି ସ୍ଥାନକୁ ଯେଉଁଠି ତାକୁ ମରିବା ପାଇଁ ପକାଇଦିଆଯାଇଥିଲା । ବହୁ ଦୂରରୁ ସେ ଦେଖିଥିଲା ତା'ର ଦୁଇ ସାଥୀ  
 ଗାଡ଼ିରୁ ଓହ୍ଲାଇଲେ ।  
 ସେ କିନ୍ତୁ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କଲା ଖାଇବା ଶେଷଯାଏ । ଜଗୁଆଳି ଖାଇବାକୁ ଦେଇ କୁକୁରଟିକୁ ଜଗିବାକୁ ଛାଡ଼ିଦେଇ ଚାଲିଗଲା । ସାଇମନ୍ ଧୀରେ  
 ଧୀରେ ଆଗେଇଲା । ତା'ର ପାଦଶବ୍ଦ ଆଦୌ ଜଣାପଡ଼ୁନଥିଲା । କୁକୁରଟି ନିର୍ମୈତ୍ରୀ ନୟନରେ ଦୁଆରକୁ ଚାହିଁ ଶୋଇଥିଲା ।  
 ସାଇମନ୍ କେଉଁଠୁ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚୟ କଲା କେଜାଣି ମୁନିଆ ଗୋଜକୁ କୁକୁର ବେକରେ ଭୃଷିଦେଲା । ଆଦୌ ଚିତ୍କାର ନକରି କୁକୁରଟି ମରିଗଲା ।  
 ସାଇମନ୍ କବାଟ ଠକ୍ ଠକ୍ କଲା ।  
 ଭୟହର ଜଡ଼ସଡ଼ ହୋଇ ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ଦ୍ୱାର ଖୋଲିବା ମାତ୍ରେ ଘର ଭିତରକୁ ପଶିଯାଇ ସାଇମନ୍ କବାଟ ବନ୍ଦ କରିଦେଲା ।  
 ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ପିଲ୍ଲେ ସାଇମନ୍‌କୁ ଦେଖି ଯେତିକି ଖୁସିହେଲେ, ତା'ଠାରୁ ବେଶି ଆଶ୍ଚର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହେଲେ ।  
 ସାଇମନ୍ ଘଟିଥିବା ଘଟଣା ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା କଲା ଏବଂ ମୁକ୍ତି ପାଇବାର ବାଟ ବତାଇଲା । ଅନ୍ୟ ଦୁଇ ଜଣ ଯିବା ନୟିବା ଦୋ ଦୋ ପାଞ୍ଚ ହେଉଥିବା  
 ଦେଖି ସାଇମନ୍ ତାଙ୍କୁ ପାଦୁା ସୁଲଭ ଉପଦେଶ ଦେଇ କହିଲା, 'ଭାଇମାନେ ! ଏଠାରେ ଏମିତି ମରିବା ଅପେକ୍ଷା ବରଂ ମୁକ୍ତି ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟା କରି  
 ମରିବା ଭଲ' ।  
 ସେମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଆତ୍ମବିଶ୍ୱାସ ଜାଗ୍ରତ ହେଲା ।  
 ଜଣ ଜଣ କରି ଘର ଭିତରୁ ବାହାରିଲେ । ହାତରେ କୌଣସି ଲୁଗାପଟା ନଥିଲା ।  
 ବିଦେଶକୁ ଆସିବାବେଳେ ଯେଉଁ ବହିଟି ଥିଲା, ଯାହାକୁ ପାସପୋର୍ଟ କୁହନ୍ତି, ତାହା ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲା ପାଖରେ ଥିଲା ।  
 ସାଇମନ୍ କବାଟକୁ ଆଉଜାଇ ଦେଇ ଅନ୍ଧାରରେ ଏମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ମିଶି ଆଗର ବାଟ କଢ଼ାଇଲା ଦୁର୍ଗମ, ସୁତୀଭେଦ୍ୟ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ।  
 ସକାଳ ୫ଟାରେ ଗାଡ଼ି ଆସିବା ମାତ୍ରେ ଏମାନଙ୍କୁ ନପାଇ ସେହି ଭୀଷଣ ଜଗୁଆଳିମାନେ, ଶତ୍ରୁହତ୍ୟା କୁକୁରମାନେ ଖେଦି ଆସିବେ ଏବଂ  
 ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଧରିବା ସହଜ ହେବ । ଥରେ ଧରାପଡ଼ିଗଲେ ମୃତ୍ୟୁକୁ କେହି ରୋକିପାରିବେ ନାହିଁ ।  
 ଗହନ ଅରଣ୍ୟରେ ଏମାନେ ଦୁତଗତିରେ ଚାଲିବାରେ ଅଭ୍ୟସ୍ତ ନଥିଲେ । ତଥାପି ଆଗକୁ ମାଡ଼ି ଚାଲିଥିଲେ ।  
 ସାଇମନ୍ ସାଙ୍ଗରେ ଚାଲୁଥିଲା । ତା' ସହିତ ଅନ୍ୟମାନେ ।  
 ଅରଣ୍ୟ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସମୟ ଜଣାପଡ଼ୁନଥିଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ ମନେ ହେଉଥିଲା ଭୋର ହେବାକୁ ଯାଉଛି ଆଉ କିଛି ସମୟ ପରେ ଫର୍ଜା ହେବ ।  
 ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ଭାବିବାକୁ ସମୟ କାହିଁ !  
 ଜଙ୍ଗଲରେ ଲୁଚିଯାଇ ହୁଅନ୍ତା କିନ୍ତୁ ଶିକାରୀ କୁକୁର ମଣିଷ ବାସନା ବାରି ଝୁଣି ଦେବେ । ଧରାପଡ଼ିଯିବେ ସେମାନେ ।  
 ସାଇମନ୍ ଏକଥା ଆଗରୁ ଚିନ୍ତା କରିଥିଲା ।  
 ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ସେମାନେ ନଇକୁଳରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଯାଇଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ପଥର, ଖମା, ଗଛ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରି ଆଗକୁ ଆଗକୁ ମାଡ଼ି  
 ଚାଲିଥିଲେ ।  
 ହେଇ, ମୁକ୍ତିର ବାଟ ଯେପରି ସେମାନଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଯାଇଥିଲା ।  
 ନଦୀର କ୍ଷୀଣ ଧାରଟି ଖୁବ୍ ଗଭୀର ଥିଲା । ସମସ୍ତେ ତା' ମଧ୍ୟକୁ ଲମ୍ପ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରି ପହରି ପହରି ଅତିକ୍ରମ କଲେ । ସେମାନେ ସତରଣପତ୍ର  
 ଥିଲେ । ବିପଦ ସମୟରେ ସବୁ କଥା ଆପେ ଆପେ ଶିଖିହୋଇଯାଏ । ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟଙ୍କର ଲୋହିତ କିରଣ ନଇର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଅଂଶକୁ ସ୍ପର୍ଶ କରୁଥିଲା । ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ  
 ନଦୀ ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରିବାବେଳକୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଅବସନ୍ନ ଶରୀର ଆଉ ପାଦେ ଆଗକୁ ଯିବାକୁ ଚାହୁଁନଥିଲା । ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନଦୀ ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରିବା ବେଳକୁ  
 ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଅବସନ୍ନ ଶରୀର ଆଉ ପାଦେ ଆଗକୁ ଯିବାକୁ ଚାହୁଁନଥିଲା ।



ସେମାନେ ନଦୀ ସେ ପାରିରେ ଉଚ୍ଚା ଉଚ୍ଚା ପଥର ସନ୍ଧିରେ ଦେହକୁ ମଡ଼ାଇ ଦେଇ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ କ’ଣ କରାଯିବ, ସେ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ନିଜେ ନିଜେ ଚିନ୍ତା କରୁଥିଲେ ।

ସେତେବେଳକୁ ନଦୀର ଅପରପାର୍ଶ୍ଵରେ ଜମିଯାଇଥିଲେ ଘୋଡ଼ାରେ ଆସିଥିବା ବନ୍ଧୁକଧାରୀ ଓ ଶିକାରୀ ପୁଲିସ । ତିନିଜଣଙ୍କର ପାଦଚିହ୍ନ ଦେଖିବାକୁ ପାଇଥିଲେ, ସେମାନେ ନଦୀର ବାଲିଶଯ୍ୟାରୁ ତିନିଜଣଙ୍କ ପଦଚିହ୍ନ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ମଧ୍ୟ କିଛିଟା ପ୍ରହେଳିକା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଥିଲା । କାରଣ ସେମାନେ ସାଇମନର ମୃତଦେହକୁ ଅରଣ୍ୟ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଫିଙ୍ଗି ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ହୁଏତ ଦୁଇଜଣଙ୍କର ପଦଚିହ୍ନ ହୋଇଥାଇପାରେ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଚଢ଼େଇମାନେ ପିଞ୍ଜରା ଛାଡ଼ି ଚାଲିଗଲେ । ଥରେ ପଞ୍ଜୁରାରୁ ମୁକ୍ତ ହେଲେ, ପକ୍ଷୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଧରିବା କଷ୍ଟକର ବ୍ୟାପାର ଥିଲା ।

ଦୂରରୁ ସେମାନେ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ କରୁଥିଲେ ଶିକାରକୁ । କେବଳ ଉଚ୍ଚା ଉଚ୍ଚା ପଥର ଓ ବାଲିଶଯ୍ୟା । ପ୍ରାୟ ୧ ଘଣ୍ଟା କାଳ ସେ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ତନଖି ସେମାନେ ଫେରି ଯାଇଥିଲେ ।

ସାଇମନ୍, ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ଓ ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ରନ ପିଲ୍ଲେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଜାଗାରେ ଏକାଠି ହୋଇ ଗତ ରାତିରେ ଦୃଷ୍ୟାହସିକ ପଦଯାତ୍ରା ଓ ମୁକ୍ତି ପାଇଁ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟା ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଆଲୋଚନା କରିବାବେଳେ ମନେପଡ଼ିଲା, ଭୋକ ଲାଗିଲାଣି । ପାଖରେ ଫଟା ପାହୁଲଟାଏ ନାହିଁ । ଅନାହାରରେ ସେମାନେ କ’ଣ ମରିଯିବେ ? ବିପଦ ଉପରେ ବିପଦ ମାଡ଼ି ରହିଥିଲା ।

ସାଇମନ୍ ଆଡ଼କୁ ଚାଲିଲେ ସର୍ଭିଏଁ । ତା’ ଯୋଗୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ପ୍ରାଣ ବଞ୍ଚିଛି । ଯେପରି ଏମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସେ ଦେବଦୂତ । ରଘୁନାଥନ୍ ଯଦି ତା’ର ରାଗକୁ ସମ୍ଭାଳି ଥାନ୍ତା, ତେବେ ସେ ମଧ୍ୟ ତାଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଥାଆନ୍ତା ।

ସାଇମନ୍ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆଶ୍ଵାସନା ଦେଇ କହିଲା, “ଚାଲ, “ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ଆଗକୁ ଯିବା । ଜନବସତି ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ ସିନା କ’ଣ କରିବା । ନଚେତ୍ ଏଇ ପଦବ୍ରଜରେ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ।

କିନ୍ତୁ ଏ ମୃତ୍ୟୁରେ ଅଛି ଆନନ୍ଦ ।  
ଆମେ ମରିବା କାହିଁକି ? ବରଂ ଆମେ ବଞ୍ଚିବା ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରାଣପଣେ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରିବା । ତାହା ହିଁ ପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କର ଇଚ୍ଛା । ପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କର ବିନା ଇଚ୍ଛାରେ କ’ଣ ଏ ଜଗତ ଚଳେ ?

ଆମକୁ ବଞ୍ଚିଇବାରେ ପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କର ନିଷ୍ଠେ କିଛି ମହତ୍ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ରହିଛି । ଆମେ ସିନା ଆରବ ଦେଶକୁ ଆସିଲେ କିନ୍ତୁ ଆମେ ଯେଉଁଠି କାମ କରୁଥିଲେ, ତାହା କେଉଁ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ।

ନଦୀର ଏ ପାର୍ଶ୍ଵରେ କ’ଣ ରହିଛି ଜାଣିଲେ, ଆମେ ହୁଏତ କିଛି ଧାରଣା କରିପାରିବା । କେହି ଯଦି ଆମକୁ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ କରେ, ତୁମ୍ଭେମାନେ କେଉଁଠି ଥିଲ ? ଆମେ କି ଉତ୍ତର ଦେବା !

ସାଇମନ୍ ପାଠ ପଢ଼ିଛି । ସେ ପାଢ଼ୀ ଥିଲା । ତେଣୁ ସେ ଯାହା ଚିନ୍ତା କରୁଛି, ତାହା ଠିକ୍ ।  
ସମସ୍ତେ ତା’ କଥା ମାନି ଚାଲିବାକୁ ଲାଗିଲେ, ନଦୀ କୂଳେ କୂଳେ ।  
ଭୋକ ଓ ଶୋଷରେ ସେମାନେ ହାଲିଆ ହୋଇପଡ଼ୁଥିଲେ । ତଥାପି ଚାଲୁଥିଲେ ।

ପ୍ରାୟ ୨ ମାଇଲ ଅତିକ୍ରମ କରିବା ପରେ ଦୂରେ ଗମ୍ଭୀର ଆକୃତିର ଏକ ଗୃହ ଦେଖାଗଲା । କିଛିଟା ଆଶ୍ଵସ୍ତି ମିଳିଯିବ ଭାବି ସେମାନେ ସେ ଦିଗକୁ ଚାଲିଲେ ।

ଘରଟି ପାଖରେ ପହଞ୍ଚି ଦେଖିଲେ ଏହା ଗୋଟିଏ ଗାର୍ଜୀ ଚାରିକଡ଼ ଉଚ୍ଚ ପାଚେରୀ ବେଞ୍ଚନ କରି ରହିଛି ।

ସାଇମନ୍ ବନ୍ଧୁମାନଙ୍କୁ କହିଲା “ ଦେଖ ! ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ସ୍ଥାନ ଆମ ପାଇଁ ବିପଦସଂକୁଳ । ଏହା ଗାର୍ଜୀ ପରି ଦେଖାଯାଉଛି । କିନ୍ତୁ ଗାର୍ଜୀ ବି ହୋଇନଥାଇପାରେ । ଯାହା ଆଖିକୁ ଦେଖାଯାଏ, ତାହା ସବୁ ସତ୍ୟ ବୋଲି ବିଚାର କରିବା ଠିକ୍ ନୁହେଁ । ବେଳେବେଳେ ଅସତ୍ୟ ମଧ୍ୟ ସତ୍ୟ ପରି ପ୍ରତୀତ ହୁଏ । ଆମକୁ ବଞ୍ଚିବାକୁ ହେଲେ ସାବଧାନତାର ସହିତ ଚାଲିବାକୁ ହେବ । ଆସ ମୋ ସହିତ ।

ଗେର୍ ଦୁଆର ମୁହଁରେ ଲାଗିଥିବା କଲିଂବେଲକୁ ବଜାଇଲା ସାଇମନ୍ ।  
କିଛି ସମୟ ପରେ ପାଢ଼ୀ ପୋଷାକ ପରିହିତ ଜଣେ ମଧ୍ୟବୟସ୍କ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଦେଖାଦେଲେ । ପଚାରିଲେ “କିଏ ଆପଣମାନେ ? କାହାକୁ ଖୋଜୁଛନ୍ତି ?”  
କଥା କହିବାର ରୁକ୍ଷତା ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଉଥିଲା ।

ସାଇମନ୍ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ବିନୟ ଓ ନମ୍ରତାରେ କହିଲା, “ପାଦର ! ଆଇ ଆମ୍ ଏ ପ୍ରିଷ୍ଟ । ମାଇ ଫ୍ରେଣ୍ଡସ୍ ଆଇ ଆର୍ ମାଇ ରିଲେଟିଭ୍ସ । ଉଇ ଥ୍ଵାଣ୍ଟ ରେଷ୍ଟ ଫର୍ ଦି ଡେ ।”

ପାଢ଼ୀ କ’ଣ ଭାବିଲେ କେଜାଣି, ଗେର୍ ଖୋଲିଦେଲେ ଏବଂ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆସିବାର ଅନୁମତି ଦେଲେ । ସତକୁ ସତ ତାହା ଗୋଟିଏ ଗାର୍ଜୀ ଥିଲା । ସାଇମନ୍ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟମାନେ ଯାଗୁଙ୍କ ସମ୍ମୁଖରେ ଥିବା ବେଞ୍ଚରେ ମୁଣ୍ଡପାତି ବସିଗଲେ । ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଉଠିବାର ଶକ୍ତି ନଥିଲା । ସୁବ୍ରମଣ୍ୟମ୍ ହଠାତ୍ ବେହୋସ୍ ହୋଇ ବେଞ୍ଚ ତଳକୁ ଗଳିପଡ଼ିଲା ।

ସାଇମନ୍ ଆଖି ବୁଲାଇ ତନ୍ମ ତନ୍ମ କରି ଦେଖୁଥିଲା ଗାର୍ଜୀ ଗୃହକୁ ସେଠାରେ କୌଣସି ଲୋକ ଦେଖାଯାଉନଥିଲେ । ପାଢ଼ୀଙ୍କର ପଛପାଖ କ୍ଵାଟରରେ ପହଞ୍ଚି ସାଇମନ୍ କହିଲା, ପାଦର ! ଯଦି ଆପଣ କିଛି ନଭାବନ୍ତି, ଆମକୁ ଟିକିଏ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିବେ କି ?



ଆମକୁ କିଛି ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଓ ପାଣିଦେଲେ ଆମେ ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତି କୃତଜ୍ଞ ରହିବୁ।”

ପାତ୍ରୀ ଚାହିଁଲେ ବଳବଳ ହୋଇ ସାଇମନ୍ ମୁହଁକୁ।

ସେ ଘର ଭିତରକୁ ଯାଇ ୮/୧୦ ଖଣ୍ଡ ରୁଟି ଓ ଗୋଟେ ମଗ୍ଗରେ କିଛି ପାଣି ଆଣି ଧରାଇ ଦେଲେ। ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଦେବାରେ କିନ୍ତୁ ତାଙ୍କର ଆନ୍ତରିକତା ନଥିଲା।

ସୁବ୍ରହମ୍ୟାୟ ମୁହଁରେ ପାଣି ଛିଞ୍ଚି ତାକୁ ଚେତା କଲେ ଏବଂ ଶୁଖିଲା ରୁଟି ସମସ୍ତେ ବାଣ୍ଟି ଖାଇ ପାଣି ପିଇଲେ। ଗାର୍ଜା ବାରଣ୍ଡାରେ ଚିତ୍କାତ ହୋଇ ପଡ଼ିଗଲେ।

ବେଶୀ ସମୟ ଶୋଇନଥିଲେ ସେମାନେ ହଠାତ୍ ପାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କର ପାଟିଶୁଣି ସେମାନେ ଧଡ଼ପଡ଼ ହୋଇ ଉଠି ବସିଲେ। ପାତ୍ରୀ କାହା ସହିତ କଥା ହେଉଥିଲେ।

ସାଇମନ୍ ବୁଝିପାରିଲା କଥାଟା କେଉଁ ଦିଗକୁ ମୁହାଁଉଛି।

ଗାର୍ଜା, ପାତ୍ରୀ ଏ ସବୁ ସତ୍ୟର ଆବରଣ। ଏହା ସେହି ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନର ଅଂଶବିଶେଷ। ଯେଉଁମାନେ ନଇବାଟ ଦେଇ ପଳାୟନ କରିବେ, ସେମାନେ ଏଠାରେ ଧରାପଡ଼ିବେ।

ଶୀତେଇ ଉଠୁଥିଲା ସାଇମନ୍।

ତାସ୍ ଘର ଭୁସ୍ତୁଡ଼ିବା ପରି ତା’ର ସମସ୍ତ ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟା ଭୁସ୍ତୁଡ଼ି ଯିବ। ଏହି ଆଶଙ୍କାରେ ଚିତ୍କାତ ହେଲା ସେ।

ପୁଣି ଖସିଯିବାକୁ ହେବ।

ନରଖାଦକମାନେ ହୁଏତ କେଉଁ ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ ଏଠାରେ ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଯିବେ।

ପାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କୁ କିନ୍ତୁ ସେମାନେ ଏହି ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ସନ୍ଦେହ କରିବାକୁ ଦେଉନଥିଲେ।

ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ହୋଇଗଲା। ପାତ୍ରୀ ଗାର୍ଜାରେ ମହମବତୀ ଜାଳି ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କଲେ।

ଏମାନେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ସଭାରେ ଯୋଗଦେଲେ।

ପାତ୍ରୀ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କରି କହିଲେ, “ହେ ପ୍ରଭୋ! ଆପଣ ଏମାନଙ୍କୁ କ୍ଷମା କରନ୍ତୁ। ଏମାନେ କ’ଣ କରୁଛନ୍ତି, ଜାଣନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ। ମୁଁ ଆପଣଙ୍କର ସେବକ। ମୋ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସେମାନେ ସମସ୍ତେ ଅନୈତିକ ଓ ବିଭୀଷ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଛନ୍ତି। ମୁଁ ନୀଚାର ଓ ଅସହାୟ।

ମୁଁ ଗୃହବନ୍ଧୀ।

ଆପଣ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ରକ୍ଷା କରନ୍ତୁ ପ୍ରଭୋ।”

ପାତ୍ରୀ ଏତକ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କରି ଲୋତକପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଚକ୍ଷୁରେ ନତଜାନ୍ତୁ ହୋଇ କୁଣ୍ଡକୁ ପ୍ରଣାମ କଲେ।

ସାଇମନ୍ ପାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କର ଇଂରାଜୀ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ବୁଝିପାରିଲା ଏବଂ ତାଙ୍କର ଦୁଃଖକୁ ଅନୁଭବ କଲା।

ପାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କର ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ଛଳନା ଥିଲା କିମ୍ବା ସତ୍ୟ, ତାହା ଜାଣିବା ତା’ ପକ୍ଷରେ ସମ୍ଭବ ନଥିଲା।

ସେ ମନେ ମନେ ଭାବିଲା, ଯଦି ପାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କର ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ସତ୍ୟ ହୋଇଥାଏ, ତେବେ ସେ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିବେ। ଯଦି ଛଳନା ହୁଏ, ତେବେ ତାହାକୁ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ କଲେ ସେମାନେ ପୁଣି ଧରାପଡ଼ି ମୃତ୍ୟୁଦଣ୍ଡ ଭୋଗିବେ।

ପାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କଠାରୁ ସ୍ଥାନର ଅବସ୍ଥିତି ନଜାଣି ଯାଇ ହେବନି। କିନ୍ତୁ ଆଶଙ୍କିତ ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ରହି ହେବନି। ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ପରେ ସେ ପାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ପଛେ ପଛେ ଗଲା। ତାଙ୍କ ଗୃହ ସମ୍ମୁଖରେ ପାତ୍ରୀ ତାକୁ ଘର ଭିତରକୁ ଆସିବାକୁ କହି ଦୁଆର ବନ୍ଦ କରିଦେଲେ।

“ହଁ, ମିଷ୍ଟର! ତୁମେ କ’ଣ ପଚାରିବାକୁ ଚାହୁଁଛ, ତାହା ମୁଁ ଜାଣେ। ତୁମମାନଙ୍କୁ ଗାର୍ଜାରେ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରିବା ସମୟଠାରୁ ମୁଁ ଅନୁମାନ କରୁଛି। କାରଣ ଏ ଗାର୍ଜାଟି ଏପରି ଜାଗାରେ କରାଯାଇଛି, ଯେଉଁଠିକୁ କେହି ଆସନ୍ତିନି। ଯେଉଁମାନେ ଆସିବେ, ସେମାନେ ସେହି କ୍ୟାମ୍ପରୁ ଖସି ଆସିଥିବା ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ। ଅଭିମନ୍ୟୁର ଚକ୍ରବ୍ୟୁହକୁ ଭେଦ କରିବା ସହଜ ହୋଇପାରେ କିନ୍ତୁ ଅଲ୍ଲା ଓ ତା’ ଗୁପ୍ତ କବ୍‌ଜାରୁ ଖସିଯିବା ସମ୍ଭବ ନୁହେଁ। ତୁମ୍ଭେମାନେ ଖସି ଆସିଛ। ମୁଁ ତୁମକୁ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିପାରେ। ଏତେ ଲୋକଙ୍କର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ଦେଖିବା ଅପେକ୍ଷା ଯଦି ମୁଁ କାହାର ମୃତ୍ୟୁକୁ ଏଡ଼ାଇ ଦେଇପାରେ, ତେବେ ତାହା ହେବ ମୋ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କର ବରଦାନ।”

ସାଇମନ୍‌ର ପାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କର କଥାରେ ହୃଦ୍‌ବୋଧ ହେଲା। ତାଙ୍କୁ ଅବିଶ୍ୱାସ କରିବାର କୌଣସି କାରଣ ଦେଖିପାରୁନଥିଲା ସେ। ପାତ୍ରୀ ପୁନଶ୍ଚ କହିଲେ, “ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲା ଓ ତା’ର ଗୁପ୍ତ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ସନ୍ତ୍ରାସବାଦୀ। ଆରବର ଏହି ନିକାଞ୍ଚନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କର ଆଡୁ। ପାହାଡ଼ ତଳେ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନେ ଏତେ କଥା ଜାଣନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ ଫଳରେ ସେମାନେ ସେଠାରେ ଦାବନ ଓ ବନ୍ଦୀଜୀବନ ବିତାନ୍ତି। ସେମାନେ ଏତେ ନିଷ୍ଠୁର ଯେ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କର ଜୀବନ ନେବାକୁ ଡିଲେ ହେଲେ କୁଣ୍ଡା କରନ୍ତି ନାହିଁ।”

“ତୁମ୍ଭେମାନଙ୍କର ଜୀବନ ଏବେ ବି ବିପଦପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ। ତୁମର ପାସପୋର୍ଟ ନାହିଁ। ଦେଶ ଭିତରେ ତୁମେ ଗଲେ ପୁଲିସ୍ ଧରିବ ଓ ଜେଲ ଦେବ। ତୁମେ



କେଉଁଠି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଥିଲ, ତାହା କହିପାରିବ ନାହିଁ। ସବୁଆଡୁ ବିପଦ ତୁମକୁ ଘେରି ରହିଛି। ତୁମେ ଏ ରାଜ୍ୟରୁ ଖସି ପାଖ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଚାଲିଗଲେ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଯିବ। ସେଠାରେ ପୁଲିସ ତୁମକୁ ଆରେଷ୍ଟ କଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସାତଦିନ ରଖି ତୁମ ଦେଶକୁ ପଠାଇଦେବେ। ମୁଁ ତା'ର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିଦେବି। ତୁମକୁ ଏଠାରେ ରହିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ। ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲୀର ଲୋକମାନେ ପ୍ରତିଦିନ ଏଠାକୁ ଆସୁଛନ୍ତି। ଏଠି ସାବଧାନରେ ରହିବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିଦେବି।

ଏତକ କହିସାରି ପାତ୍ରୀ ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କୁ ସେଠାକୁ ନେଇ ଆସିବାକୁ ସାଇମନଙ୍କୁ କହିଲେ।

ତିନିଜଣ ପାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ରୁମ୍‌ରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିବା ପରେ ପାତ୍ରୀ ଘର କବାଟ ବନ୍ଦ କରି ନିଜ ଶୋଇବା ଖଟ ତଳେ ଥିବା ଚଟାଣକୁ ଚାଣିଦେଲେ। ତା' ତଳେ ଥିଲା ଏକ ବିରାଟ ହଲ୍। ଘରଟିରେ ବିଛଣାପତ୍ର ସହିତ ପାଇଖାନା ଓ ଗାଧୁଆ ଘର ଥିଲା।

ପାତ୍ରୀ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ସେଠାରେ ରହିବାକୁ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶ ଦେଲେ। ଖାଦ୍ୟ ପଦାର୍ଥ ମଧ୍ୟ ମହଜୁଦ୍ ଥିଲା।

ଚାରିଦିନ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରିବାକୁ ହେବ। ସେମାନଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ଅନ୍ୟ କୌଣସି ଉପାୟ ମଧ୍ୟ ନାହିଁ।

ସାଇମନ୍ କହିଲା “ଭାଇମାନେ! ମୋର ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ପାତ୍ରୀ ଆମ ସହିତ ବିଶ୍ୱାସଯାତକ କରିବ ନାହିଁ। ସେ ଆମକୁ ନିଶ୍ଚେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରିବ।”

ଆମେ ବର୍ଷେ କାଳ ଯେଉଁ କଷ୍ଟ ଭୋଗିଲେଣି, ଆଉ ଚାରିଦିନ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରିବା। ଅନ୍ୟମାନେ କ’ଣ ବା କହନ୍ତେ। ସୁବ୍ରହ୍ମଣ୍ୟୟମ୍ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ସମୟରେ ଗୁଣ୍ଡଗୁଣ୍ଡ ହୋଇ ଶିବମହିମସ୍ତୋତ୍ର ପାଠ କରୁଥିଲେ। କାନ୍ଥରେ ଘଣ୍ଟା ଥିଲା ଓ କ୍ୟାଲେଣ୍ଡର।

ଚାରିଦିନ ପୂରିବାକୁ ସେମାନେ ଚାତକ ପରି ଚାହିଁ ବସିଥିଲେ। ଚତୁର୍ଥ ଦିନ ସକାଳେ ପାତ୍ରୀ ଭିତରକୁ ଆସି କହିଲା, “ଦେଖ! ତୁମେମାନେ ଆଜି ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାରେ ଏଠୁ ଯିବ। ତୁମର ଯିବାର ବାଟ ବତାଉଛି। ଅପରାହ୍ନରେ ଗାଜ୍‌ଜୀକୁ ଗୋଟିଏ ଗାଡ଼ି ଜିନିଷପତ୍ର ନେଇ ଆସେ। ତାହା ଏହି ଘର କଡ଼ରେ ରୁହେ। ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାବେଳେ ବାହାରେ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ। ସେଥିରେ ପୁରୁଣା ବସ୍ତ୍ର ସବୁ ଲଦା ହୋଇଯାଏ। ତୁମେ ଗାଡ଼ି ବାହାରିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଗାଡ଼ି ଭିତରକୁ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରିବ। ଗାଡ଼ିର ମଝି ମଝି ସ୍ଥାନରେ ବସ୍ତା କଡ଼ରେ ଲୁଚିକି ବସିଯିବ। ରାସ୍ତାରେ ଚେକିଂରେ ତୁମକୁ ଯେପରି କେହି ଦେଖିନପାରନ୍ତି। ଗାଡ଼ିଟି ଭୋରୁ ଯାଇ ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସୀମାରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିବ। ବନ୍ଦ ଗାଡ଼ିର ପଛପାଖ ଦରଜାକୁ ଡ୍ରାଇଭର ଖୋଲିଦେବ ଚେକ୍ ହେବା ପାଇଁ। ଚେକ୍ ହେବାକୁ ସମୟ ଲାଗେ। ତୁମେମାନେ ଏହି ସମୟରେ ଗାଡ଼ିରୁ ଓହ୍ଲାଇ ଚା’ ଦୋକାନଆଡ଼େ ପଳାଇବ। ଚା’ ପିଇସାରି ସୀମା ସେ ପାଖକୁ ଚାଲିଯିବ। ସୀମା ପାର କରି ଯଦି ୨ ମାଇଲ୍ ଯାଇପାର, ତେବେ ସହରରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିବ ଏବଂ ଭାରତ ଯିବାପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିବ। ସୀମାପାର କରିବାବେଳେ ଯଦି ପୁଲିସ୍ ଧରେ, ତେବେ ତମକୁ ଆରେଷ୍ଟ କରି ରଖିବ ଏବଂ ପୁଲିସକୁ କୁହାବୋଲା ଓ ଲାଞ୍ଚ ଦେଇ ଭାରତ ଯିବାର ଭିଆ ଓ ଟିକେଟ କରିବ।”

“ମୁଁ ଜାଣେ ତୁମ ପାଖରେ ଆଦୌ ଟଙ୍କା ପଇସା ନାହିଁ। ତୁମର ଭାରତ ଯିବା ଆଦୌ ସମ୍ଭବ ନୁହେଁ। କାରଣ ଭିଆ ଓ ଟିକେଟ୍ ନଥିଲେ ତୁମେ କୌଣସି ଦେଶ ବାହାରକୁ ଯାଇ ପାରିବ ନାହିଁ। ମୁଁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକଙ୍କୁ ୩୦୦ ଡଲାର ଦେଉଛି। ଏହା ତୁମର ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ହେବ।”

ଏ ଘରୁ ବାହାରକୁ ଯାଇ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ବସିବା ପାଇଁ ମୁଁ ତୁମକୁ ସଙ୍କେତ ଦେବି। ଏ କାନ୍ଥରେ ନାଲି ଆଲୁଅ ଯେଉଁ ସ୍ଥାନରେ ଜଳିବ, ତୁମେ ତାକୁ ଛୁଇଁଦେବ। ଜଣକ ଯିବାର ରାସ୍ତା ହେବ। ସେଇବାଟ ଦେଇ ସିଧା ଗାଡ଼ିକୁ ଉଠିଯିବ।”

ପାତ୍ରୀ ଏତକ କହିସାରିବା ବେଳକୁ ତାଙ୍କ ଆଖିରେ ଲୁହ ଭରି ଯାଇଥିଲା। ସେ ଜଣ ଜଣ କରି ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଖକୁ ଆସି କରମର୍ଦ୍ଦନ କଲେ ଏବଂ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ହାତକୁ ଗୋଟିଏ ଲେଖାଏଁ ଲଫାପା ବଢ଼ାଇ ଦେଇ ଚାଲିଗଲେ। ଗଲାବେଳେ ପୁଣି କହିଲେ, “ଏହି ପାତ୍ରୀକୁ ଭୁଲିବ ନାହିଁ। ପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କରିବ।”

ସୁବ୍ରହ୍ମଣ୍ୟୟମ୍ ଓ ରାମଚନ୍ଦ୍ରନ୍ ପିଲ୍ଲେ ସାଇମନଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରଶଂସା ଆଖିରେ ଦେଖୁଥିଲେ। ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦିନେଶ ଆଖିରେ ଚାହିଁ ରହିଥିଲେ କାନ୍ଥକୁ। ଠିକ୍ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ୬ଟାବେଳେ ନାଲି ଆଲୁଅଟି ଦପ୍‌ଦପ୍ କଲା। ସାଇମନ୍ ତାକୁ ଛୁଇଁ ଦେବା ମାତ୍ରେ କାନ୍ଥରେ ଛୋଟ ରାସ୍ତାଟିଏ ଦେଖାଗଲା। ଜଣ ଜଣ କରି ସେଇ ରାସ୍ତାରେ ଯାଇ ସମ୍ମୁଖରେ ଥିବା ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ଚଢ଼ିଗଲେ ଓ ବସ୍ତା ମଝିରେ ବସିଗଲେ। ପୁଣି ଅପେକ୍ଷା କଲେ ଅନାଗତ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତକୁ।

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ଗାଡ଼ି ଚାଲିଲା ଦ୍ରୁତ ଗତିରେ। ବାଟରେ ଅଟକିଲା ମାତ୍ରେ ଗାଡ଼ି ଖୋଲିବାର ଶବ୍ଦ ଏବଂ ଶକ୍ତିଶାଳୀ ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଆଲୋକ ଗାଡ଼ି ଭିତରକୁ ପଡୁଥିଲା। ରାସ୍ତାକଡ଼ରେ ଏମିତି ନେସି ହୋଇ ଏମାନେ ବସିଥିଲେ ଯେ କାହାର ଜାଣିବାର ଯୁଁ ନଥିଲା।

ସେମାନେ ଭବିଷ୍ୟତ ଗଢ଼ିବା ପାଇଁ ଅକ୍ଷୟ ଭିତରେ ପଡ଼ିଗଲେ। ବୁଝି ବିଚାରି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କଲେ ଏ ଅବସ୍ଥା ଭୋଗ କରିନଥାନ୍ତେ।

ଗାଡ଼ି ସୀମା ପାଖରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଗଲା। ପାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କହିବା ମୁତାବକ ଡ୍ରାଇଭର ଗାଡ଼ିର ପଛପାଖ ଖୋଲିଦେଇ ଚାଲିଗଲା କାଗଜପତ୍ର ଯାଞ୍ଚ କରିବାକୁ ଓ ଚା’ ପିଇବାକୁ। ସାଇମନ୍ ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କୁ ଈଶାରା କରି ଓହ୍ଲାଇବାକୁ କହିଲା।

ତିନିଜଣ ଯାକ ଓହ୍ଲାଇପଡ଼ିଲେ। ସେଠାରେ ମାଳ ମାଳ ଗାଡ଼ି। ଲୋକଗହଳି। ଆଗକୁ ଚେକ୍‌ଗେଟ୍। ପୁଲିସର ବିନା ଅନୁମତିରେ ମଣିଷଟିଏ ବି ଯାଇପାରିବନି।

ସାଇମନ୍ କହିଲା, “ଭାଇମାନେ; ଏଠୁ ଖସିବାର ଉପାୟ ନାହିଁ। ତଥାପି ପୁଲିସକୁ ଲାଞ୍ଚ ଦେଇ ଖସିଗଲେ, ଆଗକୁ କ’ଣ ବିପଦ କହିହେବନାହିଁ।



ବରଂ ପୁଲିସ୍ ହାତରେ ଧରାଦେବା । ପୁଲିସ୍ ପଚାରିଲେ କହିବା, “ଭାରତରୁ କାମ କରିବାକୁ ଆସିଥିଲୁ । ଠିକାଦାରକୁ ଆମେ ଜାଣୁନା । ଆମକୁ କେଉଁଠି ଛାଡ଼ି ଚାଲିଗଲା । ଆମେ ଏଇ ରାସ୍ତାରେ ଦୀର୍ଘ ଦିନ ଧରି ଚାଲିଚାଲି ଆସୁଛୁ । ଆପଣମାନେ ଆମକୁ ଭାରତ ଯିବାକୁ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରନ୍ତୁ ।” କଥାଟି ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ମନକୁ ପାଇଲା ।

ସେମାନେ ତା’ ଦୋକାନକୁ ଗଲେ । ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ କପରେ ତା’ ପିଇ ସତେଜ ହେଲେ ।

ମୁକ୍ତ ବାତାବରଣ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଭଲ ଲାଗୁଥିଲା ଯଦିଓ ବିପଦ ତାଙ୍କ ମୁଣ୍ଡ ଉପରୁ ଓହ୍ଲାଇନଥିଲା । ସେମାନେ ସାଙ୍ଗ ହୋଇ ଚେକ୍‌ଗେଟ୍ ନିକଟକୁ ଗଲେ ।

ପୁଲିସ୍ ଅଟକାଇଲା । ସାଇମନ୍ ଖଣ୍ଡି ଇଂରାଜୀକୁ ଅଫିସର ବୁଝିପାରିଲା ନାହିଁ । ବିନା ଭିସାରେ ସେମାନେ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପୁଲିସ୍ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରିଥିବାରୁ ଆରେଷ୍ଟ କରାଯାଇ ହାଜତରେ ରଖାଗଲା ।

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ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟ୍ ସମ୍ମୁଖରେ ସାଇମନ୍ ଇଂରାଜୀରେ କହିଲା, “ସେମାନେ ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଭାରତୀୟ ଶ୍ରମିକ । ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ଶ୍ରମ ଆଇନ୍ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଧାରଣା ନଥିବାରୁ ସେମାନେ ଠିକାଦାର ଛଳନାରେ ପ୍ରତାରିତ ହୋଇ ଏଠାକୁ ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଛନ୍ତି । ମାନ୍ୟବର କୋର୍ଟ ଦୟାକରି ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଭାରତ ଫେରାଇ ଦେବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କଲେ ସେମାନେ କୃତାର୍ଥ ହେବେ । ସେମାନଙ୍କର କୌଣସି ମନ୍ଦ ଅଭିସନ୍ଧି ନାହିଁ ବା ନଥିଲା ।”

ପୁଲିସ୍ ତା’ ବୟାନରେ ଏମାନଙ୍କଠାରୁ କୌଣସି ମାରଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ମିଳିନଥିବାର କହିଲା ଏବଂ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକଙ୍କ ପାଖରେ ଦୁଇଗହ ଡଲାର ଥିବାର ଉଲ୍ଲେଖ କଲା ।

ପୁଲିସ୍ ତା’ କାମ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକଙ୍କର ଶହେ ଡଲାରରେ ହାତ ଚିକ୍କଣ କରିଥିଲା ।

ସାଇମନ୍ କିଛି କହିଲାନି, ରୁପ୍ ରହିଲା ।

ମାଜିଷ୍ଟ୍ରେଟ୍ ତାଙ୍କର ରାୟ ଶୁଣାଇଲେ, “ବିନା ଅନୁମତିରେ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରିଥିବାରୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ତିନିମାସ ଜେଲ ଦଣ୍ଡ । ଜେଲ ଅବଧି ପୂରିଯିବା ପରେ ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଭିସା ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରି ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଭାରତ ଫେରିଯିବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ପୁଲିସ୍ କରିବ ଏ ବାବଦ ୨୦୦ ଡଲାର ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ସେମାନେ ପୁଲିସ୍‌କୁ ଦେବେ ।”

ସାଇମନ୍ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟ ବନ୍ଧୁମାନେ ଆଶ୍ଚସ୍ତ ହେଲେ, ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ପକ୍ଷେ ମାମାସ ପରେ ସେମାନେ ଭାରତ ଫେରିବେ ।

ଜେଲଭ୍ୟାନରେ ବସି ଢାଳିଲେ ତିନିବନ୍ଧୁ ‘ସୁଦାନ’ ଜେଲଖାନାକୁ ।

ମୃତ୍ୟୁଖାନାଠାରୁ ଜେଲଖାନା ବେଶ୍ ଭଲ ଥିଲା । କ’ଣଦୀନେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଖରାପ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରୁନଥିଲେ । ଜେଲରେ ରହିବାର ତୃତୀୟ ଦିନ ଭାରତୀୟ ଦୂତାବାସର କର୍ମଚାରୀ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଜେଲରେ ଭେଟିବାକୁ ଆସିଲେ । ଏ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧ ଖବରକାଗଜରେ ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଇଥିଲା ଓ ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାଇ ଦିଆଯାଇଥିଲା ।

ଦୂତାବାସର କର୍ମଚାରୀମାନେ ଏମାନଙ୍କ ନାମ, ଠିକଣା ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଚିପିନେଲେ ।

ଆଶ୍ଚସ୍ତର ଦୀର୍ଘଶ୍ୱାସ ଛାଡ଼ୁଥିଲେ ତିନିଜଣ । ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତପକ୍ଷେ ପରିବାର ଲୋକେ ଜାଣିବେ ସେମାନେ କେଉଁଠାରେ ।

ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟ ଦିନ ୧୦ଟାବେଳେ ଦୂତାବାସର କର୍ମଚାରୀ ଆସି ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଜେଲରୁ ବାହାରକୁ ନେଲେ । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ପିନ୍ଧିବା ପାଇଁ ନୂଆ ପାଞ୍ଚ ସାର୍ଟ ଦେବା ସହିତ ପାସପୋର୍ଟ, ଭାସା ଓ ଟିକେଟ୍ ଦେଇ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ନେଇ ଚାଲିଲେ ଏୟାରପୋର୍ଟ ଅଭିମୁଖେ ।

ଚେନ୍ନାଇ ଏୟାରପୋର୍ଟରେ ଭୋର ୫ଟାବେଳେ ପ୍ଲେନ୍ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲା ।

ଗଣମାଧ୍ୟମ ପ୍ରତିନିଧିମାନଙ୍କର ଭିଡ଼ ବଢ଼ିଯାଇଥିଲା । ସେମାନେ ଏମାନଙ୍କୁ ଘେରିଯାଇ ଫଟୋ ଉଠାଇବାରେ ଲାଗିପଡ଼ିଲେ ।

ସାଇମନ୍ ଆରବଦେଶର ଚାଷଲ୍ୟକର କାହାଣୀ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା କରୁଥିଲା । କିନ୍ତୁ ପାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କର ସହାୟତା କଥା ଆଦୌ କହିନଥିଲା ।

ସେମାନେ ଯେ ବଞ୍ଚିକରି ଫେରିଛନ୍ତି ଏହା ହିଁ ଥିଲା ତାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସବଠାରୁ ବଡ଼ ଉପଲକ୍ଷି ।

ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଦାବନ ଶ୍ରମିକମାନଙ୍କର ନିର୍ଯ୍ୟାତନାର କାହାଣୀ ଜାତୀୟ ଓ ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ଖବରକାଗଜର ପୃଷ୍ଠା ମଣ୍ଡନ କରିଥିଲା । ଦେଶସାରା ହଜଡ଼ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇଥିଲା । ସଂସଦରେ ହଜାମା ହେଲା କିନ୍ତୁ ଆଇନ୍ ଯେମିତି ସେମିତି ରହିଗଲା ।

ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ଓ ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲା ପରି ଅନେକ ସାନମୁଗମ୍ ଓ ସେକ୍ ଅଲ୍ଲା ନିଜର ଜାଲ ବିସ୍ତାର କରିଚାଲିଥିଲେ । ଦୀର୍ଘ ବର୍ଷ ପରେ ଡକ୍ଟର ହେଲେନ୍ ସେକର୍ ଖୋଜୁଥିଲେ ଏହାର ମଞ୍ଜିଟି କେଉଁଠି ଏବଂ ଏହି ବିଷୟକୁ କିପରି ସମୂଳେ ବିନାଶ କରାଯାଇପାରିବ ।

ଗଜପତି ନଗର, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର-୭୫୧୦୦୫





# ଏକ ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ତମରୁର ନିଆରା କାହାଣୀ

● ସଂଜୀବ କୁମାର ରାଉତରାୟ

ସେଦିନ ଥାଏ ସିତୁଆ ସକାଳର କୁହୁଡ଼ି ସାଥରେ ଧୁଆଁ ଆସି ମୋ ଦେହରେ ବାଜିଲା । ଦେହକୁ ଭଲ ଲାଗୁଥାଏ କିନ୍ତୁ ଆଖି ପୋଡୁଥାଏ । ଆଗକୁ ଗଲାବେଳେ ଦେଖୁଲି ଚା ଜଳଖିଆ ଦୋକାନର କୋଇଲା ଚୁଲିରୁ ଧୁଆଁ ମାଡ଼ି ଆସୁଥାଏ । କେହି ଜଣେ ଡାକୁଥାଏ ନିର୍ମଳା, ଗୀତା ଶୁର ଆଣ ଚୁଲି ଲାଗିଗଲାଣି । ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଲୋକଟି ତାର କାନିରେ ଓମ୍‌ଫେଡ଼ ଶୁର ଧରିଥାଏ ଓ ତା ସାଥରେ ଥିବା ଝିଅଟି ଗୋଟିଏ ହାତରେ ପାଣି ବାଲଟିଏ ଓ ଆଉ ହତରେ ଗିନା ଚାମଚ ଧରି ରାସ୍ତା ପାରି ହେଉଥିଲା । ମୁଁ ଦୋକାନକୁ ରାସ୍ତା ପାରି କରି ଚାଲିଗଲି । ଇନ୍‌ଫୋସିଟି ଗେଟ୍ ଦେଇ ଭିତରକୁ ଯାଇ ଫୁଲ ତୋଳି ଫେରିଲା ବେଳକୁ ସେଇ ଦୋକାନରେ ସାତ ଆଠ ଜଣ ଲୋକ ଠିଆ ହୋଇ ଚା ପିଉଥାନ୍ତି । ମୁଁ ଯାଇ ସେଠି ପହଞ୍ଚିଲି । ଦେଖୁଲି ତେଲ କଢେଇରେ ପଡ଼ିଥାଏ ଗରମ ବରା । ଗରମ ବରା ଖାଇଲା ବେଳକୁ ସେ ଲୋକଟି କହିଲା ଇନ୍‌ଫୋସିଟି ବାବୁଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ ଇଟା ୫୦ ଖଣ୍ଡ ଓ ସିମେଣ୍ଟ ଗୋଟେ ବସ୍ତା ଆଣି ସାମ୍ବା ଆମ୍ଭ ଗଛ ମୂଳରେ ପିଣ୍ଡିଟିଏ କରିଦବା । ମୁଁ ତାକୁ ପଚାରିଲି ମଉସା ଆପଣ କଣ ମିଶ୍ରି କାମ ଜାଣନ୍ତି । ସେ କହିଲା ବାବୁ ଏଇ ଯୋଡ଼ ଘର ଦେଖୁଛନ୍ତି ସେଇ ଘରର ଉପର ମହଲା ମୁଁ ତିଆରି କରିଛି । ମୁଁ ପଚାରିଲି ମଉସା ତୁମ ଘର କେଉଁଠି । ସେ କହିଲା ମୋର ଘର ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀର, ମୋ ନାଁ ତମରୁ । ଦିନକର କଥା ବାବୁ । ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାବେଳେ ଆମ ଗାଁରେ ଗାଡ଼ି ଆସି ଲାଗିଲା । ଜଣେ ଠିକାଦାର ବାବୁ ଓ ଗାଁ ଦଲାଲ ରାଜାକୁ ନେଇ ଆମ ପତାରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ । ରାଜା ପତାରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଘରେ ଯାଇ ଡାକିଲା ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରରୁ ଜଣେ ଠିକାଦାର ବାବୁ ଆସିଛନ୍ତି ପାଖ ଗାଁରୁ ୫ଟି ପରିବାର ବାହାରିଛନ୍ତି, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ଯିବା ପାଇଁ ଆଉ ତମେ ସବୁ ଚାଲ କାମ କରିବ । ଇଟା ଭାଟିରେ ଇଟା ଗଢ଼ିବା କାମ । ରହିବା, ଖାଇବାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରିବେ, ପାଖରେ ଡାକ୍ତରଖାନା, ବଜାର ସୁବିଧା ଅଛି, କିଛି ଅସୁବିଧା ହେବନି । ବାବୁ ତୁମକୁ ବହିନା ଦେବେ ଦିନକୁ ୩୦୦ ଟଙ୍କା ମଜୁରି ଦେବେ, ଆମ କାଲି ଆସିବୁ ବହିନା ଦେବୁ ଆଉ ୭ ଦିନପରେ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ଯିବା କହି ରାଜା ପଲେଇଗଲା ଠିକାଦାର ସାଙ୍ଗରେ । ମୁଁ ସିନା ସେଠି ଚଳିଯିବି ହେଲେ ମା ଝିଅ ସେଠି ଚଳିବେ କେମିତି ।

ସେଦିନ ରାତିରେ ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ନିର୍ମଳା ଓ ଝିଅ ଗୀତା ସହିତ କଥା ହେଲି, ଗାଁରେ ସବୁଦିନ କାମ ମିଳୁନି ଦାଦନ ଖଟିବାକୁ ଯିବା । ନିର୍ମଳା ଓ ଗୀତା କହିଲେ ଠିକାଦାର କୋଉ ଭଲିଆ ଲୋକ ଆମେ ଜାଣିନୁ ଆଉ ଗାଁ ଦଲାଲ ରାଜା କଥାତ ନ କହିଲେ ଭଲ । ଆମେ ଯଦି ଯିବା ଛ ମାସରୁ ଅଧିକା ରହିବାନି ଆଉ ତା ଠାରୁ ସେଇ ହିସାବରେ ଆଉତ୍ତାନ୍ ଟଙ୍କା ଆଣିବା । ସେୟାହିଁ ହେଲା, ଠିକାଦାର ଓ ଦଲାଲ ରାଜା ସହିତ କଥା ହୋଇ ଅଗ୍ରିମ ୫୦ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ରଖିଲୁ । ଲେଖା ପଢ଼ା ହେଲା ମୋ ଝିଅ ଗୀତା ୧୦ମ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ପାଠ ପଢ଼ିଛି । ସେ ସବୁ କଥା କାଗଜରେ ଲେଖି ଦସ୍ତଖତ ଦେଲା । ଠିକ୍ ହେଲା ଅକ୍ଟୋବର ୧ ତାରିଖ ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀରରୁ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ବସରେ ଟିକଟ ହେବ ସେ ପଇସା ଜ୍ଞାନ ବାବୁ ଠିକାଦାର ବହନ କରିବେ । ଆମେ ବାହାରି ଗଲୁ ୧ ତାରିଖ ରାତିରେ ଓ ୨ ତାରିଖ ସକାଳେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଲୁ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରରେ । ବସ୍ ଷ୍ଟାଣ୍ଡରେ ଇଟା ଭାଟିର ସୁପରଭାଇଜର ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣବାବୁ ଆମକୁ ନେଇଗଲେ ପ୍ରାୟ ୧୦ କିଲୋ ମିଟର ଦୂର ବାଲିଅନ୍ତା ଗାଁକୁ । ଗାଁ ଶେଷ ମୁଣ୍ଡରୁ ଗୋଟେ କିଲୋମିଟର ଦୂର ଇଟାଭାଟି ପାଖରେ ଦୁଇଟି ଛୋଟ କେବିନ୍ । ଚା, ଜଳଖିଆ ଓ ଡାଲି ଚାଉଳ ଦେବାକୁ ସୁପରଭାଇଜର ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣବାବୁ ଆମକୁ କହିଲେ ମୁଁ ତୁମ ପାଇଁ ଖାଇବା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରୁଛି ତମେ ସବୁ ଏତେ ବାଟରୁ ଆସିଛି ରାତି ଅନିଦ୍ରା ଆଜି କାମ ନ କରି ରେଷ୍ଟ୍‌ନିଅ । କାଲି ସକାଳୁ କାମ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିବ । ସେଠି ଥାଏ ଚାରି ବଖରା ଘର । ପାଇଖାନା ସୁବିଧା ନାହିଁ । ଘର ବାହାରେ ଥାଏ ଅଧା ଭଙ୍ଗା ୫ଟା କାଠ ଚୁଲା । ଆମେ ଯାଇ ଆଉ ୨୦ ଜଣ କଷ୍ଟେ ମଷ୍ଟେ ସେ ଘରେ ରହିଲୁ । ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଝିଅ ଖାଲି ନାକ ଟେକୁଥାନ୍ତି, ମୋ ଉପରେ ଗରଗର ହେଉଥାନ୍ତି । ତାଙ୍କୁ ମୁଁ କଥା ଦେଲି ଆମେ ଠିକାଦାରଠାରୁ ଯେତିକି ପଇସା ଆଣିଛେ ସେତିକିରେ କାମ ସରିଗଲେ ଆମ ପଲେଇ ଯିବା । ନିର୍ମଳା ଓ ଗୀତା ରାଜିହେଲା । ମୁଁ ବାହାରି ଗଲି ପାଖ ଦୋକାନକୁ ସେଠାରୁ ଡାଲି, ଚାଉଳ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ନେଇ ଅସିଲା ବେଳକୁ ଦେଖୁଲି ମା ଝିଅ ମିଶି ଭଙ୍ଗା ଚୁଲିକୁ ସଜାଡ଼ି ଲିପାଲିପି କରିବା ସହିତ ତା ପାଖରେ ତୁଳସୀ



ଗଛ ଚଉରା ତିଆରି କରିଛନ୍ତି । ପ୍ରଥମେ ଦୁଇମାସ କାମ ଠିକ୍ ଚାଲିଲା । ଆମେ ୨୦ ଜଣ ଇଟା ପକାଇଥିଲୁ । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ହିସାବ ସୁପରଭାଇଜର ବାବୁ ରଖିଥାନ୍ତି । ମୁଁ ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଓ ଝିଅ ମିଶି ଦିନକୁ ଦୁଇ ହଜାର ଇଟା ପକଇ ଥିଲୁ । ଭାଟିରୁ ଇଟା ଯାହା ବାହାରେ ଅଳ୍ପ କିଛି ରହି ବାକି ସରି ଯାଉଥାଏ । ମାଲିକ, ସୁପରଭାଇଜର ଆମ କାମରେ ଖୁସି ଥାନ୍ତି । ଆମେ ସକାଳୁ ଆମ କାମ ସାରି ପଖାଳ ଖାଇ ସକାଳ ୭ଟା ବେଳକୁ କାମ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିଦେଉ । ଦିନ ଗୋଟାଏ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ କାମ କରୁ । ତା’ ପରେ ଖାଇ କରି ବିଶ୍ରାମ ନେଇ ପୁଣି କାମରେ ୩ଟା ବେଳୁ ଲାଗିଯାଉ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ । ହଠାତ ଇଟା ଅର୍ଡର ଆସିଲା ୧୫ ଦିନ ଭିତରେ ଦେଡ଼ ଲକ୍ଷ ଦେବା ପାଇଁ । ମାଲିକ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ବେଳକୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଡାକି ତାଗିଦ୍ କରିଲେ ତମେ ମାନେ ଠିକ୍ ଭାବେ କାମ କରୁନି ଠକ୍କୁ ତମ ମନ ଇଚ୍ଛା କାମ କରୁଛ, ଖରା ବେଳେ ତିନିଘଣ୍ଟା ଶୋଇପଡୁଛ ଶୀତ ଦିନ ହେଲାଣି ଶୀତ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟା ହେଇଯାଉଛି, ମୁଁ ତ ସକାଳ ବେଳା କାମ ଦେଖୁ ପାରୁନି ତମେମାନେସବୁ କ’ଣ କରୁଛ ? ଆଜି ଜଣେ ଆସି ଅର୍ଡର ଦେଇଛି ଦେଡ଼ ଲକ୍ଷ ଇଟା ପାଇଁ ମୁଁ ତା ଠାରୁ ଆଡଭାନ୍ସ ରଖି ଦେଇଛି । ତାକୁ ୧୫ ଦିନ ଭିତରେ ଇଟା ଦେବାକୁ ପଡିବ, ସିଏ ଇଟା ପଇସା ଦେଲେ ମୁଁ ତୁମକୁ ହିସାବ କରି ତମ ପଇସା ଦେବି, ନହେଲେ ମୁଁ ପଇସା କୋଉଠୁ ଆଣିକି ଦେବି ଏତିକି କହି ମାଲିକ ଚାଲିଗଲା । ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଝିଅ ମୋ ଉପରେ ରାଗୁଥାନ୍ତି । ଗାଁରେ ଭଲରେ ଥିଲେ ନିଜ ଘରେ ଖାଉଥିଲେ ନିଜ ଘରେ ରହୁଥିଲେ ।

ଏଠି ଏତେ କାମ କରିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ମାଲିକର ତାଗିଦ୍ ଶୁଣିବାକୁ ପଡୁଛି । ମୁଁ ତାକୁ ବୁଝାଇ ଥାଏ ୨ ମାସ ସରିଗଲା ଆଉ ମାସେ ଗଲେ ଆମ ପଇସା ହିସବ କରି ଆମେ ପଲେଇ ଯିବା । ତୁମେ ମାନେ ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ହୁଅନାହିଁ । ତା ପର ଦିନ ସକାଳୁ ମାଲିକ ଜ୍ଞାନ ବାବୁ ଓ ସୁପର ଭାଇଜର ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବାବୁ କାମ ଜିଲେ, ଆମେ ଆମର କାମ ଠିକ୍ ଭାବେ କରୁଥାଉ । ମାଲିକ, ସୁପରଭାଇଜର ଠିଆ ହୋଇ କେତେ ଇଟା ପଡୁଛି ଗଣୁଥାନ୍ତି । ଆଉ ତାଗିଦ୍ କରୁଥାନ୍ତି ଜଳଦି ଜଳଦି କର ହାତ ଫୁର୍ତ୍ତ କର । ଆମେ ଇଟା ପକାଇଲା ପରେ ଖରାବେଳେ ଖାଇ ଶୋଇବାକୁ ଗଲୁ । ଘଣ୍ଟାଏ ହୋଇଛି କି ନାହିଁ ସୁପରଭାଇଜର ଆସି ଡାକିଲା ଚାଲ କାମକୁ ଚାଲ ଆଉ କେତେ ସମୟ ବିଶ୍ରାମ ନେବ । ପୁଣି କାମ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେଲା ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାବେଳକୁ କାମ କଲୁ । ରାତି ସାତଟା ବାଜିଲା ଦିନଯାକ ପରିଶ୍ରମ ଦେହ ହାତରେ ପାଡ଼ା ହେଉଥାଏ, ଏଇ ଭଳି କାମ ଚାଲୁଥାଏ ସପ୍ତାହେ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ, ବିଶ୍ରାମ ନାହିଁ, ଆଠ ଦଶ ଜଣ ଜୁର, ଝାଡାରେ ପଡିଲେ । ସେମାନେ ମାଲିକକୁ ଡାକିରକ କଥା କହିଲାକୁ ମାଲିକ କହିଲା ଏଠି କେଉଁଠି ଡାକିରଖାନା ଅଛି, ସେ କ’ଣ ଔଷଧ ଆଣିଦେଲା, ଔଷଧ ଖାଇ କାମ କରୁଥାନ୍ତି ସମସ୍ତେ । ଦେହ ଭଲ ଲାଗୁ ନଥାଏ, ତଥାପି ମୁଁ ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଓ ଝିଅ ଦିନକୁ ପ୍ରାୟ ତିନି ହଜାର ଇଟା ପକଇ ଥାଉ । ଦେହ ଖରାପରେ ଆମେ ସମସ୍ତେ ମିସି, ଦେଡ଼ ଲକ୍ଷ ଉପରେ ଇଟା ପକାଇଦେଲୁ । ସେ ବାବୁ ଆସି ଇଟା ନେଇଗଲେ । ତା ଦୁଇ ଦିନ ପରେ ମାଲିକକୁ ହିସାବ ମାଗିବାରୁ ମାଲିକ କହିଲେ ମୁଁ ବ୍ୟସ୍ତରେ ଅଛି କାଲି ହିସାବ କରିବା ତା ପରଦିନ ମାଲିକଙ୍କ ଦେଖା ନାହିଁ । ମାଲିକ କିନ୍ତୁ ମୋ ପରିବାର ଉପରେ ଖୁସି ଥିଲେ । ଆମେ କାମ ଠିକ୍ ଭାବେ କରୁ । ମାଲିକ ଓ ସୁପରଭାଇଜର ତାଙ୍କ ଅର୍ଦ୍ଧସ ରୁମ୍ ଚାକି ବେଳେ ବେଳେ ଆମକୁ ଦେଇ ଦେଇ ଯାନ୍ତି ।

ସେ ଦିନ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେଲା ମୋ ଜୀବନର ଆଉ ଗୋଟିଏ ଅଧ୍ୟାୟ । ଦିନ ବାରଟା ହେବ ଜଣେ ବାବୁ କାର୍ ଧରି ଆସି ପହଞ୍ଚିଲେ । ସେ ପରିଚୟ ଦେଲେ ମୁଁ ଜନ୍‌ଫୋସିଟି ଛକ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରରୁ ଆସିଛି । ସେ ଆସି ମାଲିକଙ୍କୁ ଖୋଜିଲେ, ମୁଁ ମାଲିକଙ୍କୁ ଖବର ଦେଲି ମାଲିକ ଆମକୁ ପଇସା ଦେବାକୁ ପଡିବ ବୋଲି ଭାଟିକୁ ଆସୁ ନଥାନ୍ତି । ମାଲିକଙ୍କ ସହିତ ଜନ୍‌ଫୋସିଟି ବାବୁ କଥା ହେଲେ, ତା ପରେ ମୋତେ ମୋବାଇଲ୍ ଧରାଇଦେଲେ, ମାଲିକ ମୋତେ କହିଲେ ମୁଁ ତାଙ୍କ ଠାରୁ ଆଡଭାନ୍ସ ରଖି ଦେଇଛି । ତାଙ୍କୁ ଅଡେଇ ହଜାର ଇଟା ଗଣିକି ଦେଇ ଦରୁ । ଆଉ ବାକି ପାଞ୍ଚ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ରଖି ଦରୁ । ଗାଡିରେ ଇଟା ଲୋଡିଂ ହେଲା । ବାବୁ ସେ ଲେବର ମାନଙ୍କୁ କହିଲେ ଧିରେ ଧିରେ ଇଟା ଥୁଅ ଛେଟ ନାହିଁ । ଇଟା ଗୋଟେ ଆଠ ଟଙ୍କା ହେଲାଣି । ଘର ପାଖରେ ଟ୍ରକରେ ଇଟା ପହଞ୍ଚିଲା ବେଳକୁ ମୋର ଦଶ ଟଙ୍କା ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହେଇଯାଇଛି । ମୁଁ ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଓ ମୋ ଝିଅଙ୍କୁ ଆସି କହିଲି ମାଲିକ ଇଟା ଗୋଟାକୁ ଆଠ ଟଙ୍କା କରି ବିକିଛି । ଆମେ ଏତେ ପରିଶ୍ରମ କରି ଆମର ମୂଲ୍ୟ ମିଳୁନି । ଝିଅ ମୋର ହିସାବ କରିଲା । ମୁଁ, ମା ବାପା ହେଇ ଦିନକୁ ତିନି ହଜାର ଇଟାକୁ ମାଲିକ ଆମକୁ ନଅ ଶହ ଟଙ୍କା ହେଲେ ଗୋଟେ ଇଟା ପକେଇବାକୁ ପଡିଲା ତିରିଶ ପଇସା ସବୁ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ମିଶିଲେ ବି ଗୋଟେ ଇଟାରେ ଟଙ୍କାଟାଏ ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ହେଉ, ମାଲିକ ଗୋଟେ ଇଟାରେ ପାଉଛି ସାତଟଙ୍କା ଅଥଚ ଆମର ହିସାବ କରୁନି କି ପଇସା ଦଉନି । ଆମେ ସ୍ଥିର କରିଲୁ ଆମେ ଆଣିଥିବା ବହିନା ପଇସାର ହିସାବ ଠିକ୍ ହୋଇଗଲାଣି ଆଉ ହିସାବରେ ଦୁଇ, ତିନି ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ପାଇବୁ ମାଲିକଠାରୁ । ପଇସା ଦରକାର ଗାଁକୁ ପଠେଇବି କହି ପଇସା ଧରି ଏଇ ଯାଗା ଛାଡ଼ି ପଲେଇ ଯିବା । ମୁଁ ବାବୁଙ୍କ ସହିତ କଥା ହୋଇ ଆଉ କୋଡ଼ିଏଟା ଇଟା ଅଧିକା





ଦେଲି । ବାବୁ ଖୁସି ହୋଇଗଲେ, ମୋତେ ପଚାରିଲେ, ତମ ଗାଁ କେଉଁଠି, ତମେ ଏଠି କିଏ କିଏ କାମ କରୁଛ, ମୁଁ ତାଙ୍କୁ ସବୁ କଥା କହିଲି । ଏଠି ମାଲିକ ଆମକୁ ବାରଘଣ୍ଟା ଖଟଉଛି, ଖାଇବା ଶୋଇବାର ଠିକଣା ନାହିଁ । ଦେହ ଖରାପ ହେଲେ ମାଲିକ ତାଙ୍କରକୁ ଦେଖଇ ନାହିଁ କି କାମର ହିସାବ ମାରିଲେ ପଇସା ଦେଉନାହିଁ । ସେ ବାବୁଙ୍କର ମୋ ପ୍ରତି ଦୟା ହେଲା । ସେ ମୋତେ କହିଲେ ତୁମେ ଚାଉନକୁ ଯାଇ ଲେବର, ମିଷ୍ଟା କାମ କରୁନ ସବୁ ଦିନ କାମ ପାଇବ ନହେଲେ ଚାଲୁନ ମୋ ଘର କାମ କରିବ । ମୁଁ ବାବୁ ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଛୁଆଙ୍କୁ ପଚାରିଲି କହିବି । ତା' ପରେ ବାବୁ କହିଲେ ମୋ ଘର ଠିକଣା ରଖ । ମୁଁ ଆଉ ଦୁଇଦିନ ପରେ ଆସିବି ଇଚା ନେବା ପାଇଁ । ମୋ ସାଙ୍ଗରେ ପଲେଇଯିବ । ଏହା କହି ବାବୁ ଚାଲିଗଲେ । ତା'ପରେ ମୁଁ ମାଆ ଝିଅ ବସି କଥା ହେଲୁ କ'ଣ କରିବା ! ଝିଅ ମୋର ପାଠ ପଢୁଆ । ସେ ହିସାବ କରିଲା, ବାପା ଆମର ମାଲିକଠାରୁ ଆଉ ପଚିଶ ଶହ ଟଙ୍କା ପାଇବାର ଅଛି । ଗାଡ଼ି ଖର୍ଚ୍ଚ ମିଶାଇ ତିନି ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ମାଗିବା ଆଉ କହିବା ମୁଁ ଗାଁକୁ ପଇସା ପଠେଇବି, ମାଲିକ ହିସାବ କରୁନି, ଆମେ କହିବା ବଳକା କାମ ହିସାବ ପରେ କରିବା । ମାଲିକ ସନ୍ଧ୍ୟାବେଳକୁ ଆସିଲେ ପଇସା ନବା ପାଇଁ । ମୁଁ ତାଙ୍କୁ କହିଲି ମୋର ତିନି ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ଦରକାର ଗାଁକୁ ବରମୁଣ୍ଡା ବସ୍ତ୍ରାଣ୍ଡରୁ କାଲି ସକାଳେ ବସ୍ତରେ ପଠେଇବି, ଆଉ ପଇସା ପରେ କାମରୁ ହିସାବ କରି କାଟିଦେବେ । ମାଲିକ ମୋତେ ପଇସା ଦେଇଦେଲେ । ଆମେ ଖୁସି ହୋଇଗଲୁ । ଆମ ଗାଁର ଅନ୍ୟମାନେ ଆମ ସହିତ କାମ କରୁଥିଲେ, ତାଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାଇ ଦେଲୁ ଆମର ବଇନା ପଇସା ସରିଗଲାଣି, ତମେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଜାଗା ଛାଡ଼ି ପଳେଇଯାଅ ।

ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଝିଅ ରାତିରେ ମୋତେ କହିଲେ କାଲି ସକାଳେ ତୁମେ ଯାଇ ସେ ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରପୋସିଟି ବାବୁଙ୍କ ଘର ଦେଖି ଆସ, ଭଲ ଲାଗିଲେ ଆମ ଯାଇ ସେଠାରେ ରହିବା, ନହେଲେ ଗାଁକୁ ପଳେଇବା । ଏଠୁ ବାହାରିବାର ଅଛି । ମୁଁ ସକାଳୁ ବାବୁ ଦେଇଥିବା ଠିକଣାରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଗଲି । ବଡ଼ କୁକୁରଟାଏ ବନ୍ଧା ହୋଇଛି ଗେଟ୍ ପାଖରେ । ଦୁଇ ମହଲା କୋଠା । କୋଟିପତି ଲୋକ । ବାବୁ ମୋତେ ଦେଖି ଖୁସି ହୋଇଗଲେ । କହିଲେ କ'ଣ ଚିନ୍ତା କଲୁ, ସେଠି ରହିବୁ ନା ଏଠି ମୋର ବର୍ଷେ କାମ ଲାଗିବ । ଏଠି କାମ କରିବୁ ? ରହିବୁ କେଉଁଠି ? ବାବୁ କହିଲେ ମୋର ଘର ପଛ ପଟରେ ଆଉଁସବେଷ୍ଟ ଘର । ତା' ଭିତରେ ରୋଷେଇ ଓ ପାଇଖାନା ଘର ଅଛି । ସେଠି ରହିବ । ତା' ପରେ ବାବୁ କହିଲେ କାଲି ସକାଳେ ମୁଁ ଯୋଉ ଟ୍ରକ୍ ନେଇ କରି ଯିବି । ସେଇ ଟ୍ରକ୍ରେ ତୁମେ ପଲେଇ ଆସିବ । ତୁମର ବ୍ୟାଗ୍ ରେଡି କରି ଦେଇଥିବ । ବାବୁଙ୍କଠାରୁ ମୁଁ ବିଦାୟ ନେଇ ଆସିଲି । ମୁଁ ଆସି ମା ଝିଅଙ୍କୁ ସବୁ କଥା କହିଲି । ତା' ପରେ ସବୁ ଜିନିଷ ସଜାଡ଼ି ଦେଇ ଆମେ ସକାଳୁ ଯିବା ପାଇଁ ପୁରା ରେଡି ହୋଇଗଲୁ । ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ମୋର କହିଲା ମାଲିକର ଆମ ପ୍ରତି ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ଥିଲାବୋଲି ପଇସା ଦେଲା । ଆମେ ମାଲିକକୁ ଜଣାଇଲେ ସେ ଆମକୁ ଛାଡ଼ିବ ନାହିଁ । ଆମେ ଗୋଟେ ଚିଠି ଲେଖିଦେଇ ଗଲେ ଅସୁବିଧା କ'ଣ ? ଝିଅ ମୋର ଚିଠିଟିଏ ଲେଖିଲା । ସେଥିରେ ଲେଖିଲା ଗାଁରୁ ଖବର ଆସିଛି ଜେଜେ ମା'ଙ୍କ ଦେହ ଭଲ ନାହିଁ । ସେ ଆମମାନଙ୍କୁ ଦେଖିବାକୁ ଡାକୁଛନ୍ତି । ଆମେ ଯାଉଛୁ, ତାଙ୍କ ଦେହ ଭଲ ହେଲେ ଆମେ ପଲେଇ ଆସିବୁ । ତା' ପରଦିନ ସକାଳେ ବାବୁଙ୍କର ଟ୍ରକ୍ ଆସି ଲାଗିଲା । ସୁପରଭାଇଜର ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣବାବୁ ଇଚା ହିସାବ କରି ପଇସା ରଖିଲେ, ମୋତେ କହିଲେ ମୁଁ ଯାଉଛି ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କରେ କାମ ଅଛି । ଆମେ ଲେଖିଥିବା ଚିଠିଟି ମାଲିକଙ୍କ ଟେବୁଲ୍ ଉପରେ ରଖିଦେଇ ଟ୍ରକ୍ରେ ପଲେଇ ଆସିଲୁ । ଆମେ ଖବର ପାଇଲୁ ଗାଁକୁ ମାଲିକ ଓ ରାଜା ଦଲାଲ ଆସି ଆମକୁ ଖୋଜାଖୋଜି କରି ଯାଇଛନ୍ତି ।

ଇନ୍ଦ୍ରପୋସିଟି ବାବୁଙ୍କ ଘରେ ଆମେ ତିନିବର୍ଷ ହେଲା ରହିଲୁଣି । କୁନା ବାବୁଙ୍କ ଘରେ କାମ ବୁଝାବୁଝି କରନ୍ତି । ଆମ ଗାଁ ପାଖର ପିଲାଟେ ଗଲା ବର୍ଷ କୁନା ସହିତ ମୋ ଝିଅ ଗୀତାକୁ ବାହା କରେଇଛି । କୁନା ଏଇ ପାଖରେ ଥିବା ଗୋଡ଼େ ବଡ଼ ଏନ୍‌ଜିଓରେ କାମ କରୁଛି ମାସକୁ ଷୋଳ ସତର ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ପାଉଛି । ବେଳେବେଳେ ବୋଲେରୋ ଇଣ୍ଡିକା ଗାଡ଼ି ଧରି ଘରକୁ ଖରାବେଳେ ଖାଇବାକୁ ଆସୁଛି । ବାବୁ ଘର କାମ ବର୍ଷେ ଭିତରେ ସରିଗଲା । ବାବୁ ଏଇ ଛୋଟ ଚା ଜଳଖିଆ ଦୋକାନ ଆମ ପାଇଁ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ମୁଁ ଦୋକାନରେ ବସେ, ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ମୋତେ ସାହାଯ୍ୟ କରେ । ମୁଁ ବାବୁଙ୍କ ଘରର ପରିବା ସଉଦା ଆଣେ ଆଉ ମୋ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ତାଙ୍କ ଘରେ ବାସନ ମଜା କାମ କରେ । ବାବୁଙ୍କ ଝିଅ ସିଲେଇ ଟ୍ରେନିଂ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର କରିଛି, ମୋ ଝିଅ ସେଠାର ସିଲାଇ ଶିଖି ମାସକୁ ପାଞ୍ଚ, ଛଅ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ରୋଜଗାର କରୁଛି । ମୋତେ ଏହା ସବୁ ଶୁଣି ଭାରି ଖୁସି ଲାଗିଲା, ଏତିକିବେଳେ ମୋ ମୋବାଇଲ୍ ବାଜିଲା, ଦିନ ଦଶଟା ବାଜିଲାଣି, ଫୁଲ ନେଇକି ଆସିଲେ ମୁଁ ପୂଜା କରିବି ।



# ମୁକ୍ତି ଅପେକ୍ଷାରେ

● ଖଗେଶ୍ୱର ମହତାବ

ଏଠି କିଏ କାହାର ନିଜର ?  
 ରାତି ପାହିଲେ ଅଛି କି କାହାର  
 ମିଠା ଡାକ କି ଆଦର  
 ଭାଇ ! ପୁଅ ! ବାପା ! ମଜସା ! ସଙ୍ଗାତ !  
 ନା ଅଛି ଦେହର ପାତା ଭୁଲିବା ପାଇଁ  
 ସାଙ୍ଗ ସାଥୀ, ଖୁସି ମଜା, ଗପ,  
 ମେଲଣ କି ଯାତ,  
 ନା ଅଛି ଗାଆଁ ଭୁଲିବାର ଆହାପନ  
 ନା ଦିବେଳା ଭଲରେ ଭଲରେ ପୁରୁଛି  
 ଏ ନିଉଛଣା ପେଟ  
 ପିଲାଛୁଆ ତ ଗାଁରେ କେମିତି କେଜାଣି  
 ମରୁଥିବ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଭୋକ ॥

ପେଟ ପାଇଁ ତ ସୁଖ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନ ଖୋଜି ଆସିଲି ବିଦେଶ  
 ଭାବିଥିଲି ଦାଦନ ଖଣି ଦି ପଇସା କମେଇଲେ  
 ଗାଁକୁ ଫେରି ମରାମତି କରିବି ମୋ ଝାଟିମାଟି ଘର  
 ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ପିଲାଛୁଆଙ୍କ ଦେଖିହେଲାନି ଅଭେଦ  
 ଗଲେ କିଣିବି ତେଲ, ସାବୁନ, ଚାଉଳ ଓ ସୁଖ  
 ପିଲା ଦିଲଟା ସ୍କୁଲ ଯିବେ ତାଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ପୋଷାକ  
 ଖଡ଼ି ସିଲଟ ବହିପତ୍ର  
 ମୁଁ କ'ଣ ଜାଣିଥିଲି ଏଠି ଲାଭଖୋର ମାଲିକ  
 ମାଲିକ ନୁହେଁ ତ ଜହ୍ନୁଦ ମୋ ଛାତିରେ  
 ଲଦିଦେବ ପଥର  
 ମୋ ସ୍ୱପ୍ନରେ ଲଗେଇଦେବ କୋଲପ ॥

ବଡ଼ ବିଶ୍ୱାସରେ ଗାଁ ଛାଡ଼ି ଆସିଥିଲି ବିଦେଶ  
 ମୋ ସରଳ ଭୋକିଲା ନିରାହ ମନ  
 ଜାଣିନଥିଲା ଏ ଅମଣିଷ ଦଲାଲଙ୍କ ଷଡ଼ଯନ୍ତ୍ର  
 ବର୍ଷକରୁ ଅଧିକ ହେଲାଣି ଏଠି ଖଟିବା  
 କିଏ ଦେଉଛି ମଜୁରୀ ରୁକ୍ତି ମୁତାବକ

ନା ପେଟ ପୁରିଲା ପରି ଦୁଇବେଳା ଭାତ  
 ଖାଲି କାମର ତାରିଦ  
 ଜ୍ୱର, କାଶ, ଝାଡ଼ା କି ଆଉ କିଛି ବାଧୁକିହେଲେ  
 କ'ଣ ମିଳୁଛି ଔଷଧ ?  
 ଦେହ ପାଇଁ ପଥ କଥାତ ଛାଡ଼ ॥

ସବୁକିଛି ଲାଗୁଛି ତହଲ ବିକଳ  
 ମନେପଡୁଛି ଗାଁ ଭିଟାମାଟି ଛାଡ଼ି ଆସିଥିବା  
 ସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଦିଦିଲଟା କଅଁଳା ଛୁଆ ରୋଗିଣୀ ମାଆକୁ  
 ନେଇ ମୋର ଘର ନୁଆଣିଆ ନଡ଼ା ଛପର  
 କେମିତି କେଜାଣି ଚଳୁଥିବେ ସେମାନେ ?  
 ଏତେ ଦୂରରୁ କ'ଣ ଆଖି ପାଉଛି  
 ନା ଜାଣି ହେଉଛି କିଛି ଖବର  
 ଏଠି ତା'ପ୍ରତି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତରେ ଠିକାଦାରର  
 କଡ଼ା ପହରା, ନଜର, ଚାବୁକର ଡର  
 ପୋଡ଼ା କପାଳକୁ ସବୁ କିଛି ଅସାର, ଅନ୍ଧାର ॥

କେଜାଣି କେତେଦିନ ଏଠି ଅଧ୍ୟାପେଟରେ  
 ମରିମରି ଜିଇବାକୁ ହେବ ?  
 ଏବେ ଜଣେ ବାବୁ ଆସିଥିଲେ ଲାଗୁଥିଲେ  
 ଦେବତାପରି ବୁଝିଯାଇଛନ୍ତି ସବୁ ଦୁଃଖ ଖବର  
 କହିଯାଇଛନ୍ତି ଏଠୁ ମୁକୁଳିଲେ ଗାଁକୁ ପଠାଇବାର  
 ବନ୍ଦୋବସ୍ତ କରିବେ ଦି ଦିନ ଭିତରେ  
 ଗଲାବେଳେ ସେ ଲାଗୁଥିଲା ତାଙ୍କ ଆଖି  
 ଦୟା ଓ ମାନବିକତାରେ ଲୁହଟଳମଳ ॥

ଏବେ ଲାଗୁଛି ଆଉ ବେଶିଦିନ ନୁହେଁ  
 ଏ ମନ୍ଦ କପାଳରେ ଦୁଃଖ ଓ ଅନ୍ଧାର  
 ଯାହା ବି ହେଉ ଛାତିକୁ ପଥର କରି ରହିବାକୁ ପଡୁଛି  
 ଆଖି ଆଗରେ ନାଚିଯାଉଛି ମୋ ଗାଁ  
 ଭିଟାମାଟି ଖୁସିଖୁସି ବେଳ ॥

ଶ୍ରମ ଭବନ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର



ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକ

## ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ

● ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ସଂଯୁକ୍ତା ମହଲ

ଗରୀବ ଯାହାର ଭାଗ୍ୟରେ ଲେଖା  
ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ସେଇଠାରେ ଦେଖା  
ରାଜ୍ୟରୁ ରାଜ୍ୟକୁ ଯାଆନ୍ତି ଖଟି  
ଦଳାଳ ହାତରେ ନିଜକୁ ବିକି  
ଖଟିବାର ଶ୍ରମ ମିଳେନି ସେଠି  
ଦିନ ରାତି ଖଟି ପଡ଼ନ୍ତି ଥକି  
କାମର ନଥାଏ ସମୟସୀମା  
ମାଲିକ ହାତରେ ରହନ୍ତି ଜିମା  
ସୁନ୍ଦର ସଂସାର ସରଗ ପରି  
(କିନ୍ତୁ) ନିଜ ଜୀବନଟା ନରକପୁରୀ  
ଛାରଖାର ହୁଏ ତା' ପରିବାର  
ଦୁଃଖ କଷ୍ଟେ ବିତେ ଜୀବନ ତା'ର  
ଶୈଶବରୁ ଆସେ ବାର୍ଦ୍ଧକ୍ୟ ମାଡ଼ି  
ଯାତନା ମିଳଇ ରୋଗରେ ପଡ଼ି  
ଶ୍ରମ କରି ଯେବେ ମାଗେ ସେ ପ୍ରାପ୍ୟ

ଦେବାକୁ ପଡ଼ଇ ତାହାର ହସ୍ତ  
ସରକାର ଯଦି ବେଲୁ ଚେତିନ  
ନିଜ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଛାଡ଼ି କେହି ନଯିବ  
ପାଣି ପବନକୁ ସବୁଜ ସଙ୍କେତ  
ଖଣି ଖାଦାନକୁ କୃଷି ଜଙ୍ଗଲ  
କଳ କାରଖାନା ବହୁତ ଏଠି  
ଶ୍ରମିକ ନପାଇ ବିଦେଶ ଖଟି  
ସରକାରୀ ଯୋଜନା ପ୍ରଚାର କରି  
ପଞ୍ଜିକୃତ କର ଶ୍ରମିକ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ  
ସଚେତନ ହୁଅ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଭାଇ  
ନିଶ୍ଚିତ କର୍ମ ଯୋଜନା ଜାଣି  
ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଉଚ୍ଛେଦ କରି  
ସୁସ୍ଥ ସମାଜ ଗଢ଼ିବା ତୋଳି  
ଆସ ହେ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଶପଥ ନେବା  
ଶ୍ରମ କରି ନିଜ ହକ୍ ମାଗିବା ।

ସଂପାଦକିକା, ଏଚ୍.ଏମ୍.ଏସ୍  
ପ୍ଲଟ୍- ୨୩/୨୪, ଶାନ୍ତିନଗର, ଝାରପଡ଼ା  
ଫୋନ୍ ନଂ ୯୪୩୯୨୦୩୬୮୭

◆◆◆



## The Interstate Migrant workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979

(30 of 1979)

(11th June, 1979)

An Act to regulate the employment of inter-State migrant workmen and to provide for their conditions of service and for matters connected therewith.

Be it enacted by Praliament in the Thireenth Year of the Republic of India as follows :-

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### THE SCHEDULE

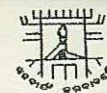
## CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent, commencement and application.—(1) This Act may be called the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.
  - (2) It extends to the whole of India.
  - (3) It shall come into force on such date<sup>1</sup> as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint:
 

Provided that if the Central Government considers it necessary or expedient so to do in the public interest, it may postpone or relax, to such extent as may be specified in such notification, the operation of all or any of the provisions of this Act in any State or States for such period not extending beyond one year from the date on which this Act comes into force.
  - (4) It applies—
    - (a) to every establishment in which five or more inter-State migrant workmen (whether or not in addition to other workmen) are employed or who were employed on any day of the preceding twelve months;
    - (b) to every contractor who employs or who employed five or more inter-State migrant workmen (whether or not in addition to other workmen) on any day of the preceding twelve months.
2. Definitions.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,— (a) "appropriate Government" means,— (i) in relation to—
  - (1) any establishment pertaining to any industry carried on by or under the authority of the Central Government or pertaining to any such controlled industry as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government; or



- (2) any establishment of any railway, Cantonment Board, major port, mine or oil-field; or
- (3) any establishment of a banking or insurance company, the Central Government;
1. Came into force on 2nd October, 1980, vide G.S.R. 513(E), dated 11th August, 1980, published in the Gazette of India, Extra., Pt. II, Sec. 3(i), p. 891.
2. The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979
- (ii) in relation to any other establishment, the Government of the State in which that other establishment is situated;
- (b) "contractor", in relation to an establishment, means a person who undertakes (whether as an independent contractor, agent, employee or otherwise) to produce a given result for the establishment, other than a mere supply of goods or articles of manufacture to such establishment, by the employment of workmen or to supply workmen to the establishment, and includes a sub-contractor, Khatadar, Sardar, agent or any other person, by whatever name called, who recruits or employs workmen;
- (c) "controlled industry" means any industry the control of which by the Union has been declared by any Central Act to be expedient in the public interest;
- (d) "establishment" means—
- (i) any office or department of the Government or a local authority; or
- (ii) any place where any industry, trade, business, manufacture or occupation is carried on;
- (e) "inter-State migrant workman" means any person who is recruited by or through a contractor in one State under an agreement or other arrangement for employment in an establishment in another State, whether with or without the knowledge of the principal employer in relation to such establishment;
- (f) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;
- (g) "principal employer" means,—
- (i) in relation to any office or department of the Government or a local authority, the head of that office, department or authority or such other officer as the Government or the local authority, as the case may be, may specify in this behalf;
- (ii) in relation to a factory, the owner or occupier of the factory and where a person has been named as the manager of the factory under the Factories Act, 1948 (63 of 1948), the person so named;
- (iii) in relation to a mine, the owner or agent of the mine and where a person has been named as the manager of the mine, the person so named;
- (iv) in relation to any other establishment, any person responsible for the supervision and control of the establishment.
- Explanation.—For the purposes of sub-clause (iii) of this clause, the expressions "mine", "owner" and "agent" shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in clause (j), clause (e) and clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Mines Act, 1952 (35 of 1952);
- (h) "recruitment" includes entering into any agreement or other arrangement for recruitment and all its grammatical variations and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly;
- (i) "wages" shall have the meaning assigned to it in clause (vi) of section 2 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 (4 of 1936);



The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment Sec 2 and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979'

- (j) "workman" means any person employed in or in connection with the work of any establishment to do any skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled, manual, supervisory, technical or clerical work for hire or reward, whether the terms of employment be express or implied, but does not include any such person—
- (i) who is employed mainly in a managerial or administrative capacity; or
  - (ii) who, being employed in a supervisory capacity, draws wages exceeding five hundred rupees per mensem, or exercises, either by the nature of the duties attached to the office or by reason of the powers vested in him, functions mainly of a managerial nature.
- (2) Any reference in this Act to any law which is not in force in any area shall, in relation to that area, be construed as a reference to the corresponding law, if any, in force in that area.

### COMMENTS

- (i) The expressions "mine", "owner" and "agent" have the same meanings as respectively assigned to them in clause (j), clause (1) and clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Mines Act, 1952. Clauses (j), (1) and (c) of the Mines Act, 1952 are as under:
- (j) "Mine" means any excavation where any operation for the purpose of searching for or obtaining minerals has been or is being carried on and includes,—
    - (i) all borings, bore holes, oil wells and accessory crude conditioning plants, including the pipe conveying mineral oil within the oil fields; (ii) all shafts, in or adjacent to and belonging to a mine, whether in the course of being sunk or not;
    - (iii) all levels and inclined planes in the course of being driven;
    - (iv) all open cast workings;
    - (v) all conveyors or aerial ropeways provided for the bringing into or removal from a mine of minerals or other articles or for the removal of refuse therefrom;
    - (vi) All adits, levels, planes, machinery, works, railways, tramways and sidings in or adjacent to and belonging to a mine; (vii) all protective works being carried out in or adjacent to a mine; (viii) all workshops and stores situated within the precincts of a mine and under the same management and used primarily for the purposes connected with that mine or a number of mines under the same management;
    - (ix) All power stations, transformer sub-stations, convertor stations, rectifier stations and accumulator, storage stations for supplying electricity solely or mainly for the purpose of working the mine or a number of mines under the same management;
    - (x) Any premises for the time being used for depositing sand or other material for use in a mine or for depositing refuse from a mine or in which any operations in connection with such sand, refuse or other material is being carried on, being premises exclusively occupied by the owner of the mine;
    - (xi) Any premises in or adjacent to and belonging to a mine on which any process ancillary to the gettings dressing or preparations for sale of minerals or of coke is being carried on; The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment 7 and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 "Owner", when used in relation to a mine, means any person who is the immediate proprietor or lessee or occupier of the

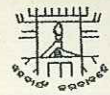


mine or of any part thereof and in the case of a mine the business whereof is being carried on by a liquidator or receiver, such liquidator or receiver but does not include a person who merely receives a royalty, rent or fine from the mine, or is merely the proprietor of the mine, subject it to any lease, grant or licence for the working thereof, or is merely the owner of the soil and not interested in the minerals of the mine; but any contractor or sub-lessee for the working of a mine or any part thereof shall be subject to this Act in like manner as if he were an owner, but not so as to exempt the owner from any liability;

"agent", when used in relation to a mine, means every person, whether appointed as such or not, who, acting or purporting to act on behalf of the owner, take part in the management, control, supervision or direction of the mine or of any part thereof; (ii) "Wages" have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (vi) of section 2 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. Clause (vi) of section 2 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 is as under:—

- (vi) "wages" means all remuneration (whether by way of salary, allowances, or otherwise) expressed in terms of money or capable of being so expressed which would, if the terms of employment, express or implied, were fulfilled, be payable to a person employed in respect of his employment or of work done in such employment, and includes—
- (a) any remuneration payable under any award or settlement between the parties or order of a court;
  - (b) any remuneration to which the person employed is entitled in respect of over-time work or holidays or any leave period;
  - (c) any additional remuneration payable under the terms of employment (whether called a bonus or by any other name);
  - (d) any sum which by reason of the termination of employment of the person employed is payable under any law, contract or instrument which provides for the payment of such sum, whether with or without deductions, but does not provide for the time within which the payment is to be made;
  - (e) any sum to which the person employed is entitled under any scheme framed under any law for the time being in force, but does not include—
    - (1) any bonus (whether under a scheme of profit sharing or otherwise) which does not form part of the remuneration payable under the terms of employment or which is not payable under any award or settlement between the parties or order of a Court;
    - (2) the value of any house-accommodation, or of the supply of light, water, medical attendance or other amenity or of any service excluded from the computation of wages by general or special order of the State Government;
    - (3) any contribution paid by the employer to any pension or provident fund, and the interest which may have accrued thereon;
    - (4) any travelling allowance or the value of any travelling concession;
    - (5) any sum paid to the employed person to defray special expenses entailed on him by the nature of his employment; or
    - (6) any gratuity payable on the termination of employment in cases other than those specified in sub-clause (d).





- 8 The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment [Sec. 3 and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979

## CHAPTER II

### REGISTRATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING INTER-STATE MIGRANT WORKMEN

3. Appointment of registering officers.—The appropriate Government may, by order notified in the Official Gazette,—
- appoint such person, being officers of Government, as it flunks fit to be registering officers for the purposes of this Chapter; and
  - define the limits, within which a registering officer shall exercise the powers conferred on him by or under this Act.

#### COMMENTS

The appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette appoint registering officers and define their respective limits of jurisdiction and powers under the Act.

4. Registration of certain establishments.—(1) Every principal employer of an establishment to which this Act applies shall, within such period as the appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, fix in this behalf with respect to establishments generally or with respect to any class of them, make an application to the registering officer, in such form and manner and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed, for the registration of the establishment:  
Provided that the registering officer may entertain any such application for registration after the expiry of the period fixed in that behalf, if the registering officer is satisfied that the applicant was prevented by sufficient cause from making the application in time.
- Within one month after the receipt of an application for registration under sub-section (1), the registering officer shall,—
    - if the application is complete in all respects, register the establishment and issue to the principal employer of the establishment a certificate of registration in the prescribed form; and
    - if the application is not so complete, return the application to the principal employer of the establishment.
  - Where within a period of one month after the receipt of an application for registration of an establishment under sub-section (1), the registering officer does not grant under clause (a) of sub-section (2) the certificate of registration applied for and does not return the application under clause (b) of that sub-section, the registering officer shall, within fifteen days of the receipt of an application in this behalf, from the principal employer, register the establishment and issue to the principal employer a certificate of registration in the prescribed form.

#### COMMENTS

An application for registration of an establishment must be moved by the principal employer thereof within such period as the appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, fix in that behalf, and in such form and manner and on payment of such fees as may be prescribed.

5. Revocation of registration in certain cases.—If the registering officer is satisfied, either on a reference made to him in this behalf or otherwise, that the Sec. 7]



The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment 9 and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 registration of any establishment has been obtained by misrepresentation or suppression of any material fact or that for any other reason, the registration has become useless or ineffective and, therefore, requires to be revoked, the registering officer may, after giving an opportunity to the principal employer of the establishment to be heard and with the previous approval of the appropriate Government, revoke by order in writing the registration and communicate the order to the principal employer:

Provided that where the registering officer considers it necessary so to do for any special reasons, he may, pending such revocation, by order suspend the operation of the certificate of registration for such period as may be specified in the order and serve, by registered post, such order along with a statement of the reasons on the principal employer and such order shall take effect on the date on which such service is effected.

#### COMMENTS

The registering officer may revoke the registration of any defaulting establishment after giving an opportunity to the principal employer thereof to be heard and with the prior approval of the appropriate Government.

6. Prohibition against employment of inter-State migrant workmen without registration.—No principal employer of an establishment to which this Act applies shall employ inter-State migrant workmen in the establishment unless a certificate of registration in respect of such establishment issued under this Act is in force: Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to any establishment in respect of which an application for registration made within the period fixed, whether originally or on extension under sub-section (1) of section 4 is pending before a registering officer and for the purposes of this proviso, an application to which the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 4 apply shall be deemed to be pending before the registering officer concerned till the certificate of registration is issued in accordance with the provisions of that sub-section.

#### COMMENTS

Employment of inter-State migrant workmen in any establishment is prohibited unless it is duly registered under this Act.

CHAPTER III LICENSING OF CONTRACTORS 7. Appointment of licensing officers.— The appropriate Government may, by order notified in the Official Gazette,—

- (a) appoint such persons, being officers of Government, as it thinks fit to be licensing officers for the purposes of this Chapter; and  
(b) define the limits, within which a licensing officer shall exercise the jurisdiction and powers conferred on licensing officers by or under this Act.

#### COMMENTS

The appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette appoint licensing officers and define their respective limits of jurisdiction and powers under this Act.

8. Licensing of contractors.—(1) With effect from such date as the appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, no contractor to whom this Act applies shall,—



- (a) recruit any person in a State for the purpose of employing him in any establishment situated in another State, except under and in accordance with a licence issued in that behalf,—
- (i) if such establishment is an establishment referred to in sub-clause (i) of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 2, by the licensing officer appointed by the Central Government who has jurisdiction in relation to the area wherein the recruitment is made;
- (ii) if such establishment is an establishment referred to in sub-clause (ii) of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 2, by the licensing officer appointed by the State Government who has jurisdiction in relation to the area wherein the recruitment is made.
- (b) employ as workmen for the execution of any work in any establishment in any State, persons from another State (whether or not in addition to other workmen) except under and in accordance with a licence issued in that behalf,—
- (i) if such establishment is an establishment referred to in sub-clause (i) of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 2, by the licensing officer appointed by the Central Government who has jurisdiction in relation to the area wherein the establishment is situated;
- (ii) if such establishment is an establishment referred to in sub-clause (ii) of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 2, by the licensing officer appointed by the State Government who has jurisdiction in relation to the area wherein the establishment is situated.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a licence under sub-section (1) may contain such conditions including, in particular, the terms and conditions of the agreement or other arrangement under which the workmen will be recruited, the remuneration to be payable, hours of work, fixation of wages and other essential amenities in respect of the inter-State migrant workmen, as the appropriate Government may deem fit to impose in accordance with the rules, if any, made under section 35 and shall be issued on payment of such fees as may be prescribed: Provided that if for any special reasons, the licensing officer is satisfied that it is necessary to require any person who has applied for, or who has been issued, a licence to furnish any security for the due performance of the conditions of the licence, he may, after communicating such reasons to such person and giving him an opportunity to represent his case, determine in accordance with the rules made in this behalf the security which shall be furnished by such person for obtaining or, as the case may be, for continuing to hold the licence.
- (3) The security which may be required to be furnished under the proviso to sub-section (2) shall be reasonable and the rules for the purposes of the said proviso shall, on the basis of the number of workmen employed, the wages payable to them, the facilities which shall be afforded to them and other relevant factors provide for the norms with reference to which such security may be determined.
9. Grant of licences.—(1) Every application for the grant of a licence under sub-section (1) of section 8 shall be made in the prescribed form and shall contain the particulars regarding the location of the establishment, the nature of process, operation or work for which inter-State migrant workmen are to be employed and such other particulars as may be prescribed.



- (2) The licensing officer may make such investigation in respect of the application received under sub-section (1) and in making any such investigation, the licensing officer shall follow such procedure as may be prescribed.
- (3) A licence granted under section 8, shall be valid for the period specified therein and may be renewed from time to time for such period and on payment of such fees and on such conditions as may be prescribed.

**COMMENTS**

The licensing officer may investigate in respect of an application by following such procedure as may be prescribed.

10. Revocation, suspension and amendment of licences.—(1) If the licensing officer is satisfied, either on a reference made to him in this behalf or otherwise, that—
  - (a) a licence granted under section 8 has been obtained by misrepresentation or suppression of any material fact, or
  - (b) the holder of a licence has, without reasonable cause, failed to comply with the conditions subject to which the licence has been granted or has contravened any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder, then, without prejudice to any other penalty to which the holder of the licence may be liable under this Act, the licensing officer may, after giving the holder of the licence an opportunity to be heard, by order in writing revoke the licence or forfeit the security furnished by him under the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 8 or any part thereof and communicate the order to the holder of the licence:

Provided that where the licensing officer considers it necessary so to do for any special reasons, he may, pending such revocation or forfeiture, by order, suspend the operation of the licence for such period as may be specified in the order and serve, by registered post, such order along with a statement of the reasons on the holder of the licence and such order shall take effect on the date on which such service is effected.

- (2) Subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf, the licensing officer may vary or amend a licence granted under section 8.

**COMMENTS**

The licensing officer may revoke, suspend and amend the license after giving the licenced holder an opportunity to be heard.

11. Appeal.—(1) Any person aggrieved by an order made under section 4, section 5, section 8 or section 10 may, within thirty days from the date on which the order is communicated to him, prefer an appeal to an appellate officer who shall be a person nominated in this behalf by the appropriate Government: Provided that the appellate officer may entertain the appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days, if he is satisfied that the appeal was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time.
- (2) On receipt of an appeal under sub-section (1), the appellate officer shall, after giving the appellate an opportunity of being heard, dispose of the appeal as expeditiously as possible.

**COMMENTS**

Any person aggrieved by an order made under sections 4, 5, 8 and 10 may within thirty days from the knowledge of such order, prefer an appeal to an appellate officer nominated by the appropriate Government in this behalf. Sufficient cause have to be given for condonation of delay in filing the appeal in statutory time under this Act.



## CHAPTER IV DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CONTRACTORS

12. Duties of contractors.—(1) It shall be the duty of every contractor—
- (a) to furnish such particulars and in such form as may be prescribed, to the specified authority in the State from which an inter-State migrant workman is recruited and in the State in which such workman is employed, within fifteen days from the date of recruitment, or, as the case may be, the date of employment, and where any change occurs in any of the particulars so furnished, such change shall be notified to the specified authorities of both the States;
  - (b) to issue to every inter-State migrant workman, a pass book affixed with a passport size photograph of the workman and indicating in Hindi and English languages, and where the language of the workman is not Hindi or English, also in the language of the workman,—
    - (i) the name and place of the establishment wherein the workman is employed;
    - (ii) the period of employment;
    - (iii) the proposed rates and modes of payment of wages;
    - (iv) the displacement allowance payable;
    - (v) the return fare payable to the workman on the expiry of the period of his employment and in such contingencies as may be prescribed and in such other contingencies as may be specified in the contract of employment;
    - (vi) deductions made; and
    - (vii) such other particulars as may be prescribed.
  - (c) to furnish in respect of every inter-State migrant workman who ceases to be employed, a return in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed, to the specified authority in the State from which he is recruited and in the State in which he is employed, which shall include a declaration that all the wages and other dues payable to the workman and the fare for the return journey back to his State have been paid.
- (2) The contractor shall maintain the pass book referred to in sub-section (1) up-to-date and cause it to be retained with the inter-State migrant workman concerned.
- Explanation.—For the purposes of this section and section 16 "specified authority" means such authority as may be specified by the appropriate Government in this behalf.

## CHAPTER V

### WAGES WELFARE AND OTHER FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED TO INTER-STATE MIGRANT WORKMEN

13. Wages rates and other conditions of service of inter-State migrant workmen.—(1) The wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other conditions of service of an inter-State migrant workman shall,—
- (a) in a case where such workman performs in any establishment, the same or similar kind of work as is being performed by any other workman in that establishment, be the same as those applicable to such other workman; and
  - (b) in any other case, be such as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government: Provided that an inter-State migrant workman shall in no case be paid less than the wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (41 of 1948).



- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, wages payable to an inter-State migrant workmen under this section shall be paid in cash.

**COMMENTS**

- (1) Section 13 deals with the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other conditions of service of inter-State migrant workmen.
- (ii) An inter-State migrant workmen shall in no case be paid less than the wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
- (iii) Wages payable to an inter-State migrant workman, under this section shall be paid in 'cash' and not in any other manner form.
14. Displacement allowance.—(1) There shall be paid by the contractor to every inter-State migrant workman at the time of recruitment, a displacement allowance equal to fifty per cent, of the monthly wages payable to him or seventy-five rupees, whichever is higher.
- (2) The amount paid to a workman as displacement allowance under sub-section (1) shall not be refundable and shall be in addition to the wages or other amount payable to him.

**COMMENTS**

Every inter-State migrant workman is entitled to a displacement allowance at the time of recruitment, which may be either seventy-five rupees or half of the monthly wages payable to him, whichever is higher.

15. Journey allowance etc.—A journey allowance of a sum not less than the fare from the place of residence of the inter-State migrant workman in his State to the place of work in the other State shall be payable by the contractor to the workman both for the outward and return journeys and such workman shall be entitled to payment of wages during the period of such journeys as if he were on duty.

**COMMENTS**

Every inter-State migrant workman is entitled to payment of wages during the period of journey's on duty and is also entitled to journey allowance for outward and return journeys from the place of residence in his State to the place of work in the other State.

16. Other facilities.—It shall be the duty of every contractor employing inter-State migrant workmen in connection with the work of an establishment to which this Act applies,—
- (a) to ensure regular payment of wages to such workmen;
  - (b) to ensure equal pay for equal work irrespective of sex;
  - (c) to ensure suitable conditions of work to such workmen having regard to the fact that they are required to work in a State different from their own State;
  - (d) to provide and maintain suitable residential accommodation to such workmen during the period of their employment;
  - (e) to provide the prescribed medical facilities to the workmen, free of charge;
  - (f) to provide such protective clothing to the workmen as may be prescribed; and
  - (g) in case of fatal accident or serious bodily injury to any such workman, to report to the specified authorities of both the States and also the next of kin of the workman.



17. Responsibility for payment of wages.—(1) A contractor shall be responsible for payment of wages to each inter-State migrant workman employed by him and such wages shall be paid before the expiry of such period as may be prescribed.
- (2) Every principal employer shall nominate a representative duly authorised by him to be present at the time of disbursement of wages by the contractor and it shall be the duty of such representative to certify the amounts paid as wages in such manner as may be prescribed.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the contractor to ensure the disbursement of wages in the presence of the authorised representative of the principal employer.
- (4) In case the contractor fails to make payment of wages within the prescribed period or makes short payment, then the principal employer shall be liable to make payment of the wages in full or the unpaid balance due, as the case may be, to the inter-State migrant workman employed by the contractor and recover the amount so paid from the contractor either by deduction from any amount payable to the contractor under any contract or as a debt payable by the contractor.
18. Liability of principal employer in certain cases.—(1) If any allowance required to be paid under section 14 or section 15 to an inter-State migrant workman employed in an establishment to which this Act applies is not paid by the contractor or if any facility specified in section 16 is not provided for the benefit of such workman, such allowance shall be paid, or, as the case may be, the facility shall be, provided, by the principal employer within such time as may be prescribed.
- (2) All the allowances paid by the principal employer or all the expenses incurred by him in providing the facility referred to in sub-section (1) may be recovered by him from the contractor either by deduction from any amount payable to the contractor under any contract or as a debt payable by the contractor.
19. Past liabilities.—It shall be the duty of every contractor and every principal employer to ensure that any loan given by such contractor or principal employer to any inter State migrant workman does not remain outstanding after the completion of the period of employment of such workman under the said contractor or, as the case may be, in the establishment of such principal employer and accordingly every obligation of an inter-State migrant workman to re-pay any debt obtained by him during the period of his employment from the contractor or the principal employer and remaining unsatisfied before the completion of such period shall, on such completion, be deemed to have been extinguished and no suit or other proceeding shall lie in any court or before any authority for the recovery of such debt or any part thereof.

#### CHAPTER VI INSPECTING STAFF

20. Inspectors.—(1) The appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint such persons as it thinks fit to be inspectors for the purposes of this Act, and define the local limits within which they shall exercise their powers under this Act.
- (2) Subject to any rules made in this behalf, within the local limits for which he is appointed, an inspector may—
- (a) if he has reason to believe that any inter-State migrant workmen are employed in any premises or place, enter, at all reasonable hours, with such assistants (if any),



- being persons in the service of the Government or any local or other public authority as he thinks fit, such premises or place for the purpose of-
- (i) satisfying himself whether the provisions of this Act in relation to the payment of wages, conditions of service, or facilities to be provided to such workmen are being complied with;
  - (ii) examining any register or record or notices required to be kept or exhibited by the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder, and requiring the production thereof for inspection;
  - (b) examine any person found in any such premises or place for the purpose of determining whether such person is an inter-State migrant workman;
  - (c) require any person giving out work to any workman, to give any information which is in his power to give, with respect to the names and addresses of the persons to, for and from whom the work is given out or received, and with respect to the payments to be made for the work;
  - (d) seize or take copies of such register, record of wages, or notices or portions thereof as he may consider relevant in respect of an offence under this Act which he has reason to believe has been committed by a principal employer or contractor, and
  - (e) exercise such other powers as may be prescribed.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-sections (1) and (2), if a State Government considers it necessary for the purpose of satisfying itself that the provisions of this Act are being complied with in respect of any workmen belonging to that State and employed in an establishment situated in another State, it may, by order in writing, appoint such persons, being persons in the service of that Government, for the exercise of such of the powers mentioned in sub-section (2), as may be specified in that order:
- Provided that no such order shall be issued without the concurrence of the Government of the State in which such workmen are employed or where the establishment is an establishment referred to in sub-clause (i) of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 2, without the concurrence of the Central Government.
- (4) Any person required to produce any document or thing, or to give any information required, by an inspector under sub-section (2), or by a person appointed under sub-section (3), shall be deemed to be legally bound to do so within the meaning of section 175 and section 176 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860).
  - (5) The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974), shall, so far as may be, apply to any search or seizure under this section as they apply to any search or seizure made under the authority of a warrant issued under section 94 of the said Code.

## CHAPTER VII MISCELLANEOUS

21. Inter-State migrant workmen to be deemed to be in employment from date of recruitment for the purposes of certain enactments.—For the purposes of the enactments specified in the Schedule, an inter-State "migrant workman shall, on and from the date of his recruitment, be deemed to be employed and actually worked in the establishment or, as the case may be, the first establishment in connection with the work of which he is employed.





22. Provisions regarding industrial disputes in relation to inter-State migrant workmen.—
- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947), any dispute or difference in connection with the employment or non-employment or the terms of employment or the conditions of labour, of an inter-State migrant workman (hereafter in this section referred to as the industrial dispute), may,—
- (a) if the industrial dispute is relatable to an establishment referred to in sub-clause (i) of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 2, be referred under the provisions of the said Act, by the Central Government to any of the authorities referred to in Chapter II of that Act (hereafter in this section referred to as the said authorities),—
- (i) in the State wherein the establishment is situated;
- (ii) in the State wherein the recruitment of such workman was made if he makes an application in that behalf to that Government on the ground that he has returned to that State after the completion of his employment;
- (b) if the industrial dispute is relatable to an establishment referred to in sub-clause (ii) of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 2,—
- (i) be referred under the provisions of the said Act, by the Government of the State wherein the establishment is situated, to any of the said authorities in that State; or
- (ii) be referred under the provisions of the said Act, by the Government of the State wherein the recruitment of such workman was made to any of the said authorities in that State, if he makes an application in that behalf to that Government on the ground that he has returned to that State after the completion of his employment:

**Provided that**

- (a) no application referred to in sub-clause (ii) of clause (a) or sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) shall be entertained after the expiry of a period of six months from the date of his return to the State wherein the recruitment was made after the completion of his employment, unless the Government concerned is satisfied that the applicant was prevented by sufficient cause from making the application within that period;
- (b) no reference under the said sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) shall be made except after obtaining the concurrence of the Government of the State wherein the establishment concerned is situated.
- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of section 33B of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947), where during the pendency of any proceeding in respect of an industrial dispute under that Act before any of the said authorities in the State wherein the establishment is situated, an application is made to that authority by an inter-State migrant workman for the transfer of such proceeding to a corresponding authority in the State wherein his recruitment was made on the ground that he has returned to that State after the completion of his employment, that authority shall forward the application to the Central Government, or, as the case may be, to the Government of the State wherein such recruitment was made and transfer such proceeding in the prescribed manner to such authority as may be specified in this behalf by that Government:

Provided that in a case where no authority has been specified by the Government concerned within the prescribed period, the authority before which the proceeding is



- pending shall, on a request being made by the inter-State migrant workman and after obtaining the previous approval of the Government which referred the dispute to that authority, forward such proceeding to the Government concerned for reference of such dispute to an authority in the State wherein such recruitment was made.
- (3) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (2), if the Central Government is satisfied that it is expedient in the interests of justice so to do, it may, by order in writing and for reasons to be stated therein, withdraw any proceeding in respect of any industrial dispute relating to an inter-State migrant workman pending before an authority in the State in which the establishment concerned is situated and transfer the same to such authority in the State wherein the recruitment of such workman was made as may be specified in the order.
- (4) The authority to which any proceeding is transferred under this section may proceed either de novo or from the stage at which it was so transferred.
23. Registers and other records to be maintained.—(1) Every principal employer and every contractor shall maintain such registers and records giving such particulars of the inter-State migrant workmen employed, the nature of work performed by such workmen, the rates of wages paid to the workmen and such other particulars in such form as may be prescribed.
- (2) Every principal employer and every contractor shall keep exhibited in such manner as may be prescribed within the premises of the establishment where the inter-State migrant workmen are employed, notices in the prescribed form containing particulars about the hours of work, nature of duty and such other information as may be prescribed.
24. Obstructions.—(1) Whoever obstructs an inspector or a person appointed under sub-section (3) of section 20 (hereinafter referred to as the authorised person) in the discharge of his duties under this Act or refuses or wilfully neglects to afford the inspector or authorised person any reasonable facility for making any inspection, examination, inquiry or investigation authorised by or under this Act in relation to an establishment to which, or a contractor to whom, this Act applies, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both
- (2) Whoever wilfully refuses to produce on the demand of any inspector or authorised person any register or other document kept in pursuance of this Act or prevents or attempts to prevent or does anything which he has reason to believe is likely to prevent any person from appearing before or being examined by any inspector or authorised person acting in pursuance of his duties under this Act, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both.
25. Contravention of provisions regarding employment of inter-State migrant workmen.—Whoever contravenes any provisions of this Act or of any rules made thereunder regulating the employment of inter-State migrant workmen, or contravenes any condition of a licence granted under this Act, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both, and in the case of a continuing contravention, with an additional fine which may extend to one hundred rupees for every day during which such contravention continues after conviction for the first such contravention.



26. Other offences.—If any person contravenes any of the provisions of this Act or of any rules made thereunder for which no other penalty is elsewhere provided, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both.
27. Offences by companies.—(1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, every person who, at the time the offence was committed, was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of the business of the company, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly:  
Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he had exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where any offence under this Act has been committed by a company and it is proved that the offence has been committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

**Explanation. - For the purposes of this section, -**

- (a) "company" means any body corporate and includes a firm or other association of individuals; and
- (b) "director", in relation to a firm, means a partner in the firm.
28. Cognizance of offences.—No court shall take cognizance of any offence under this Act except on a complaint made by, or with the previous sanction in writing of, an inspector or authorised person and no court inferior to that of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under this Act.
29. Limitation of prosecutions.—No court shall take cognizance of an offence punishable under this Act unless the complaint thereof is made within three months from the date on which the alleged commission of the offence came to the knowledge of the inspector or authorised person concerned:  
Provided that where the offence consists of disobeying a written order made by an inspector or authorised person, complaint thereof may be made within six months of the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.
30. Effect of laws and agreements inconsistent with the Act.—(1) The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law or in the terms of any agreement or contract of service, or in any standing orders applicable to the establishment whether made before or after the commencement of this Act:  
Provided that where under any such law, agreement, contract of service or standing orders, the inter-State migrant workmen employed in the establishment are entitled to benefits in respect of any matter which are more favourable to them than those to which they would be entitled under this Act, the inter-State



- migrant workmen shall continue to be entitled to the more favourable benefits in respect of that matter, notwithstanding that they receive benefits in respect of other matters under this Act.
- (2) Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed as precluding any inter-State migrant workmen from entering into an agreement with the principal employer or the contractor, as the case may be, for granting them rights or privileges in respect of any matter which are more favourable to them than those to which they would be entitled under this Act.
31. Power to exempt in special cases.—The appropriate Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette and subject to such conditions and restrictions, if any, and for such period or periods as may be specified in the notification, direct that all or any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder shall not apply to or in relation to any establishment or class of establishments or any contractor or class of contractors or any inter-State migrant workmen in such establishment or class of such workmen, if that Government is satisfied that it is just and proper so to do having regard to the methods of recruitment and the conditions of employment in such establishment or class of establishments and all other relevant circumstances.
32. Protection of action taken under Act.—(1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any registering officer, licensing officer or any other employee of the Government for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rule or order made thereunder.
- (2) No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Government for any damage caused or likely to be caused by anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rule or notification or order made or issued thereunder.
33. Power to give directions—The Central Government may give directions to the Government of any State as to the carrying into execution in the State of the provisions contained in this Act.
34. Power to remove difficulties.—(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as appears to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty: Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of two years from the date on which this Act comes into force.
- (2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of Parliament.
35. Power to make rules.—(1) The appropriate Government may, subject to the condition of previous publication, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—
- (a) the form and manner in which an application for the registration of an establishment may be made under section 4, the fees payable thereon and the



- form of a certificate of registration issued under that section;
- (b) the form in which an application for the grant or renewal of a licence may be made under section 9 and the particulars it may contain;
  - (c) the manner in which an investigation is to be made in respect of an application for the grant of a licence and the matters to be taken into account in granting or refusing a licence;
  - (d) the form of a licence which may be granted or renewed under this Act, the conditions subject to which the licence may be granted or renewed, the fees payable for the grant or renewal of a licence and the security, if any, required to be furnished for the due performance of the conditions of the licence;
  - (e) the circumstances under which licences may be varied or amended under section 10;
  - (f) the form and the manner in which appeals may be filed under section 11 and the procedure to be followed by appellate officers in disposing of the appeals;
  - (g) the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other conditions of service which an inter-State migrant workman is entitled under section 13;
  - (h) the period within which wages payable to inter-State migrant workmen should be paid by the contractor under sub-section (1) of section 17 and the manner of certification of such payment under sub-section (2) thereof;
  - (i) the time within which allowances or facilities required by this Act to be provided and maintained may be so provided by the contractor and in case of default on the part of the contractor, by the principal employer under section 18;
  - (j) The powers that may be exercised by inspectors under section 20; (k) the form of registers and records to be maintained, and the particulars and information to be contained in notices to be exhibited, by the principal employers and contractors under section 23;
  - (1) The manner of submission of returns, and the forms in which, and the authorities to which, such returns may be submitted; (m) legal aid to inter-State migrant workmen;
  - (n) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed under this Act.
  - (3) Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one
- Provided that where under any such law, agreement, contract of service or standing orders, the inter-State migrant workmen employed in the establishment are entitled to benefits in respect of any matter which are more favourable to them than those to which they would be entitled under this Act, the inter-State migrant workmen shall continue to be entitled to the more favourable benefits in respect of that matter, notwithstanding that they receive benefits in respect of other matters under this Act.
- (2) Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed as precluding any inter-state migrant workmen from entering into an agreement with the principal employer or the contractor, as the case may be, for granting them rights or privileges in respect of any matter which are more favourable to them than those to which they would be entitled under this Act.
31. Power to exempt in special cases.—The appropriate Government may, by



notification in the Official Gazette and subject to such conditions and restrictions, if any, and for such period or periods as may be specified in the notification, direct that all or any of the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder shall not apply to or in relation to any establishment or class of establishments or any contractor or class of contractors or any inter-State migrant workmen in such establishment or class of such workmen, if that Government is satisfied that it is just and proper so to do having regard to the methods of recruitment and the conditions of employment in such establishment or class of establishments and all other relevant circumstances.

32. Protection of action taken under Act—(1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any registering officer, licensing officer or any other employee of the Government for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rule or order made thereunder.
- (2) No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Government for any damage caused or likely to be caused by anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rule or notification or order made or issued thereunder.
33. Power to give directions.—The Central Government may give directions to the Government of any State as to the carrying into execution in the State of the provisions contained in this Act.
34. Power to remove difficulties.—(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as appears to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty: Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiry of two years from the date on which this Act comes into force.
- (2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before each House of Parliament.
35. Power to make rules.—(1) The appropriate Government may, subject to the condition of previous publication, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—
- (a) the form and manner in which an application for the registration of an establishment may be made under section 4, the fees payable thereon and the form of a certificate of registration issued under that section;
- (b) the form in which an application for the grant or renewal of a licence may be made under section 9 and the particulars it may contain;
- (c) the manner in which an investigation is to be made in respect of an application for the grant of a licence and the matters to be taken into account in granting or refusing a licence;
- (d) the form of a licence which may be granted or renewed under this Act, the conditions subject to which the licence may be granted or renewed, the fees payable for the grant or renewal of a licence and the security, if any, required to be furnished for the due performance of the conditions of the licence;
- (e) the circumstances under which licences may be varied or amended under section 10;



- (f) the form and the manner in which appeals may be filed under section 11 and the procedure to be followed by appellate officers in disposing of the appeals;
- (g) the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other conditions of service which an inter-State migrant workman is entitled under section 13;
- (h) the period within which wages payable to inter-State migrant workmen should be paid by the contractor under sub-section (1) of section 17 and the manner of certification of such payment under sub-section (2) thereof;
- (i) the time within which allowances or facilities required by this Act to be provided and maintained may be so provided by the contractor and in case of default on the part of the contractor, by the principal employer under section 18;
- (j) the powers that may be exercised by inspectors under section 20; (k) the form of registers and records to be maintained, and the particulars and information to be contained in notices to be exhibited, by the principal employers and contractors under section 23;
- (l) the manner of submission of returns, and the forms in which, and the authorities to which, such returns may be submitted; (m) legal aid to inter-State migrant workmen;
- (n) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed under this Act.
- (3) Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions and if before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.
36. Repeals and saving.—(1) The Orissa Dadan Labour (Control and Regulation) Act, 1975 (Orissa Act 42 of 1975) and any law corresponding to this Act, in force in any State, shall stand repealed.
- (2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the provisions of the Act or law so repealed shall, in so far as such thing or action is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be deemed to have been done or taken under the provisions of this Act as if the said provisions were in force when such thing was done or such action was taken and shall continue to be in force accordingly until superseded by anything done or any action taken under this Act.

#### THE SCHEDULE (See section 21)

1. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (8 of 1923).
2. The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 (4 of 1936).
3. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947).
4. The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 (34 of 1948).
5. The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (19 of 1952).
6. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (53 of 1961).

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## The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Odisha Rules, 1980

Notification No. 13136-IVW (b)-2/3-80-L.E., dated 3rd November, 1980-

Whereas the draft of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Orissa Rules, 1980, was published as required by Sub-section (1) of Section 35 of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 (30 of 1979) in the extraordinary issue of the Gazette No.1258, dated the 17th September, 1980, under the notification of the Government of Orissa in the Labour and Employment Department No. 11590, dated the 12th September, 1980.

And whereas no objection or suggestion has been received by the State Government;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 35 of the said Act, the State Government do hereby make the following rules, namely :

### CHAPTER-I Preliminary

1. Shdtt title and commencement-(1) These rules may be called the Inter-Siate Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Orissa Rules, 1,980.
- (2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
2. Definitions-(1) In these rules, unless the subject or context otherwise requires-
  - (a) "Act" means the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979;
  - (b) "Appellate Officer" means an Appellate Officer nominated by the State Government under Section 11;
  - (c) "Chief Inspector" means the officer appointed as such by the Government with assignment of specific powers under the Act who shall also be deemed as an inspector under the Act;
  - (d) "Form" means a Form appended to these rules;
  - (e) "Inspector" means an Inspector appointed by the State Government under Section 20;
  - (f) "Licensing Officer" means the Licensing Officer appointed by the State Government under Section 7;
  - (g) "Migrant Workman" means an inter-State migrant workman as defined in Section 2 ;
  - (h) "Registering Officer" means the Registering Officer appointed by the State Government under Section 3;
  - (i) "Section" means a section of the Act
  - (j) "Specified Authority" means the authority specified by the State . Government for the purpose of Sections 12 and 16.
- (2) All other words and expressions used in these rules but not defined therein shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.

### CHAPTER-II

3. Manner of making application for registration of establishments-
  - (1) The application for registration of an establishment shall be made in triplicate in Form I to the Registering Officer of the area in which the establishment sought to be registered is located.
  - (2) The application shall be accompanied by a treasury receipt showing payment of the fees under the head of account specified under Rule 20 for the registration of the establishment.





- (3) The application shall be either personally delivered to the Registering Officer or sent to him by registered post.
- (4) On receipt of the application, the Registering Officer shall, after noting thereon the date of receipt by him of the application, give an acknowledgement to the applicant.
4. Issue of certificate of registration-^ Where the Registering Officer registers the establishment, he shall issue to the principal employer a certificate of registration in Form II.
- (2) The Registering Officer shall maintain a Register in Form III showing the particulars of the establishments in relation to which certificates of registration are issued by him. .
- (3) The concerned Registering Officer of the State wherein the Establishment is located shall, while issuing the certificate of registration-to the principal employer of the establishment, send a copy of the relevant application made to him in Form I and an original copy of the said certificate of registration alongwith his recommendation, to the concerned Registering Officer of the State from where the migrant workers are proposed to be recruited. On receipt of the same, the Registering Officer of the latter State, shall record all particulars in this respect as contained in Form I and the. certificate of registration, in a register.
- (4) If, in relation to an establishment, there is any change in the .particulars specified in the certificate of registration, the principal employer of the establishment shall intimate to the Registering Officer, within thirty days from the date when such change takes place, the particular of, and the reasons for, such change, under intimation to the concerned Licensing Officer of the State from which migrant workers are to be recruited.
5. Circumstances in which application for registration may be rejected-
  - (1) If any application for registration is not complete in all respects, the Registering Officer shall require the principal employer to amend the application so as to make it complete in all respects.
  - (2) If the principal employer, on being required by the Registering Officer to amend his application for registration, omits or fails to do so, the Registering Officer shall reject the (application for registration).
6. Amendment of certificate of registration) Where, on receipt of the intimation referred to in Sub-rule (4) of Rule 4, the Registering Officer is satisfied that an amount higher than the amount, which has been paid by the principal employer as fees for the registration of the establishment is payable, he shall require such principal employer to deposit a sum which, together with the amount-already paid by such principal employer, would be equal to such higher amount of fees payable for the registration of the establishment and to produce receipt showing such deposit.
  - (2) Where, on receipt of the intimation referred to in Sub-rule (4).of Rule 4, the Registering Officer is satisfied that there has occurred a change in the particulars of the establishment, as entered in the register in Form III, he shall amend the said register and record therein the change thus occurred :  
 Provided that no such amendment shall affect anything done or any action taken or any right, obligation or liability acquired or incurred before such amendment :  
 Provided further that the Registering Officer shall not carry out any amendment in the register in Form III unless the appropriate fees have been deposited by the principal employer.
7. Application for a licence-(1) Every application by a contractor for the grant of a licence for recruiting a person under Clause (a) of Sub-section
  - (1) of Section 8 shall be made in triplicate in Form IV to the Licensing Officer having jurisdiction in relation to the area wherein recruitment is made.
  - (2) Every application by a contractor for employing a migrant workman under Clause (b) of Sub-section (1) of Section 8 shall be made in Form V to the Licensing Officer having



- jurisdiction in relation to the area wherein the establishment is situated.
- (3) Every application for the grant of a licence under Sub-rule (1) or Sub-rule (2), shall be accompanied by a certificate of the principal employer in Form VI to the effect that he undertakes to be bound by all the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder so far as they are applicable to him in respect of the recruitment or employment of the migrant workmen, in respect of which the contractor is making the application alongwith a certified copy of the registration certificate of the principal employer.
  - (4) Every such application shall be either personally delivered to the Licensing Officer concerned or sent to him by registered post.
  - (5) On receipt of the application referred to in Sub-rule (1) or Sub-rule (2) The Licensing Officer concerned shall, after noting thereon the date of receipt of the application grant an acknowledgement to the applicant.
  - (6) Every application referred to in Sub-rule (1) shall also be accompanied by a receipt obtained as required by Rule 20.
8. Matters to be taken into account in granting or refusing a licence-In granting or refusing to grant a licence the Licensing Officer shall take the following matters into account, namely:
- (a) whether the applicant-
    - (i) is a minor; or
    - (ii) is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent Court; or
    - (iii) is an undischarged insolvent; or Inter-State Migrant Workmen (R.E.C.S.) (O) Rules, 1980 391
    - (iv) Has been convicted at any time during the period of five years immediately preceding the date of application, of an offence which, in the opinion of the State Government involves moral turpitude;
  - (b) Whether any order has been made in respect of the applicant under Sub-section (1) of Section 10, and if so, whether a period of three years has elapsed from the date of that order;
  - (c) whether the fees for the application has been deposited at the rates specified in Rule 13 ; and
  - (d) whether security, wherever necessary, has been deposited by the applicant at the rates specified in Sub-rule (1) of Rule 10.
9. Production of licence-(1) A contractor executing works an contract in any establishment in a particular State by engagement of migrant workmen from another State shall produce the licence obtained by him to this effect from the concerned Licensing Officer of the State from which the migrant workmen would be recruited for engagement in the aforesaid establishment.
- (2) The local agents who supply migrant workmen to the contractors of the outside States and work either as sub-contractors or commission agents of such contractors, shall have also to obtain a licence from the concerned Licensing Officer of the State from which migrant workmen are recruited and drafted to outside State, on making an application in Form IV-A to the concerned Licensing Officer of the State from which migrant workmen are recruited. The fees payable by the agent for the purpose shall be equivalent to as provided under Sub-rule (2) of Rule 13.
10. **Refusal to issue licence-(1)** On receipt of the application from the contractor, and as soon as possible thereafter, the Licensing Officer shall investigate or cause investigation to be made to satisfy himself about the correctness of the facts and particulars furnished in such application and eligibility of the applicant for a licence
- (2)(i) Where the Licensing Officer is /Of the opinion that the licence should not be issued, after affording reasonable opportunity to the applicant to be heard, he may make an order rejecting the application.



- (ii) The order shall record the reasons for the refusal and shall be communicated to the applicant.
11. **Security-** [(1) Before the issue of a licence an amount of Rs. 100-(Rupees one hundred) for each of the workmen to be recruited/ employed as migrant workmen in respect of which the application for licence has been made shall be deposited by the contractor/ local agent as security for due performance of the conditions of the licence.
- (2) Where the applicant for the licence was holding a licence in regard to another work and that licence had expired, the Licensing Officer, if he is of the view that any amount out of the security, if any, deposited in respect of that licence is to be refunded to the applicant under Rule 17, he may, on an application made for that purpose in Form VII by the applicant, adjust the amount so as to be refunded towards the security, if any, required to be deposited in respect of the application for the new licence and the applicant need deposit, in such a case, only' the balance amount, if any, after making such adjustment.
12. Forms and terms and conditions of licence-(t) Every licence issued, under Sub-section (1) of Section 8 shall be in Form VIII and in Form VIII-A, in respect of local agents. The licence shall remain valid till the end of the calendar year from the date of expiry of the licence, in the manner as laid down in Rule 15. ... .
- (2) Every licence granted or renewed under Sub-rule (1) shall be subject to the following conditions, namely :
- (i) the licence shall be non-transferable
  - (ii) the terms and conditions of the agreement or arrangement under which the migrant workman is recruited or employed;
  - (iii) the number of migrant workmen recruited or employed;
  - (iv) the number of workmen recruited or employed as migrant workmen in the establishment shall not on any day, exceed the maximum number specified in condition (iii);
  - (v) the rates of wages payable to the migrant workmen by the contractor shall not be less than the rates prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, for such employment and where the rates have been fixed by agreement, settlement or award, not less than the rates so fixed;
  - (vi) save as provided in these rules, the fees paid for the issue, or as the case may be, for renewal of licences shall be non-refundable;
  - (vii) (a) in cases where the migrant workmen recruited or employed by the contractor perform the same or similar kind of work as the workmen directly employed by the principal employer of the establishment, the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other conditions of service of the migrant workmen of the contractor shall be the same as applicable to the workmen directly employed by the principal employer of the establishment on the same or similar kind of work:  
Provided that in the case of any disagreement with regard to type of work, the same shall be decided by the Labour Commissioner of the State whose decision thereon shall be final;
  - (b) in other cases, the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and, conditions of service of the migrant workmen recruited or employed by the contractor shall be such as prescribed in these rules;
  - (viii) every migrant workman shall be entitled to allowances, benefits, facilities, etc., as prescribed in these rules;
  - (ix) no female migrant workman shall be employed by any contractor before 6 a. m, or after 7 p. m.:  
Provided that this clause shall not apply to the employment of female migrant workmen in pit head baths, creches and canteens and midwives and nurses in hospitals and dispensaries;



- (x) The contractor shall notify any change in the number of migrant workmen or the condition of work to the Licensing Officer;
- (xi) the contractor shall comply with all the provisions of the Act and these rules;
- (xii) a copy of the licence shall be displayed prominently at the premises where the migrant workmen are employed ..
- (xiii) the period for which the licence shall be valid.

13. **Fees-** (1) The fees to be paid for the grant of certificate of registration of an establishment under Section 4 shall be as specified below :-  
If the number of migrant workmen proposed to be employed in the establishment on any day :-

(a)	is 5, but does not exceed 20	Rs. 400.00
(b)	exceeds 20, but does not exceed 50	Rs. 1,000.00
(c)	exceeds 50, but does not exceeds 100	Rs. 2,000.00
(d)	exceeds 100, but does not exceed 200	Rs. 4,000.00
(e)	exceeds 200, but does not exceed 400	Rs. 8,000.00
(f)	exceeds 400, but does not exceed 800	Rs. 12,000.00
(g)	exceeds 800, but does not exceed 1000	Rs. 13,000.00
(h)	exceeds 1000	Rs. 20,000.00

(2) The fees to be paid for the grant of licence under Section 8 shall be as specified below :-  
If the number of migrant workmen proposed to be employed by the contractor on any day :-

(a)	is 5, but does not exceed 20	Rs. 200.00
(b)	exceeds 20, but does not exceed 50	Rs. 400.00
(c)	exceeds 50, but does not exceeds 100	Rs. 800.00
(d)	exceeds 100, but does not exceed 200	Rs. 1,600.00
(e)	exceeds 200, but does not exceed 400	Rs. 3,200.00
(f)	exceeds 400, but does not exceed 750	Rs. 4,000.00
(g)	exceeds 750, but does not exceed 1000	Rs. 5,000.00
(h)	exceeds 1,000 but does not exceed 2,000	Rs. 6,800.00
(i)	exceeds 2,000	Rs. 10,000.00

14. **Amendment of the licence-(1)** A licence issued under Rule 11 or renewed under Rule 15 may, for good and sufficient reasons, be amended by the Licensing Officer.

- (2) The contractor who desires to have the licence amended shall submit to the Licensing Officer an application stating the nature of amendment and reasons therefor.
- (3) If the Licensing Officer allows the application he shall require the applicant to furnish treasury receipt for the amount, if any, by which the fees that would have been payable if the licence had been originally issued in the amended form exceeds the fee originally paid for the licence.
- (4) On the applicant furnishing the requisite receipt, the licence shall be amended according to the orders of the Licensing Officer.
- (5) Where the application for amendment is refused, the Licensing Officer shall record the reasons for such refusal and communicate the same to the applicant.

15. **Renewal of licence-(1)** Every contractor may apply to the Licensing Officer for renewal of the licence.

- (2) The application shall be in Form IX in triplicate and shall be made not less than thirty days before the date on which the licence expires, and if the application is so made, the licence shall be deemed to have been renewed until such date when the renewed licence is issued.
- (3) The fees chargeable for renewal of the licence shall be the same as for the grant thereof.



Provided that if the application for renewal is not received within the time specified in Sub-rule (2), a fee of twenty-five per cent in excess of the fee ordinarily payable for the licence shall be payable for such renewal :

Provided further that if/case where the Licensing Officer is satisfied that the delay in submission of the application is due to unavoidable circumstances beyond the control of the contractor, he may reduce or remit, as he deems fit, the payment of such excess fee.

- 16. Issue of duplicate certificate of registration or licence** - Where a certificate of registration or licence granted or renewed under the preceding rules has been lost, defaced or accidentally destroyed, a duplicate thereof may be granted on. payment of fees of '[sixty rupees].
17. Refund of security-(1) On expiry of the period of licence the contractor may, if he does not intend to have his licence renewed and get the security amount .adjusted in respect of his fresh application for licence in terms of Sub-rule (2) of Rule J.1 , make an application to the Licensing Officer for the refund of the security, if any, deposited by him under Rule 11 .
    - (2) If the Licensing Officer is satisfied that there is no breach of the conditions of licence or there is no order under Section 10 for the forfeiture of security or any portion thereof, he shall direct the refund of the security to the applicant.
    - (3) If there is any order directing the forfeiture of the whole or any part of the security, the amount to be forfeited shall be deducted from the security deposit, and balance, if any, shall be refunded to the applicant.
    - (4) The application for refund shall, as far as possible, be disposed of within sixty days of the receipt of the application.
  18. Appeals and procedure-(1) Every appeal under Section 11 shall be Preferred in the form of a memorandum signed by the appellant or his authorised agent and presented to the Appellate Officer in person or sent to him by registered post.
    - (2) The memorandum shall be accompanied by a certified copy of the order and a treasury receipt showing payment of '[one hundred and fifty rupees].
    - (3) The memorandum shall set forth precisely and under distinct heads the grounds of appeal to the order appealed from.
    - (4) Where the memorandum of appeal does not comply with the provisions of Sub-rule (2) it may be rejected or returned to the appellant for the Purpose of being amended within the time to be fixed by the Appellate Officer.
    - (5) Where the Appellate Officer rejects the memorandum of appeal under Sub-rule (4) he shall record the reasons for such rejection and communicate the same to the appellant.
    - (6) Where the memorandum of appeal is in order, the Appellate Officer shall admit the appeal, endorse thereon the date of presentation and shall register the appeal in the register of appeals kept for the purpose.
    - (7) When the appeal has been admitted, the Appellate Officer shall send a notice to the Registering Officer or the Licensing Officer, as the case may be, from whose order the appeal has been preferred. The Registering Officer or, as the case may be, the Licensing Officer shall thereupon send the record of the case to Appellate Officer.
    - (8) On receipt of the record under Sub-rule (7) the Appellate Officer shall send a notice to the appellant to appear before him on Such date, time and place, as may be specified in the notice, for the hearing of the appeal.
    - (9) If on the date fixed for the hearing, the appellant does not appear, the Appellate Officer may-dismiss the appeal for default of appearance of the appellant.
    - (10) Where an appeal has been dismissed under Sub-rule (9), the appellant may apply to the Appellate Officer for the readmission of the appeal, and where it is proved that he was prevented by any sufficient cause from appealing when appeal was called on for hearing, the Appellate Officer shall restore the appeal on its original number.



- (11) An application under Sub-rule (10) shall, unless the Appellate Officer extend the time for sufficient reason, be made within thirty days of the date of dismissal.
- (12) If the appellant is present when the appeal is called on/for hearing, the Appellate Officer shall proceed to hear the appellant or authorised agent, and any other person summoned by him for the purpose, and pronounce judgment on the appeal either confirming, reversing or modifying the order appealed from.
- (13) The judgment of the Appellate Officer under Sub-rule (12) shall state the points for determination, decisions thereon and the reasons for the decisions.
- (14) The order shall be communicated to the appellant and a copy thereon shall be sent to the Registering Officer or the Licensing Officer, as the case may be, from whose order the appeal has been preferred.
19. Obtaining of copies of orders-A copy of the order of the Registering Officer, Licensing Officer or Appellate Officer may be obtained on payment of fee's of '[rupees thirty] per copy of each order on application specifying the date and other particulars of the order, made to the officer concerned.
20. Payment of fees and security deposits-(1) The payment of the various fees relating to registration, licensing and security deposits shall be made through treasury chalan after depositing the amount under the appropriate head of account.
  - (2) The head of account under which the receipts relating to the fees for registration, licensing and appeals, etc. shall be credited with "B-Non-Tax Revenue-087-Labour and Employment-Receipts under Labour Laws-Fees under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) State Rules, 1980". The security deposits are to be booked under the head "Deposits Advances -(b)-Deposits not bearing interest-843-Civil Deposit -Security Deposits."

### CHAPTER-III

#### Duties of the contractor

21. Particulars of migrant workmen-(1) Every contractor shall furnish to the specified authorities the particulars regarding recruitment and employment of migrant workmen in Form X.
  - (2) The particulars shall be either personally delivered, by the contractor to the concerned specified authorities or sent to them by registered post.
22. Return fare-The contractor shall pay to the migrant workman the return fare from the place of employment to the place of residence in the home-State of the migrant workman on the expiry of the period of employment and also on his -
  - (a) termination of service before the expiry of the period of employment for any reason whatsoever;
  - (b) being incapacitated for further employments on account of injury or continued ill health duly certified as such by a registered medical practitioner;
  - (c) cessation of work in the establishment which is not due to any fault on the part of the migrant workman ; and
  - (d) resignation from service on account of non-fulfillment of terms and conditions of employment by the contractor.
23. Pass book-(1) In the pass book referred to in Clause (b) of Sub-section (1) of Section 1 the following additional particulars shall be indicated, namely :
  - (a) the date of recruitment;
  - (b) the date of employment;
  - (c) Wage period, total attendance/unit of work done (in respect of piece-rated migrant workman) total wage, earned, deductions, if any, made/net amount paid and signature of contractor or his duly authorised representative with date; and



[These entries shall be made separately in respect of each wage period within three days from the date of payment].

- (d) name and address of the next of kins of migrant workman.
- (2) In case of fatal accident or serious bodily injury to any migrant workman, the contractor shall immediately send telegrams to the specified authorities of both the States and also the next of the kins of the migrant workman intimating death or the nature of serious bodily injury sustained by the migrant workman, as the case may be, date, place and reasons of accident. The contractor shall further send written report to the specified authorities concerned and the next of kin of the migrant workman, the under-mentioned particulars, by registered post within twenty-four hours of the occurrence of the accident-
  - (i) Name of the migrant workman;
  - (ii) Date, place, nature and reasons of the accident with clear indication as to whether it occurred in course of employment;
  - (iii) Condition of the migrant workman (if alive);
  - (iv) Action taken by the contractor/principal employer; Death certificate from a Medical Officer of the nearest Government Hospital, if dead
  - (v) Remarks.
- (3) If the contractor fails to send the telegraphic intimation and/or written report as required under Sub-rule (2), the principal employer shall comply with the requirements of Sub-rule (2), as earlier as possible but in any case not later than forty-eight hours of the time of occurrence of the accident.
24. Return and report-Every contractor shall furnish a return regarding migrant workman who have ceased to be employed, in Form XI, with detailed reasons for such cessation of work to the specified authorities either personally or by registered post so as to reach them not later than fifteen days from the date the migrant workman ceases to be employed.

#### CHAPTER-IV Wages

25. Rate of wages-The rate of wages of a migrant workman in an establishment where he is required to work which is neither same nor of similar kind as is being performed by any other workman in that establishment, shall not be less than the rate of wages paid by the principal employer to a workman in the lowest category of workman directly employed by him in that establishment or the minimum rates of wages notified by the State Government under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for the same or similar type of work performed by workmen in any scheduled employment in the area in which the establishment is located, or the rates of wages payable to the workmen for performing same or similar kind of work in that establishment in the State in which the establishment is located, whichever is higher :  
Provided that if there is any dispute in this regard to applicability of wage rates to a migrant workman under Clause (b) of Sub-section (1) of Section 13, the same shall be decided by the Labour Commissioner of the State whose decision shall be final.
26. Wage periods-The contractor shall fix wage periods in respect of which wages shall be payable.
27. No wage period shall exceed one month.
28. Payment of wages-The wages of every migrant workman in an establishment by a contractor where less than one thousand workmen are employed shall be paid before



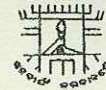
- the expiry of the seventh day and other cases before the expiry of tenth day of every month.
29. Payment on termination-Where the employment of any migrant workman is terminated by or on behalf of the contractor, the wages, earned by the migrant workman shall be paid before the expiry of the second working day from the day on which his employment is terminated.
  30. Mode of payment-All payments of wages shall be made by the contractor on working day at the work premises and during the working time and on a date notified in advance and, in case the work is completed before the expiry of the' schedule period, final payments shall be made within forty-eight hours of the working day.
  31. Wages due to every migrant workman shall be paid to him direct or to other persons duly authorised by him .in this behalf, in accordance with the provisions contained in Rules 34 and 35.
  32. All wages shall .be paid in current coin or in currency or in both. Wages shall be paid without any/deduction of any kind except/those specified by the State Government by general or special order in, this behalf or permissible under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.
  33. A notice showing the wage period and the place and time of disbursement of wages shall be displayed <at the place of work and a copy sent by the contractor to the Principal employer under acknowledgement.
  34. The principal employer shall ensure the presence of his authorised representative at the piace and time of disbursement of wages by the contractor to the migrant workman and it shall be the duty of the contractor to ensure the disbursement of wages in the presence of such authorised representative.
  35. The authorised representative of the principal employer shall record under his signature (indicating his name and designation (within brackets) a certificate at the end of all the entries in the register of wages or the wages-cum-muster roll, as the case may be, in the following form : "Certified that the amount shown in Column No..... has been paid to the migrant workman concerned in my presence on....."

#### CHAPTER-V

##### Medical and other facilities to be provided to migrant workmen

36. **Holidays, hours of work and other conditions of service-(1)** Holidays including weekly holidays, hours of work including extra wages for overtime work done and other conditions of service of migrant workman shall not be less favourable than those obtaining in that establishment or in similar employments in the area in which the establishment is located, as the case maybe.  
(2) Where there is any dispute in this regard or with regard to applicability of holiday including weekly holidays, hours of work including extra wages for overtime work done and other conditions of service to a migrant workman under Clause (a) of. Sub-section (1) of Section 13, the same shall be decided by the Labour Commissioner of the State whose decision shall be final.
37. **Medical facilities-(1)** The contractor shall ensure provision of suitable and adequate medical facilities for outdoor treatment to the migrant workman free of cost for treatment of any ailment from which the migrant workman or any member of his family may suffer during his employment in the establishment or to meet any preventive measure against epidemic or any virus infection. Whenever any medicine is purchased by a migrant workman from market on the basis of the prescription issued by any doctor provided by the contractor or the principal employer, as the case may be, or any registered medical practitioner, the cost of such medicine shall be reimbursed by the contractor to the





- migrant workman concerned within a period of seven days from the date of presentation of the bill by the migrant workman.
- (2) In the event of migrant workman or any of his family members suffering from any ailment requiring hospitalisation during his employment in the establishment, the contractor shall promptly arrange for the hospitalisation of the migrant workman or the concerned member of his family. The contractor shall bear entire expenses on treatment, hospital charges (including diet), if any, and travel expenses for the patient from the place of his/her residence to the hospital and back.
  - (3) Every contractor shall provide and maintain so as to be readily accessible during all working hours first-aid boxes at the rate of not less than one box for one hundred and fifty workmen or part thereof. . .
  - (4) The first-aid box shall be distinctly marked with a red cross on a white ground and shall contain the following equipments, namely :
    - (a) For the establishments in which number of migrant workman employed does not exceed fifty, each first-aid box shall contain the following equipments :
      - (i) Six small sterilized dressings;
      - (ii) Three medium size sterilized dressings;
      - (iii) Three large size sterilized dressings;
      - (iv) Three large size sterilized burn dressings;
      - (v) One (30 ml.) bottle containing a two per cent alcoholic solution of iodine;
      - (vi) One (50 ml.) bottle containing salvolatile having the dose and mode of-administration indicated on the label;
      - (vii) One snake-bite lancet;
      - (viii) One (30 gms.) bottle of potassium permanganate crystals;
      - (ix) One pair scissors;
      - (x) One copy of the first-aid leaflet issued by the Director General, Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes, Government of India;
      - (xi) A bottle containing one hundred tablets (each of five grains) of aspirin;
      - (xii) Ointment for burns; and
      - (xiii) A bottle of suitable surgical anti-septic solution.
    - (b) For establishments in which the number of migrant workman exceeds fifty, each first-aid box shall contain the following equipments :
      - (i) Twelve small sterilized dressings;
      - (ii) Six medium size sterilized dressings;
      - (iii) Six large size sterilized dressings ;
      - (iv) Six large size sterilized burn dressings;
      - (v) Six (15 gms.) packets sterilized cotton wool
      - (vi) One (60ml.) bottle containing a two percent alcoholic solution of iodine
      - (vii) One (60 ml.) bottle containing salvolatile having the dose and mode of administration indicated on the label;
      - (viii) One roll of adhesive plaster;
      - (ix) a snake-bite lancet;
      - (x) One (30 grams) bottle of potassium permanganate crystals; (xi) One pair of scissors?
      - (xii) One copy of the first-aid leaflets issued by the Director General of Factory, Advisory Service and Labour Institute, Government of India; -
      - (xiii) A bottle containing one hundred tablets (each of five grains) of aspirin;
      - (xiv) Ointment for burns; and
      - (xv) A bottle of a suitable surgical anti-septic solution.
  - (5) Adequate arrangements shall be made for immediate recoupment when necessary.
  - (6) Nothing except the contents mentioned in Sub-rule (4) shall be kept in the first-aid box.



- (7) The first-aid box shall be in charge of a responsible person shall always be readily available during the working hours of the establishment.
- (8) The person in charge of the first-aid box shall be a person trained in first-aid treatment in establishments where the number of migrant workmen is one hundred and fifty or more.
38. Protective clothing- (1) The contractor shall provide to every migrant workman where the temperature falls below twenty degree centigrade protective clothing consisting of one woollen coat and one woollen trouser once in two years :  
Provided that where the temperature falls below five degree centigrade one woollen over coat shall also be provided to the migrant workman once in three years.
- (2) The protective clothing shall be provided by the contractor to every migrant workman before onset of winter season in the area where the establishment is located or on the 30th day of September whichever is earlier.
39. **Drinking water, latrines, urinals and washing facilities-(1)** The contractor shall provide sufficient quantity of wholesome drinking water, sufficient number of sanitary latrine and urinals and washing facilities for the migrant workmen-at the establishment in the case of new establishments within seven days of the commencement of employment of migrant workmen therein and in case of existing establishments within seven days of commencement of these rules.
- (2) If any of the facilities is not provided by the contractor within the specified period, the same shall be provided by the principal employer within seven days of the expiry of the period specified in Sub-rule (1).
40. Rest rooms-(1) In every place where migrant workmen are required to halt at night in connection with the working of the establishment and in which employment of migrant workmen is likely to continue for three months or more, the contractor shall provide and maintain rest rooms or other suitable alternative accommodation within fifteen days of the coming into force of these rules in case of the existing establishments and within fifteen days of the commencement of the employment of migrant workmen in the case of new establishments.
- (2) If the amenity is not provided by the contractor within the specified period, the principal employer shall provide the same within a period of fifteen days of the expiry of the period specified in Sub-rule (1).
- (3) Separate rooms shall be provided for female migrant workmen.
- (4) Effective and suitable provisions shall be made in every room for securing and maintaining adequate ventilation by circulation of fresh air, and there shall also be provided and maintained sufficient and suitable natural and artificial lighting.
- (5) The rest room or other suitable alternative accommodations shall be of such dimensions so as to provide at least a floor area of 1.1 square metre for each person.
- (6) The rest room, rooms or other suitable alternative accommodation shall be so constructed as to afford adequate protection against heat, wind, rain and shall have smooth, hard and impervious floor surface.
- (7) The rest room or other suitable accommodations shall be at a convenient distance from the establishment and shall have adequate supply of wholesome drinking water.
41. Canteens-(1) In every establishment wherein works regarding the employment of migrant workmen is likely to continue for six months and wherein migrant workmen number one hundred or more are ordinarily employed, an adequate canteen shall be provided by the contractor for the use of such migrant workmen within sixty days of the date coming into force of these rules in the case of the existing establishments, and within sixty days of the commencement of the employment of migrant workmen in the case of new establishments.



- (2) If the contractor fails to provide canteen within the time laid down, the same shall be provided by the principal employer, within sixty days of the expiry of the time allowed to the contractor.
- (3) The canteen shall be, maintained by the contractor or principal employer, as the case may be, in an efficient manner.
- (4) The canteen shall consist of at least a dining hall, kitchen, store-room, pantry and washing places separately for migrant workmen and for utensils.
- (5) The canteen shall be sufficiently lighted at all times, when any person has access to it.
- (6) The floor of the canteen shall be made of smooth and impervious material and inside walls shall be lime-washed or colour washed at least once in each year:  
Provided that the inside walls of the\* kitchen shall be lime-washed every four months. :  
The precincts of the canteen shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- (7) Waste water of the canteen shall be carried away in suitable covered drains and shall not be allowed to accumulate so as to cause a nuisance and suitable arrangements shall be made for the collection and disposal of garbage.  
The drinking-hall shall accommodate at a time at least thirty per cent of the migrant workmen working at a time.
- (8) The floor area of the dining hall, excluding the area occupied by the service counter and any furniture except tables and chairs shall be not less than one square metre per diner to be accommodated as specified in Sub-rule (7).
- (9) A portion, of the dining-hall and service counter shall be partitioned off and reserved for women migrant workmen in proportion to their number.
- (10) Washing place for women in the dining-hall shall be separate and screened to secure.
- (11) Sufficient tables, stools, chairs or benches shall be available for the diners to be accommodated as specified in Sub-rule (7).
- (12) There shall be provided and maintained sufficient utensils, crockery, cutlery, furniture and any other equipment necessary for the efficient running of the canteen. furniture, utensils and other equipments of the canteen shall be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- (14) Suitable clean clothes for the employees, serving in the canteen shall also be provided and maintained.
- (15) A service counter, if provided in the canteen, shall have top of smooth and impervious material.
- (16) Suitable facilities including an adequate supply of hot water shall be provided for the cleaning of utensils and equipments of the canteen.
- (17) The food-stuffs and other items to be served in the canteen shall be in conformity with the normal habits of the migrant workmen.
- (18) The charges for meals, other food-stuffs, beverages and any other items served in the canteen shall be based on no-profit no-loss basis and shall be conspicuously displayed in the canteen.
- (19) In arriving at the prices of food-stuffs and other articles served in the canteen the following items shall not be taken into consideration as expenditure, namely :
  - (a) The rent for the land and buildings;
  - (b) The depreciation and maintenance charges for the building and equipments provided for in the canteen;
  - (c) The cost of purchase, repairs and replacement of equipments including furniture, crockery, cutlery and utensils;
  - (d) The water charges and other charges incurred for lighting and ventilation;
  - (e) The interest on the amounts spent on the provision and maintenance of furniture and equipment provided for in the canteen.



- (20) The books of accounts and registers and other documents used in connection with the running of the canteen shall be produced on demand to an Inspector.
- (21) The accounts pertaining to the canteen shall be audited once every twelve months by registered Accountants and Auditors :  
Provided that the Labour Commissioner of the State may approve of any other person to audit the accounts if he is satisfied that it is not feasible to appoint a registered Accountant and Auditor in view of the site or the location of the canteen.
42. Latrines and urinals-(1) Latrines shall be provided in every establishment on the following scale, namely :  
(a) where females are employed, there shall be at least one latrine for every twenty-five females;  
(b) where males are employed, there shall be at least one latrine for every twenty-five males :  
Provided that where the number of males or females exceeds one hundred and ninety, it shall be sufficient if there is one latrine for twenty-five males or females, as the case may be, up to the first one hundred and one for every thirty thereafter.
- (2) Every latrine shall be under cover and so partitioned off as to secure privacy, and shall have a proper door and fastenings.
- (3) Where workers of both sexes are employed there shall be displayed outside each block of latrine and urinal a notice in the language understood by the majority of the workers 'For Men only' or 'For Women only', as the case may be. Such notice shall also bear the figure of a man or of a woman, as the case may be.
- (4) There shall be at least one urinal for male workers up to fifty and one for female up to fifty employed at a time :  
Provided that where the number of male or female workmen, as the case may be, exceeds five hundred it shall be sufficient if there is one urinal for every fifty females up to the five hundred and one for every one hundred or part thereof thereafter. , '
- (5) The latrines and urinals shall be conveniently situated and accessible to workers at all times at the establishment.
- (6) The latrines and urinals shall be adequately lighted and shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition at all times.
- (7) Latrines and urinals other than those connected with a flush sewage system shall comply with the requirements of the public health authorities.
- (8) Water shall be provided by the means of tap or otherwise so as to be conveniently accessible in or near the latrine and urinals,
43. Washing facilities-(1) In every establishment adequate and suitable facilities for washing shall be provided and maintained for the use of migrant workmen employed therein.
- (2) Separate and adequate screening facilities shall be provided for the use of male and female migrant-workmen.
- (3) Such facilities shall be conveniently accessible and shall be kept in clean and hygienic condition.
44. Creche-(1) In every establishment where twenty or more female workmen are ordinarily employed as migrant workmen and in which employment of migrant workmen is likely to continue for three months or more, the contractor shall provide and maintain two rooms of reasonable dimensions for the use of their children under the age of six years, within fifteen days of the coming into force of these rules, in case of existing establishment, and within fifteen days of the commencement of the employment of not less than twenty women as migrant workmen in new establishments.
- (2) One of such rooms shall be used as play-room for the children and the other as bed room for the children.



- (3) If the contractor fails to provide the creche within the time laid down, the same shall be provided by the principal employer within fifteen days of the expiry of the time allowed to the contractor.
- (4) The contractor or the principal employer, as the case may be, shall supply adequate number of toys and games in the play-room and sufficient number of cots and beddings in the sleeping room.
- (5) The "Creche, shall be so constructed as to afford adequate protection against heat, damp, wind, rain and shall have smooth, hard and impervious floor surface.
- (6) The creche shall be at a convenient distance from the establishment and shall have adequate supply of wholesome drinking water.
- (7) Effective and suitable provisions shall be made in every room of the creche for securing and maintaining adequate ventilation by circulation of fresh air and there shall also be provided and maintained sufficient and suitable natural or artificial lighting.
45. Residential accommodation-(1) The contractor shall provide to every migrant workman -
- (i) in case he is accompanied by any other member of his family, a suitable quarter consisting of minimum one room having at least a floor area of 10 Square Metres, a verandah and adequate additional covered space for cooking food as well as one common sanitary latrine, one common bathroom for every three such quarters; and
- (ii) in case he is unaccompanied by any other member of his family, a suitable barrack so as to accommodate not more than ten such migrant workman, having a floor area of not less than 6.5 square metres for each such migrant workman making use of the barrack, a verandah and adequate additional covered space for cooking food as well as one common sanitary latrine and one common bathroom-for every such migrant workmen. Within fifteen days of coming into force of the rules in the case of the existing establishments and within fifteen days of the commencement of the employment of migrant workmen in new establishments.
- (2) Every quarter and the barrack shall be so constructed as to afford adequate ventilation, protection against heat, wind, rain and shall have smooth, hard and impervious floor surface.
- (3) The quarters or the barracks, as the case may be, shall be at a convenient distance from the establishment and shall have adequate supply of wholesome drinking water.
- (4) The area in which the quarters and/or the barracks are located as well as the latrines and the bathrooms provided therein shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition at all times.
- (5) If the amenities referred to in Sub-rule (1) are not provided by the contractor Within the period prescribed, the principal employer shall provide the same within a period of fifteen days of the expiry of the period laid down in the said sub-rule.
- (6) If there is any dispute or disagreement regarding suitability or adequacy of provision of any of the amenities referred to in Sub-rules (1) to (4), the same shall be decided by the Labour Commissioner of the State whose decision shall be final.
46. Liability of the principal employer in certain cases-If any allowance required to be paid under Section 14 or Section 15 to a migrant workman employed in an establishment to which this Act applies is not paid by the contractor or if any facility specified in Section 16 is not provided for the benefit of such migrant workman, such allowance shall be paid, or as the case may be, the facility shall be provided by the principal employer within fifteen days or the expiry of the time allowed to the contractor under the sub-rules except where otherwise provided for in the relevant rules :
- Provided that in case of ailment requiring urgent medical attention or hospitalisation, as the case may be, the principal employer shall provide the same immediately on the failure of the contractor to do so.



47. Relaxation in certain cases-If the contractor or the principal employer, as the case may be, has already provided any 'facility relating to supply of wholesome drinking water or rest rooms or latrines and urinals or washing canteen or creche or first-aid as required under any Act applicable to the establishment and the same is adequate and also available for use of the migrant workmen, that facility shall be deemed to have been provided for under these rules.

#### CHAPTER-VI

### Registers and records-Collection of statistics

48. Register of contractors-Every principal employer shall maintain in respect of each registered establishment a register of contractors in Form XII
49. Register of persons employed-Every principal employer and contractor shall maintain in respect of each establishment where he employs migrant workmen a register in Form XIII.
50. Service certificate-On termination of employment for any reason whatsoever the contractor shall issue to the migrant workman whose services have been terminated a service certificate in Form XIV.
51. Displacement-cum-outward journey allowances sheet and return journey allowances register-(1) Every contractor shall maintain a sheet for payment of displacement-cum-outward journey allowances as required to be paid under Sections 14 and 15 in Form XV, and a register for return journey allowances as required to be paid under Section 15 in Form XVI.
- (2) Entries in the sheet and the register required to be maintained under Sub-rule (1) shall be authenticated by the contractor or his duly authorised representative.
52. Muster roll, wages register, deductions register and over-time register-(1) In respect of establishments which are governed by the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 and the rules made there under or the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the rules made there under, or Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the rules made thereunder the following registers and records required to be maintained by the contractor as employer under those Acts and rules shall be deemed to be registers and records to be maintained by the contractor under these rules :
- (a) Muster Roll;
- (b) Register of wages;
- (c) Register, of deductions;
- (d) Register of fines;
- (e) Register of over-time;
- (f) Register of advances.
- (2) In respect of establishments not covered by any of the Acts or the rules referred to in Sub-rule, (1) the following provisions shall apply, namely:
- (a) Every contractor shall maintain a Muster Roll Register and Register of Wages in Forms XVII and Forms XVIII, respectively;
- (b) Signature or thumb impression of every migrant workman on the register of wages shall be obtained and entries therein shall be authenticated by the signature of the contractor or his authorized representative, and duly certified by the authorised representative of the principal employer as required by Rule 35;
- (c) Register of deductions, register of fines and register of advances -Register of deductions for damage or loss, register of fines and register of advances shall be maintained by every contractor in Forms XIX, XX and XXI respectively;
- (d) Every contractor shall maintain register of over-time in Form XXII.
- (3) Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules where a combined or alternative form is sought to be used for the contractor to avoid duplication of work for compliance



with the provisions of any other Act or the rules framed there under or any other laws or regulations or in case where mechanised pay rolls are introduced for better administration, alternative suitable Form or Forms in lieu of any of the Forms prescribed under these rules, may be used with the previous approval of the Labour Commissioner of the State.

53. Maintenance and preservation of registers-(1) All registers and other records required to be maintained under the Act and rules shall be maintained complete and up-to-date and unless otherwise provided for, shall be kept at an office or the nearest convenient building within the precincts of the work place or at a place, if any, specified by the Inspector on the specific request made by the contractor in this behalf. ' '
  - (2) All the registers shall be maintained legibly in English or Hindi and in the language understood by majority of the migrant workmen engaged in the works.
  - (3) All the registers and other records shall be preserved in original for a period of three calendar years from the date of last entry made therein.
  - (4) All the registers, records and notices maintained under the Act or rules shall be produced on demand before the Inspector or Labour Commissioner of the State or any other authority under the Act or any person authorised in that behalf by the State Government.
  - (5) Where no deduction or fine has been imposed or no over-time has been worked during any wage period a 'NIL' entry shall be made across the body of the register at the end of every wage period indicating also in precise terms the wage period to which the 'NIL' entry relates in the respective registers maintained in Forms XIX, XX and XXI respectively.
54. Display of an abstract of the Act and the rules-Every contractor shall display an abstract of the Act and these rules in English or Hindi and in the language spoken by majority of migrant workmen in such Form as may be approved by the Labour Commissioner of the State.
55. Notices-(1) Notices showing the rules of wages, hours of work, wage periods, weekly holidays,, dates of payment of wages, names and addresses of the Inspectors having jurisdiction, and date of payment of unpaid wages, shall be displayed in English or in Hindi and in the language understood by the majority of the workers in conspicuous places at the establishment and the work-site by the principal employer or the contractor, as the case may be.
  - (2) The notices shall be correctly maintained in a clean and legible condition. ,
  - (3) A copy of the notices shall be sent to the Inspector and whenever any changes occur, the same shall be communicated to him within seven days of effecting such changes at the latest.
56. Periodical returns-(1) Every contractor shall send half-yearly return in Form XXIII, in duplicate so as to reach the Licensing Officers concerned not later than thirty days from the close of the half-year. Note-Half-year for the purpose of this rule means a period of six months commencing from the 1st in January and in July every year.
  - (2) Every principal employer of a registered establishment shall send annually a return in Form XXIV, in duplicate so as to reach the Registering Officer concerned not later than the 15th February following the end of the year, to which it relates, with a copy thereof sent to the Registering Officer of the State, from which migrant workers have been drafted and engaged in the establishment during the period in question. ,
57. (1) The Labour Commissioner or the Chief Inspector or any other authority appointed under the Act by the Government of the State from which the migrant workmen have been recruited shall have powers to call for any information or statistics in relation to the migrant workmen so drafted, from the contractor or the principal employer in that State in which the migrant workmen have been engaged at any time by an order in writing.
  - (2) Any person called upon to furnish the information under Sub-rule (1) shall be legally bound to do so. -



**CHAPTER-VII**

**Legal aid to migrant workmen**

58. Legal aid-On receipt of a written application from migrant workmen or in the event of his death, from next of his kin for providing legal aid in relation to any proceeding before the authority under Section 5 of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 or authority under Section 20 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 or appropriate Labour Court under Sub-section (2) of Section 33-C of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 or Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 in which the migrant workman or his legal heir or dependent is a party during stay of the migrant workman in the area in which the work place is located or after his return to the home-State, the specified authority concerned in such case, if he is satisfied, may with the approval of the Labour Commissioner of the State, engage an Advocate to conduct the relevant proceedings in the concerned Court on behalf of the migrant workman or his legal heir or dependent and meet all legal expenses in this regard.

**CHAPTER-VIII**

**Appointment, powers and duties  
of Chief Inspector**

59. (1) The State Government may, by notification, appoint a Chief Inspector who shall be the chief executive authority for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act.  
(2) In addition to any powers conferred on the Chief Inspector by or under these rules he may exercise all or any of the powers of an Inspector.
60. (1) The Chief Inspector appointed under Sub-rule (1) of Rule 59 shall be (deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.  
(2) No prosecution under the Act shall be instituted except with the previous-sanction of the Chief Inspector

**FORM-I**

**[See Rule 3(1)]**

**Application for registration of establishment employing migrant  
workmen-**

1. Name and location of the establishment.....
2. Postal address of the establishment.....
3. Full name and address of the principal employer (furnish father's/ husband's name in the case of Individuals).....
4. Names and addresses of the Directors/Particulars of partners . (in case of companies and firms).....
5. Full name and address of the Manager of person responsible for the supervision and control of the establishment .....
- 5-A. Number and date of registration of the establishment under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.....
6. Nature of work carried on in the establishment.....
7. Particulars of contractors and migrant workmen:-
  - (a) Names and addresses of contractors.....
  - (b) Nature of work for which migrant workmen are to be recruited or are employed.....
  - (c) Maximum number of migrant workmen to be employed on any day through each contractor.....
  - (d) Estimated date and commencement of work under each contractor.....
  - (e) Estimated date of termination of employment of migrant workmen under each contractor.....





8. Particulars of treasury receipts (Original treasury receipts to be enclosed) name of the Treasury, amount, number and date.....  
I hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Principal Employer Seal and stamps

Date of receipt of application Office of the Registering Officer

**FORM -II**  
**[See Rule 4 (1)]**  
**Certificate of registration**

**GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA**  
**Office of the Registering Officer**

A certificate of registration containing the following particulars is hereby granted under Clause (a) of Sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 and the rules made there under to.....

1. Nature of work carried on in the establishment.....
2. Names and addresses of contractors.....
3. Nature of work for which migrant workmen are to be employed or are employed.....
4. Maximum number of migrant workmen to be employed on any day through each contractor
5. Other particulars relevant to the employment of migrant workmen-

Signature of Registering Officer  
Seal

**FORM-IV**  
**[See Rule 7(1)]**  
**Application for licence for recruitment**

1. Name and address of the contractor (including his father's/husband's name in case of individuals) with No. and date of licence obtained by the contractor under Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 from ..... (Particulars of the authority to be mentioned here).....
2. Date of birth and age (in case of individuals).....
3. Particulars of establishment where migrant workmen are to be employed-
  - (a) Name and address of the establishment.....
  - (b) Type of business, trade, industry, manufacture or occupation, which is carried on in the establishment.....
  - (c) No. and date of certificate of registration of the establishment under the Act, alongwith a certified copy thereof and the particulars in Form I.....
  - (d) Name and address of the principal employer.....
4. Particulars of migrant workmen-
  - (a) Nature of work in which migrant workmen are employed or are to be employed in the establishment.....
  - (b) Duration of the proposed contract work (give particulars of proposed date of commencing and ending).....
  - (c) Name and address of the agent or manager of the contractor at the work-site.....
  - (d) Maximum number of migrant workmen proposed to be employed in the establishment on any date.....
  - (e) Names and addresses of the Directors/Partners (in case of companies and firms).....
  - (f) Name(s) and addresses) of the person(s) in charge of and responsible to the company/ firm for conduct of the company of the company/ firm, as the case may be.....



5. Whether the contractor was convicted of any offence within the preceding five years, if so, give details.....
6. Whether there was any order against the contractor revoking or suspending licence or forfeiting security deposits in respect of an earlier contract. If so, date of such order,.....
7. Whether the contractor has worked in any other establishment within the past five years, if so, give details of the principal employer, establishment and nature of work.;.....
8. Whether a certificate by the principal employer in Form VI is enclosed.....
9. Amount of licence fee paid. (with No. and date of Treasury Receipt
10. Amount of security, if any.....

**Declaration**

I hereby declare that the details given above are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Note-The application should be accompanied by Treasury Receipts showing the payment of the prescribed licence fee and security deposit, if any, -and a certificate in Form VI from the principal employer.

(To be filled in the office of the Licensing Officer) Date of receipt of the application with Treasury Receipts for fees.....

Signature of the Licensing Officer

**FORM-IV-A ]**  
**[See Rule 9 (2)]**

Application for licence for recruitment of labourers by the agents for V employment in contractor's establishments outside Orissa

1. Name and permanent address of the agent (including his father's/ husband's name in case of individuals) with age of the agent.
2. Date of birth and age (in case of individuals)-
  - (a) Complete address of the recruiting office;
  - (b) Name and address of the authorised nominee worker in absence of the nominee with his relation with the agent.
3. Particulars of establishment where migrant workmen are to be employed.
4. (a) Name and address of the establishment.
  - (b) Type of business, trade, industry, manufacture or occupation which is carried on in the establishment.
  - (c) Number and date of certificate of registration of the establishment under the Act.
  - (d) Name and address of the principal employer.
  - (e) Name and address of the contractor(s) to whom labourers are to be supplied during the year in question (with number and date of licence obtained under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979.
  - (f) Detailed address of the work-place.
  - (g) Number and date of licence of the contractor of outside State obtained under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 with particulars of the Licensing Officer.
5. Particulars of migrant workmen-
  - (a) Nature of work in which migrant workmen are employed or are to be employed in the establishment;
  - (b) Duration of the proposed contract work (give particulars of proposed date of commencing and ending);
  - (c) Name and address of the manager of the contractor at the work-site;



- (d) Maximum number of workmen proposed to be recruited and supplied to the contractor (s) by the agent during the year in question (with break-up of the number to be supplied to each contractor);
  - (e) Areas with name of police-station and district from which labourers are to be recruited;
  - (f) Name and address of the partner and managing partner or director of the contractor's firm (in case of companies or firms) to whom workmen are to be supplied.
6. Whether the agent was convicted of any offence within the preceding five years. If so, give details.
  7. Whether there was any order against the agent revoking or suspending licence or forfeiting security deposits in respect of an earlier contract. If so, the date of such order.
  8. Areas With name of police-station and district from which the Dadan labourers are proposed to be recruited. ,
  9. Amount of Licence fee, Paid, (with No. and date or Treasury Receipt)

**Declaration**

I hereby declare that the details given above correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Place.....

Date :.....

Signature of the Agent

(To be filled in the office of the Licensing Officer)

Date of Receipt of the application with crossed demand draft for fees ....

Signature of the Licensing Officer

**Form - V**  
**[See Rule 7 (2)]**

**Application for Licence for employment**

1. Name and address of the contractor (Including his father husband's name in case of individuals) with No. and date of licence obtained by the contractor under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) 'Act,' 1970 from..... [particulars of the authority to be mentioned here alongwith a copy of the licence issued under Section 8 (1) (a)] ....
2. Date of birth and age (in case of individuals).....
3. Particulars of establishment where migrant workmen are to be employed-(a) Name and address of the establishment.....  
Type of business, trade, industry, manufacture or occupation, which is carried on in the establishment.....  
No. and date of registration of the establishment under the Act..... Name and address of the principal employer.....
4. Particulars of migrant workmen-
  - (a) Nature of work in which migrant workmen are employed or are to be employed in the establishment.....
  - (b) Duration of the proposed contract work (give particulars of proposed date of commencing and ending).....  
Name and address of the agent or manager of the contractor at the work-site
  - (d) Maximum number of migrant workmen proposed to be employed in the establishment on any date.....
  - (e) Name and address of the directors/partners (in case of companies and firms).....
  - (f) Name(s) and address (es) of the person(s) in charge of and responsible to the company/ firm for the conduct of the business of the company/ firm, as the case may be.....



5. Whether the contractor was convicted of any offence within the preceding five years. If so, give details.....
6. Whether there was any order against the contractor revoking or suspending licence or forfeiting security deposits in respect of an earlier contract. If so, 'the date of such order.....
7. Whether the contractor has worked in any other establishment within the past five years. If so, give details of the principal employer, establishment and nature of work.....
8. Whether a certificate by the principal employer in Form VI is enclosed.....
9. Amount licence fee paid .....  
(with: number and date of Treasury Receipt).....
10. Amount of security deposit, if any .....

**Declaration**

I hereby declare that the details given above are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Place.....

Signature of the applicant  
(Contractor)

Date.....

Note-The application should be accompanied by a treasury receipt showing the payment of the prescribed fee and security deposit,, if any, from the principal employer. (To be filled in the office of the Licensing Officer) Date of receipt of the application with treasury receipt for fees. Signature of the Licensing Officer

**FORM-VI**

[See Rule 7 (3)]

**Form of certificate by principal employer**

Certified that I have engaged the applicant (name and address of the contractor) as a contractor in my establishment. I undertake to be bound by all the provisions of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 and the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Orissa Rules, 1980 in so far as the provisions are applicable to me in respect of the employment of migrant workmen by the applicant in my establishment.

Place..... Signature of principal employer

Date..... Name and address of establishment

**FORM-VII**

[See Rule 11(2)]

**Application for adjustment of security deposit**

1. Name and address of the Contractor
2. No. and date of application for fresh licence
3. Date fo Expiry of previous licence
4. Whether the previous licence of the contractor was suspended or rovoked.
5. No. and date of the treatasury receipt of security deposit in respect of the previous licence.
6. Amount of previous security deposit



7. Amount of Security deposit for the fresh licence
8. No and date of treasury receipt of the balance security deposited with the fresh application.
9. No. and date of certificate of registration of the establishment in relation to which the fresh licence is applied for.
10. Name and address of the principal employer
11. Particulars of fresh application.
12. Remarks

Singature of the Applicant

**FORM- VIII**  
[See Rule 12(1)]

Office of the Licensing Officer Licence No..... Dated..... Fee paid  
Licence is hereby granted to ..... (contractor) under Sub-section  
(1) of Section 8 of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, subject to the conditions specified in the Annexure: :

1. This licence is for doing the work of (nature of work to be indicated) in the establishment of (name of principal employer to be indicated) at (place of work to be indicated), by the migrant workmen recruited from.....  
(name of the police-station, district and State to be indicated) through Shri .....(name and address of the agent to be indicated).
2. The licence shall remain in force till the 31st December of.....  
year in which issued to be mentioned here).

Signature and seal of Licensing Officer

**ANNEXURE**

The licence is subject to the following conditions :

1. The licence shall be non-transferable.
2. The number of workmen employed as migrant workmen in the establishment shall not, on any day exceed the maximum number specified in the licence, during the calendar year for which it is issued or last renewed.
3. Save as provided in these rules the fees paid for the grant, or as the case may be, for renewal of licence shall be non-refundable. : 4. The rates of wages payable to the migrant workmen by the, contractor shall not be less than the rates prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, for such employment or for work of similar kind or nature and where the rates have been fixed by agreement, settlement or award, not less than the rates so fixed.
5. (a) In cases where the migrant workmen employed by the contractor perform the same or similar kind of workmen directly employed by the principal employer of the establishment, the wage rates, hours of work and other conditions of service of the migrant workmen of the contractor shall be the same as applicable to the workmen directly employed by the principal employer of the establishment on the same or similar kind of work :  
Provided that in the case of any disagreement with regard to the type of work, the same shall be decided by the Labour Commissioner of the State whose decision shall be final.
- (b) In other cases the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and conditions of service of the migrant workmen of the contractor shall be such as prescribed in these rules.
6. Every migrant workman shall be entitled to allowance benefits, etc., as prescribed in the Act and these rules.



7. No female migrant workman shall be employed by any contractor before 6 a. m. or after 7p.m.  
Provided that this clause shall not apply to the employment of female migrant workman in pit head baths, creches and canteens and midwives and nurses in hospitals and dispensaries.
8. The contractor shall notify and change in the number of migrant . workmen or the conditions of work to the Licensing, Officer.
9. The contractor shall comply with all the provisions of the Act and these rules. '
10. A copy of the licence shall be displayed prominently at the premises where the migrant workmen are employed.

**FORM-VIII-A**  
**[See Rule 12(1)]**  
**Licence**  
**Office of the Licensing Officer**

Licence No..... Dated..... Fee paid Rs.....

Licence is hereby granted to .....agent under Section (1) of the Inter-State .Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, subject to the conditions specified in the Annexure.

1. This licence is for doing the work of-(nature of work to be indicated) in the establishment of principal employer a/id the ' contractor (name and address to be indicated) at..... (complete address of the place of work to be indicated);- by the migrant workmen recruited from ..... (name of the police station, district and State to be indicated).
2. The licence is meant for recruiting maximum number of..... (figure to be mentioned here) during the calendar years indicated in item 3 below.
3. The licence shall remain in force till the 31st December of..... (year in which issued to be mentioned here).

Signature and seal of Licensing Officer

Signature and seal of the Licensing Officer

**ANNEXURE**

The licence is subject to the following conditions :

1. The licence shall be non-transferable.
2. The number of workmen employed as migrant workmen in the establishment shall not, on any day exceed the maximum number specified in the licence, during the calendar year-for which it is ' issued or last renewed.
3. Save as provided in these rules the fees paid for the grant or, as the case may be', for renewal of licence be non-refundable.
4. The rates of wages payable to the migrant workmen by the contractor shall not be less than the rates prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, for such employment or for work of similar kind or nature and where the rates have been fixed by agreement, settlement or award, not less than the rates so fixed.
5. (a) In cases where the migrant workmen employed by the agent under a contractor perform the same or similar kind of work as the workmen directly employed by the principal employer of the establishment, the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and other conditions of' service of the migrant workmen of the contractor shall be same as applicable to the workmen directly employed by the principal employer of the establishment on the same or similar kind of work :



Provided that in the case of any disagreement with regard to the type of work, the same shall be decided by the Labour Commissioner of the State whose decision shall be final.

- (b) In other cases the wage rates, holidays, hours of work and conditions of service of the migrant workmen of the contractor recruited through his agent shall be such as prescribed in these rules.
6. Every migrant workman shall be entitled to allowances, benefits, facilities, etc., as prescribed in the Act and these rules.
7. No female migrant workman shall be employed by any agent under any contractor before 6 a. m. or after 7 p.m.:  
Provided that this clause shall not apply to the employment of female migrant workman in pit head baths, creches and canteens and as midwives and nurses in hospitals and dispensaries.
8. The agent shall notify any change in the name of the contractor(s), migrant workmen or the conditions of work, to the Licensing Officer.
9. The agent shall comply with all the provisions of the Act and these rules.
10. A copy of the licence shall be displayed prominently at the premises where the migrant workmen are employed.
11. The name and address of all contractors with address of the work-place and the number of migrant workmen intended to be recruited for every contractor by the agent during every calendar year, shall be furnished by the agent with the application for renewal.  
. Details of such particulars for every calendar year shall be entered and countersigned by the Licensing Officer on the reverse of the licence or renewal licence.

**FORM-IX**

[See Rule 15 (2)]

**Application for renewal of licence**

1. Name and address of the contractor.....
  2. No. and date of the licence.....
  3. Date of expiry of the previous licence.....
  4. Whether the licence of the contractor was suspended or revoked.....
  5. No. and date of the treasury receipt enclosed.....
- Place.....  
Date.....

Signature of the applicant

(To be filled in the office of the Licensing Officer) Date of receipt of the application with, treasury receipt no. and date.

Signature of the Licensing Officer

**FORM-X**

[See Rule 21]

Form in which to furnish particulars in respect of recruitment and employment of migrant workman/workmen as prescribed under Sub-rule (1) of Rule 21 to the authorities specified under the Explanation below Sub-section (2) of Section 12 of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979

Name and address of the contractor.....  
Name and address of the sub-contractor or the agent through whom recruitment has been made.....  
Name and address of the establishment.....



Name and address of the principal employer.....  
Name of the State in which the place of work is located.....  
Name of the State in which recruitment was made .....

1. Serial No.
2. Name of Migrant Workman
3. Father's / husband's Name
4. Sex
5. Age
6. Permanent home address
7. Name and address of the next of the kin of the migrant workman
8. Place and address of residence in the home -State
9. Amount of displacement allowance paid
11. Amount of wages for outward journey period paid
12. Nature of job required to be performed
13. Date of recruitment
14. Date of employment
15. Details of rates of wages and other allowances payable
16. Period of contract of employment
17. Details of other service conditions
18. Remarks

Signature of Contractor or his authorised Representative  
Date.....

Specified authority in the State in which migrant  
workman/workmen is/are employed)

Submitted to

- (1) .....
- (2) .....

(Specified authority in the State from which the migrant workman/workmen has/have been recruited)

Copy forwarded to .....

Signature of the Contractor or his  
authorised representative

Date :.....

Note : In case where migrant workmen concerned have been recruited from more than one State, Separate returns shall be submitted in respect of each such State.

**FORM -XI**

**[See Rule 24]**

**Return to be sent by the contractor to the authorities specified under Explanation below. Sub-section (2) of Section 12 of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979**

Name and address of the Contractor -

Name and address of the sub-contractor through whom recruitment has been made with number and date under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and





Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 from Licensing Officer of the State from which workmen are recruited.

Name and address of the establishment .....

Name and address of the principal employer.....

Name of the State in which the place of work is located.....

Name of the State in which recruitment was made.....

1. Serial No.
2. Name of Migrant Workman
3. Father's / husband's Name
4. Sex
5. Designation
6. Age
7. Permanent home address indicating the State
8. Place and address of Residence in home State
9. Date of employment
10. Date of which ceased to be employed with reasons
11. Total days worked
12. Details of rates of wages and other allowance paid
13. Amount of PISDI cement allowance paid
14. Amount of outward journey allowances wages for outwards journey paid
15. Amount of return journey allowance and wages for return journey paid
16. Total wages paid
17. Details of compensation and other allowances
18. Amount of deduction, if any
19. Amount advance, if any paid
20. Amount of advance, if any recovered
21. Remarks

**Declaration**

I/We hereby declare that all wages, other dues including displacement allowance, outward return journeys allowances and wages for journeys period payable to migrant workmen workman/named above and employed by me/us have been paid by me/us to him/them.

Signature of the contractor  
or his authorised representative

Place Submitted to -

Date

- (1) (Specified authority in the State in which migrant workman/workmen is/are employed)
- (2) (Specified authority in the State from which the migrant workman/workmen has/have been recruited).

Copy forwarded to  
(The principal employer)

Signature of the contractor or his authorised representative



Note - In case where migrant workmen concerned have been recruited from more than one States, separate returns shall be submitted in respect of each such State.

**FORM-XII**  
**[SeeRule 48]**

**Register of contractor**

- (1) Name and address of the principal employer
- (2) Name and address of the establishment

**FORM-XIII**  
**[SeeRule 49]**

**Register of contractor**

Name and Address of Contractor.....

Name and address of Establishment in/under which migrant  
Name and address of the establishment.....

Workmen are employed.....

Name and address of Principal Employer.....

- 1. Sl. No.
- 2. Name and surname of Migrant workman
- 3. Age and Sex
- 4. Father's / Husband's name
- 5. Nature of employment /designation
- 6. Permanent home address of migrant workmen (village and Tahsil/taluk and district)
- 7. Local address
- 8. Date of commencement of employment
- 9. Signature of Thumb impression f migrant workman
- 10. Date of termination employment
- 11. Reasons for termination
- 12. Remarks

**Signature of Contractor or  
his authorised representative**

**FORM-XII**  
**[SeeRule 50]**  
**Service Certificate**

Name and address of contractor .....

Name and address of establishment in / under which migrant workmen are  
employed.....

Name and address of principal employer.....

Name and location of work.....

Name and address of the migrant workman.....

Age or date of birth.....

identification marks.....

Father's/Husband's Name.....

**FORM -XV**  
**[See Rule 51 (1)]**

**Displacement and out ward Journey allowance sheet**

Name and address of the Contractor.....

Name and address of establishment.....

Name and address of the principal employer.....

Month and year.....

- 1. Serial No.
- 2. Name of Migrant Workman



3. Father's / husband's Name
7. Permanent home address indicating the State
8. Place and address of Residence in home State
6. Designation
7. Rate of Wages
8. Wages payable in a month
9. Place of recruitment
10. Place of work with address indicating the State
11. Railway station/ bus stand nearest to the place of residence
12. Railway Station/Bus stand nearest to the place of work
13. Date and time of commencement of journey from the place of residence
14. Expected date and time of arrival at the place of work.
15. Details of modes of journeys from the place of residence in the home State to the place of work.
16. Amount of bus fare and / or second class train fare and / or other journey expenses separately as per the modes of journeys indicated in Column nO. 15
17. Total of amounts indicated in Column No.16
18. Amount of displacement allowance
19. Amount of outwards journey allowance
20. Wages for outward journey period
21. Total amount paid
22. Date on which paid
23. Signature of thumb impression of the migrant workman
24. Actual date and time of arrival at the place of work.
25. Balance wages for outward journey if any, payable.
26. Date of payment of the balance wages indicated in Column no. 25
27. Signature or thumb impression of the migrant workman.
28. Remarks

**Note :** Indicate separately different mode of journeys. Entries are to be made against each individual migrant workman

Date .....

Signature of the Contractor or his authorised representative

**FORM -XVI**  
**[See Rule 51 (1)]**

**Return Journey Allowance Register**

Name and address of the Contractor.....

Name and address of establishment.....

Name and address of the principal employer.....

Month and year.....

1. Sl. No.
2. Name of the migrant workman
3. Father's / husband's name
4. Permanent home address indicating the State
5. Place and address of residence in the home State.
6. Designation
7. Rate of wages



8. Place of work
9. Railway station / bus stand nearest to the place of work.
10. Railway Station / bus stand to the place of residence in home - State.
11. Date and time of commencement of journey from the place of work.
12. Expected date and time of arrival at the residence in home state.
13. Expected modes of journeys work to place of residence in home State.
14. Amounts of bus fare and / or second class train fair and / or other journey expenses, separately as per expected modes of journey's indicated in Column No. 13.
15. Total amounts indicated in Column No. 14
16. Amount of return journey allowance
17. Wages for return journey period
18. Total amount paid
19. Date on which paid
20. Signature or thumb impression of the migrant workman.
21. Remarks.

**FORM -XVII**  
**[See Rule 51 (2) (a) ]**  
**Muster Roll**

Name and address of the Contractor.....  
 Name and address of establishment.....  
 Name and address of the principal employer.....  
 Month and year.....

**FORM -XVIII**  
**[See Rule 52 (2) (a)]**  
**Register of wages**

Name and address of contractor .....  
 Name and address of establishment under which inter-State migrant workmen are employed .....  
 Nature and location of work .....  
 Name and address of principal employer .....  
 Wages period .....

Serial No.	Name of inter-State migrant workman	Serial No. in the register of workmen	Designation/Nature of work	Number of days worked	Units of work done	Daily-rate of wages/piece rate	Amount of wages earned				Deductions, if any (indicate nature)	Net amount paid	Signature/thumb impression of Inter-State migrant workman	Initials of contractor or his authorised representative	
							Basic wages	Dearness allowance	Over-time	Other cash payments (Nature of payment to be indicated)					Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)



**FORM - XIX**

[See Rule 52 (2) (c)]

**Register of deductions for damage or loss**

Name and address of contractor ..... Name and address of establishment in/under which inter-State migrant workmen are employed .....

Nature and location of work ..... Name and address of principal employer .....

Serial No.	Name of inter-State migrant workman	Father's/husband's name	Designation/nature of employment	Particulars of damages or loss	Date of damage or loss	Whether inter-State migrant workman showed causes against deduction	Name of person in whose presence employee's explanation was heard	Amount of deduction imposed	Number of instalment	Date of recovery	
										First instalment	Last instalment
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)

**FORM - XX**

[See Rule 52 (2) (c)]

Name and address of contractor ..... Name and address of establishment in/under which inter-State migrant workmen are employed .....

Nature and location of work .....

Serial No.	Name of inter-State migrant workman	Father's/husband's name	Designation/nature of employment	Act/omission for which fine imposed	Date of offence	Whether inter-State migrant workman showed cause against fine	Name of person in whose presence employee's explanation was heard	Wages periods and wages payable	Amount of fine imposed	Date on which fine realised	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)

**FORM - XXI**

[See Rule 52 (2) (c)]

Name and address of contractor ..... Name and address of establishment in/under which inter-State migrant workmen are employed .....

Nature and location of work ..... Name and address of principal employer .....

Serial No.	Name of inter-State migrant workman	Father's/husband's name	Nature of employment/designation	Wage period and wages payable	Date and amount of advance given	Purpose(s) for which advance made	Number of instalments by which advance to be repaid	Date and amount of each instalment repaid	Date on which last instalment was repaid	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)

**FORM XXII**

[See Rule 52 (2) (d)]

Name and address of contractor ..... Name and address of establishment in/under which migrant workmen are employed .....

Nature and location of work ..... Name and address of principal employer .....

Sl. No.	Name of inter-State migrant workman	Father's/husband's name	Sex	Designation/nature of employment	Date on which over-time worked	Total over-time worked or production in case of price-rated	Normal rates of wages	Over-time rate of wages	Over-time earnings	Date on which over-time wages paid	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)



From XXIII

[See Rule 56 (1)]

Return to be sent by the contractor to the Licensing Officer

**Half Year ending**

1. Name and address of the contractor.....
2. Name and address of the establishment.....
3. Name and address of the principal employer.....
4. Duration of Contract : From ..... to.....
5. Number of days during the half-year on which-
  - (a) the establishment of the principal employer had worked
  - (b) the contractors' establishment had worked
6. Maximum number of inter-State migrant workmen employed on any day during the half-year :

Men	Women	Children	Total
-----	-------	----------	-------
7.
  - (i) Daily hours of work and spread over.....
  - (ii) (a) whether weekly holiday observed and on what day-(b) if so, whether it was paid for.....
  - (iii) Number of man-hours of overtime worked.....
8. Number of man-days worked by-

Men	Women	Children	Total
-----	-------	----------	-------
9. Amount of wages paid-Men Women Children Total **Note** - Wages shall not include wages for periods of outward and return journeys.
10. Amount of deductions from wages, if any-

Men	Women	Children	Total
-----	-------	----------	-------
11. Amount of displacement allowance paid -

Men	Women	Children	Total
-----	-------	----------	-------
12. Amount of outward journeys allowance paid-

Men	Women	Children	Total
-----	-------	----------	-------
13. Amount of wages for outward journeys period paid-

Men	Women	Children
-----	-------	----------
14. Amount of return journeys allowance paid-

Men	Women	Children	Total
-----	-------	----------	-------
15. Amount of wages for return journeys period paid -

Men	Women	Children	Total
-----	-------	----------	-------
16. Whether the following have been provided :
  - (i) Residential accommodation;
  - (ii) Protective clothing;
  - (iii) Canteen;
  - (iv) Rest-room;
  - (v) Latrines and urinals;
  - (vi) Drinking water;
  - (vii) Creche
  - (viii) Medical facilities;
  - (ix) First-aid.(if the answer is 'yes' state briefly nature/standards provided) Place.....  
Date..... Signature of contractor

## Government of Odisha Labour and Employment Department

### NOTIFICATION

No.LL-III-7/94 1416 / LE; Bhubaneswar, the 29/94

In exercise of the power conferred, by sub-section (1) of section 20 of the Inter-State Migrant working (Regulation of Employment and conditions of service) Act, 1979 (30 of 1979) read with clause (s) of sub-rule (1) of rule 2 of the Inter-State Migrant working (Regulation of employment and conditions of service) Orissa Rules, 1980 and in supresession of all previous notifications issued on the subject, the State government do hereby appoint the officers mentioned in the column(2) of the Schedule here to appoinded to be inspectors for the purposes of the said Act to shall excercise their powers within the local of the area specified against in column (3) thereof.

#### SCEDULE

Sl. No	Designation of officer,	Local limits of Jurisdiction.
1.	Labour Commissioner, Odisha.	Whole State of Odisha.
2.	Joint Labour Commissioner.	Whole State of Odisha.
3 to 15	deleted in subsequent notification	
16.	District Labour Officer, Angul	Revenue Districts of Angul except Talcher & Palahara subdivisions
16A.	District Labour Officer, Talcher	Talcher & Palahara subdivisions of Angul District (Vide notification No. 1670, dated 07.01.2005 of Govt. of Odisha, in L&E Dept.)
17.	District Labour Officer, Balasore.	Revenue Districts of Balasore.
18.	District Labour Officer, Bolangiri.	Revenue Districts of Bolangiri
19.	District Labour Officer, Baragar.	Revenue Districts of Baragarh.
20.	District Labour Officer, Bhadrak.	Revenue Districts of Bhadrak.
21.	District Labour Officer, Cuttack.	Revenue Districts of Cuttack.
22.	District Labour Officer, Dhenkanal.	Revenue Districts of Dhenkanal
23.	District Labour Officer, Gajapati (Headquarters at Parlakhemundi.	Revenue Districts of Gajapati.
24.	District Labour Officer, Ganjam (Headquarters at Berhampur).	Revenue Districts of Ganjam except Chatrapur Subdivision
24A.	District Labour Officer, Chatrapur	Chatrapur Subdivision of Ganjam District (Vide notification No. 1670, dated 07.01.2005 of Govt. of Odisha, in L&E Dept.)
25.	District Labour Officer, Jagatsinghpur	Revenue Districts of Jagatsinghpur
26.	District Labour Officer, Jajpur.	Revenue Districts of Jajpur
27.	District Labour Officer, Kalahandi. (Head quarters at Bhawanipatna)	Revenue Districts of Kalahandi



- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 28. | District Labour Officer, kendrapara.  | Revenue Districts of Kendrapara  |
| 29. | District Labour Officer, Keonjhar.  | Revenue Districts of Keonjhar.   |
| 30. | District Labour Officer, khurda.<br>(Headquarters at Bheubaneswar).                           | Revenue Districts of Khurda.   |
| 31. | District Labour Officer, Koraput.<br>(Headquarters at Jeypore).                               | Revenue Districts of Koraput   |
| 32. | District Labour Officer, Malkangiri.  | Revenue Districts of Malkangiri.   |
| 33. | District Labour Officer, Mayurbhanj.<br>(Headquarters of Baripada)                            | Revenue Districts of Mayurbhanj.   |
| 34. | District Labour Officer, Nayagarh.  | Revenue Districts of Nayagarh.   |
| 35. | District Labour Officer, Nawarangpur  | Revenue Districts of Nawarangpur   |
| 36. | District Labour Officer, Nowapara.  | Revenue Districts of Nowapara  |
| 37. | District Labour Officer, Phulbani.  | Revenue Districts of Phulbani.   |
| 38. | District Labour Officer, Puri.  | Revenue Districts of Puri.   |
| 39. | District Labour Officer, Rayagada.  | Revenue Districts of Rayagada.   |
| 40. | District Labour Officer, Sambalpur.   | Revenue Districts of Sambalpur.  |
| 41. | District Labour Officer, Sonapur.   | Revenue Districts of Sonapur.  |
| 42. | District Labour Officer, Sundargarh.<br>(Headquarters at Rourkela).                           | Revenue Districts of Sundargarh  |
| 43. | District Labour Officer, Jharsuguda.  | Revenue Districts of Jharsuguda  |
| 44. | District Labour Officer, Deogarh  | Revenue Districts of Deogarh   |
| 45. | District Labour Officer, Boudh.   | Revenue Districts of Boudh   |
| 46. | Assistant Labour Officer, Cuttack.<br>Sub-Division except are<br>Station of Cuttack District. | Sub-Division of Banki and Sadar<br>acomprising of Choudwar Police  |
| 47. | Assistant Labour Officer, Choudwar.<br>Sub-Division are comprising of<br>Choudwar             | Assistant Labour Officer, Cuttack.<br>Sub-Division of Banki and Sadar<br>Police Station of Cuttack District. |
| 48. | Assistant Labour Officer,   | Revenue District of Jagatsinghpur<br>Jagatsinghpur.  |
| 49. | Assistant Labour Officer, Jajpur.   | Revenue District of Jajpur.  |
| 50. | Assistant Labour Officer,<br>Kendrapara.  | Revenue District of Kendrapara   |
| 51. | Assistant Labour Officer,<br>Bhubaneswar.   | Bhubaneswar Sub-Division of<br>Khurda District.  |
| 52. | Assistant Labour Officer, Khurda.<br>District.  | Khurda Sub-Division of Khurda  |
| 53. | Assistant Labour Officer, Nayagarh.   | Revenue District of Nayagarh.  |
| 54. | Assistant Labour Officer, Puri.   | Revenue District of Puri.  |
| 55. | Assistant Labour Officer, Balasore.<br>district.  | Balasore Sub-Division of Balasore  |
| 56. | Assistant Labour Officer, Nilagiri.   | Nilagiri Sub-Division of Balasore district.  |
| 57. | Assistant Labour Officer, Bhadrak.  | Revenue District of Bhadrak.   |





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| 58. | Assistant Labour Officer, Baripada.                                      | Baripada Sub-Division of Mayurbhanj district.               |
| 59. | Assistant Labour Officer, Karanjia.                                      | Panchpir Sub-Division of Mayurbhanj district.               |
| 60. | Assistant Labour Officer, Udala. Mayurbhanj District.                    | Kaptipada Sub-Division of                                   |
| 61. | Assistant Labour Officer Rairangpur.                                     | Bamanghati Sub-Division of Mayurbhanj district.             |
| 62. | Assistant Labour Officer, Raurkela. Sundargarh district.                 | Panposh Sub-Division of                                     |
| 63. | Assistant Labour Officer, Sundargarh. Sundargarh district.               | Sundargarh Sub-Division of                                  |
| 64. | Assistant Labour Officer, Banaigarh. Sundergarh district.                | Banaigarh Sub-Division of                                   |
| 65. | Assistant Labour Officer, Sambalpur. Sub-Division of Sambalpur district. | Sambalpur and hairakhhol                                    |
| 66. | Assistant Labour Officer, Kuchinda. Sambalpur district.                  | Kuchinda Sub-Division of                                    |
| 67. | Assistant Labour Officer, Jharsuguda. Jharsuguda district.               | Revenue district of   |
| 68. | Assistant Labour Officer, Bargarh.                                       | Revenue district of Baragarh.                               |
| 69. | Assistant Labour Officer, Bolangiri.                                     | Bolangiri and Patnagarh Sub-Division of Bolangiri district. |
| 70. | Assistant Labour Officer, Titlagarh. Bolangiri district.                 | Titlagarh Sub-Division of                                   |
| 71. | Assistant Labour Officer, sonapur.                                       | Revenue District of Sonapur.                                |
| 72. | Assistant Labour Officer, Angul.   | Angul and Athamallick Sub-Division of Angul.                |
| 73. | Assistant Labour Officer, Talcher.                                       | Talcher and Pallahara Sub-Division of Angul district.       |
| 74. | Assistant Labour Officer, Dhenkanal                                      | Revenue District of Dhenkanal.                              |
| 75. | Assistant Labour Officer, Paralakhemundi.                                | Revenue District of Gajapati.                               |
| 76. | Assistant Labour Officer, Malkangiri                                     | Revenue District of Malkangiri.                             |
| 77. | Assistant Labour Officer,  | Revenue District of Nowrangpur.                             |
| 78. | Assistant Labour Officer, Jeypur.  | Nowrangpur.   |
| 79. | Assistant Labour Officer, Koraput.                                       | Jeypore Sub-Division of Koraput District.                   |
| 80. | Assistant Labour Officer, Rayagada.                                      | Koraput Sub-Division of Koraput district                    |
|     |  | Rayagada Sub-Division of Rayagada district.                 |



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| 81.   | Assistant Labour Officer, Gunupur.  | Gunupur Sub-Division of Rayagada district.   |
| 82.   | Assistant Labour Officer, Berhampur.  | Berhampur Sub-Division of Ganjam district.   |
| 83.   | Assistant Labour Officer, Chhatrapur.   | Chhatrapur Sub-Division of Ganjam district, except Kabisuryanagar, Block and Hinjilicut Block. |
| 84.A. | Assistant Labour Officer, Hinjilicut, Aska.   | Sergarh, Kabisurya Nagar, Aska & Dharakot Block of Ganjam district.                            |
| 85.   | Assistant Labour officer, Bhawanipatna  | Bhawanipatna Sub-Division of Kalahandi District  |
| 86.   | Assistant Labour Officer, Dharmgarh   | Dharamgarh Sub-Division of Kalahandi District.   |
| 87.   | Assistant Labour Officer, Khariar Road  | Keonjhar Sub-Division of Keonjhar District   |
| 88.   | Assistant Labour Officer, Konjhar,  | Keonjhar Sub-Division of Keonjhar  |
| 89.   | Assistant Labour Officer, Champua   | Champua Sub-Division of Keonjhar District  |
| 90.   | Assistant Labour Officer, Anandpur  | Anandpur Sub-Division of Keonjhar district.  |
| 91.   | Assistant Labour Officer, Phulbani  | Khondaal Sab-Division of Phulbani district.  |
| 92.   | Assistant Labour Officer, Baliguda.   | Baliguda Sub-Division of Phulbani district.  |
| 93.   | Rural Labour Inspector of Cut tack Sadar attached to" tha Offica of the, Doputy Labour Connissionor Cut tack. | Barang, Cut tack Sadar, Niali and Kantapada Blocks of Cutback District.                        |
| 94.   | Rural Labour Inspector, Banki attached to tho office of the Deputy Labour Gomnissionor, Cuttack               | All Blocks of Banki Sub-Division of Cuttack district.  |
| 95.   | Rural Labour Inspector, Athagarh attached to the office of the Assistant labour officer, Choudwar             | All Blocks of Athagarh Sub-Division of Cuttack district.                                       |
| 96.   | Rural Labour Inspector, Choudwar attached to the office of the assistant Labour officer, Choudwar             | Tangi, Choudwar, Salipur Nischintakuili & Mahanga blocks of cuttack distrcit.                  |
| 97.   | Rural Labour Inspector , Kendrapada attached to the office of the District Labour officer, Kendrapara         | All blocks of Kendrapara district  |
| 98.   | Rural Labour Inspector, Jajpur attached to the office of the district Labour officer, Jajpur Road             | All blocks of Jajpur districts   |
| 99.   | Rural Labour Inspector, Jatsinghpur attached to the office of the district labour officer, Jagatsinghpur      | All bloacks of Jagatsinghpur district  |



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| 100. | Rural Labour Inspector, Bhubaneswar attached to the office of the District Labour officer, Khurda (Headquarters at Bhubaneswar) | All blocks of Bhubaneswar Sub-division of Khurda District                                 |
| 101. | Rural Labour Inspector, Khurda attached to the office of the Assistant Labour officer, Khurda                                   | All blocks of Khurda Sub-Division of Khurda, District                                     |
| 102. | Rural Labour Inspector, Nayagarh attached to the office of the Assistant Labour officer, Nayagarh                               | All blocks of Nayagarh Sub-Division of Khurda, district                                   |
| 103. | Rural Labour Inspector, Puri-I attached to the office of the District Labour officer, Puri                                      | Puri Sadar, Satyabadi, Dolang Kanas, Krushna Prasad and Bramhagiri bloke of Puri district |
| 104. | Rural labour inspector, Puri-II attached to the office of the District Labour officer, Puri                                     | Gop, Kakatpur, Pipili Nimapara & Astrang Blocks of Puri district                          |
| 105. | Rural Labour Inspector, Nilagiri attached to the office of the Assistant Labour Officer, Nilagiri.                              | All Blocks of Nilagiri Sub-Division of Balasore District                                  |
| 106. | Rural Labour Inspectorial sora attachad to the office of the Assistant labour commissioner, Balasore                            | Balasore Sadar, Soro, Bahanaga, Similia and Khaira Blocks of Balasore district            |
| 107. | Rural Labour inspector Bhogarai attached to the office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Balasore                           | Jemunia, Baliapala, Bhogarai, Jalswar and Basta Blocks, of Balasore district.             |
| 108. | Rural Labour Inspector, Bhadrak attached to the office of the District Labour officer, Bhadrak                                  | All Blocks of Bhadrak district  |
| 109. | Rural Labour Inspector, Baripada attached to the office of the District labour officer, Bariapda                                | All Blocks of Baripada Sub-Division of Mayurbhanj District                                |
| 110. | Rural Labour Inspector, Rairangpur attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Rairangpur                            | All blocks of Brahmaghathi Sub-Division of Mayurbhanj district                            |
| 111. | Rural Labour Inspector, Rairangpur attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, udala                                 | All blocks of Brahmaghathi Sub-Division of Mayurbhanj district                            |
| 112. | Rural Labour Inspector, Karanjia attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Karanjia.                               | Karanjia and Thakuramunda blocks of Mayurbhanj district                                   |
| 113. | Rural Labour Inspector, Jasipur attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Karanjia.                                | Joshipur, Raruan and Sukruli blocks of of Mayurbhanj district                             |
| 114. | Rural Labour Inspector, Keonjhar attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Keonjhar                                | All blocks of Keonjhar Sub-Division on of Keonjhar district                               |



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| 115. | Rural Labour Inspector, Anandpur attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Anandpur        | All blocks of Anandpur Sub-Division of Keonjhar district                 |
| 116. | Rural Labour Inspector, Champar attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, CHampua.         | Champua and Jhumpura Blocks of Keonjhar district                         |
| 117. | Rural Labour Inspector, Joda attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Champua.            | Joda blocks of Keonjhar district   |
| 118. | Rural Labour Inspector, Dhenkanal attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Dhenkanal      | All blocks of Dhenkanal and Hindo Sub-Division of Dhenkanal district     |
| 119. | Rural Labour Inspector, Dhenkanal-II attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Dhenkanal   | All blocks of Kamakhyanager Sub-Division of Dhenkanal district           |
| 120. | Rural Labour Inspector, Angul attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Angul              | All blocks of Angul Sub-Division of Dhenkanal district                   |
| 121. | Rural Labour Inspector, Talcher attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Talcher          | All blocks of Talcher and Pallahada Sub-Division of Angul district       |
| 122. | Rural Labour Inspector, Athamalick attached to the office of the assitant Labour Commissioner, Angul    | All blocks of Athamalick Sub-Division of Angul district                  |
| 123. | Rural Labour Inspector, Sambalpur attached to the office of the assitant Labour Commissioner, Sambalpur | All blocks of Rajrakhol and Sambalpur Sub-Division of Sambalpur district |
| 124. | Rural Labour Inspector, Jharsuguda attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Jharsuguda    | All blocks of Jharsuguda Sub-Division of Jharsuguda district             |
| 125. | Rural Labour Inspector, Kuchinda attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Kuchinda        | All blocks of Kuchinda Sub-Division of Sambalpur district                |
| 126. | Rural Labour Inspector, Deogarh attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Deograh          | All blocks of Deogarh Sub-Division of Deogarh district                   |
| 127. | Rural Labour Inspector, Bargarh attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Bargarh          | All blocks of Bargarh Sub-Division of Bargarh district                   |
| 128. | Rural Labour Inspector, Padampur attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Bargarh         | All blocks of Padampur Sub-Division of Bargarh district                  |
| 129. | Rural Labour Inspector, Rourkela attached to the office of the assitant Labour Commissioner, Rourkela   | All blocks of Panposh Sub-Division of Sundargarh district                |



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| 130. | Rural Labour Inspector, Sundargarh attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Sundargarh   | All blocks of Sundargarh Sub-Division of Sundargarh district              |
| 131. | Rural Labour Inspector, Bonaigarh attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Bonaigarh     | All blocks of Bonaigarh Sub-Division of Sundargarh district               |
| 132. | Rural Labour Inspector, Titilgarh attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Titilgarh     | All blocks of Titilgarh Sub-Division of Bolangir district                 |
| 133. | Rural Labour Inspector, Bolangir attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Bolangir       | All blocks of Bolangir Sub-Division of Bolangir district                  |
| 134. | Rural Labour Inspector, Patnagarh attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Bolangir      | All blocks of Patnagarh Sub-Division of Bolangir district                 |
| 135. | Rural Labour Inspector, Sonapur attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Sonapur         | All blocks of Sonapur and Biramaharajpur Sub-Division of Sonapur district |
| 136. | Rural Labour Inspector, Burhampur attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Commissioner  | All blocks of Burhampur Sub-Division of Ganjam district                   |
| 137. | Rural Labour Inspector, Khalikoto attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Chhatrapur    | Khalikota, Kodala, Polasi and Kabisuryanagar block Ganjam district        |
| 138. | Rural Labour Inspector, Chhatrapur attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Chhatrapur   | Chhatrapur, Hinjilicut and Purusottampur blocks of Ganjam district        |
| 139. | Rural Labour Inspector, Bhanjanagar attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Bhanjanagar | All blocks of Bhanjanagar Sub-Division of Ganjam district                 |
| 140. | Rural Labour Inspector, Paralakhemundi attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Gajapati | All blocks of Paralakhemundi Sub-Division of Gajapati district            |
| 141. | Rural Labour Inspector, Koraput attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Koraput         | All blocks of Koraput Sub-Division of Koraput district                    |
| 142. | Rural Labour Inspector, Jeypore attached to the office of the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Jeypore      | All blocks of Jeypore Sub-Division of Koraput district                    |
| 143. | Rural Labour Inspector, Nowarangpur attached to the office of the District Labour officer, Nowarangpur | All blocks of Nowarangpur Sub-Division of Nawarangpur district            |
| 144. | Rural Labour Inspector, Rayagada attached to the office of the District Labour officer, Rayagada       | All blocks of Rayagada Sub-Division of Rayagada district                  |



145. Rural Labour Inspector, Gnunupur attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Gnunupur All blocks of Gnunupur Sub-Division of Rayagada district
146. Rural Labour Inspector, Malakangiri attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Malkangiri All blocks of Malkangiri Sub-Division of Malakangiri district
147. Rural Labour Inspector, Phulbani attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Phulbani All blocks of Phulbani Sadar Sub-Division of Phulbani district
148. Rural Labour Inspector, Boudh attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Boudh All blocks of Boudh Sub-Division of Boudh district
149. Rural Labour Inspector, Baliguda attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Baliguda All blocks of Baliguda Sub-Division of Phulbani district
150. Rural Labour Inspector, Bhawanipatna attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Bhawanipatna All blocks of Bhawanipatna Sub-Division of Kalahandi district
151. Rural Labour Inspector, Dharmgarh attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Dharmgarh All blocks of Dharmagarh Sub-Division of Kalahandi district
152. Rural Labour Inspector, Khariar attached to the office of the assitant Labour officer, Khariar All blocks of Nawapara Sub-Division of Nawapara district
153. Assistant Labour Commissioner Dadan Labour cell, Balugaon in the District of Khurda Whole State of Orissa
154. Assistant Labour officer... attached to the office of the Assistant Labour commissioner Dadan Labour cell, Balguan in the District of Khurda. Whole State of Orissa
155. Rural Labour Insepctors attached to the office of the Assitant Labour Commioner Dadan Labour cell, Balugaon in the District of Khurda Whole State of Orissa

By Order of Governor  
R. B. Nayak  
Deputy Secretary to Government



## NOTIFICATIONS

Bhubaneswar, the 14th May, 2013.

No LL-1/IIM-9/13, 4687/LESI, Consequent upon creation of additional posts of Deputy Labour Commissioners and Assistant Labour Commissioners vide G.O. No.2119/LE dated 19.03.2012, the jurisdiction of the following DLCs and the ALCs is re-fixed as under.

## Jurisdiction of Deputy Labour Commissioner

Sl. No.	Destination	Head Quarters	Jurisdiction *RD - Revenue District
1.	Deputy Labour Commissioner OB&OCW Welfare Board	Bhubaneswar	All over Odisha.
2.	Deputy LC, Cuttack	Cuttack	RD of Cuttack, Kendrapara; Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Nayagarh, Khurda
3.	Deputy LC, Sambalpur	Sambalpur	RD of Sambalpur, Bargarh, Bolangir, Sonepur, Boudh, Jharsuguda, Deogarh.
4.	Dy LC, Rourkela	Rourkela	RD of Sundergarh, Keonjhar.
5.	Dy LC, Jeypore	Jeypore	RD of Ganjam (Labour Districts of Berhampur & Chhatrapur), Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Nawarangpur, Malkangiri, Koraput.
6.	Dy LC, Angul	Angul	RD of Angul (Labour Districts of Angul & Talcher), Dhenkanal.
7.	Dy LC, Jajpur.	Jajpur	RD of Jajpur, Bhadrak, Balasore, Mayurbhanj.
8.	Dy LC, Kalahandi	Bhawanipatana	RD of Kalahandi, Nuapada.

## Jurisdiction of Assistant Labour Commissioner

Sl. No.	Designation	Head Quarters	Jurisdiction *RD - Revenue District
1.	Assistant Labour Commissioner, Hqs. (RSBY)	Bhubaneswar	All over Odisha
2.	ALC, Hqs., OB & OCW Welfare Board	Bhubaneswar	All over Odisha
3.	ALC, Hqs.	Bhubaneswar	All over Odisha
4.	ALC, Hqs.	Bhubaneswar	All over Odisha
5.	ALC, Cuttack-I	Cuttack	RD of Cuttack
6.	ALC, Cuttack-II	Dhenkanal	RD of Dhenkanal
7.	ALC, Sambalpur	Sambalpur	RD of Sambalpur, Bargarh
8.	ALC, Rourkela	Rourkela	RD of Sundergarh
9.	ALC, Angul	Angul	RD of Angul ((Labour Districts of Angul & Talcher)
10.	ALC, Jajpur	Jajpur	RD of Jajpur, Bhadrak
11.	ALC, Bhawanipatna	Bhawanipatna	RD of Kalahandi, Nuapada
12.	ALC, Berhampur	Berhampur	RD of Ganjam (Labour Districts of Berhampur & Chhatrapur), Gajapati, Kandhamal
13.	ALC, Jeypore	Jeypore	RD of Koraput, Malkangiri
14.	ALC, Balasore	Balasore	RD of Balasore, Mayurbhanj
15.	ALC, Rayagada	Rayagada	RD of Rayagada, Nawarangpur
16.	ALC, Khurda	Khurda	RD of Khurda, Nayagarh, Puri
17.	ALC, Jagatsinghpur	Jagatsinghpur	RD of Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara
18.	ALC, Keonjhar	Keonjhar	RD of Keonjhar
19.	ALC, Jharsuguda	Jharsuguda	RD of Jharsuguda, Deogarh
20.	ALC, Bolangir	Bolangir	RD of Bolangir, Sonepur, Boudh

It supercedes all earlier Notifications regarding jurisdiction of DLCs and ALCs.





**NOTIFICATION**

Bhubaneswar, the 14th May, 2013

No. LL-I/IIM/1-9/13 4679/LESI., in exercise of powers conferred by the following Acts and in partial modification of all previous notifications issued in this regard, the State Government do hereby appoint the Deputy Labour Commissioner to be the Inspector /Conciliation Officer/Authority/Commissioner/Assessing Officer/Certifying Officer/ Appellate Authority/Additional Registrar for the purpose of the following Acts to exercise powers within his jurisdiction with effect from the date of issue of this notification.

1. Under Sub-section (1) of Section 19 and sub-section (1) of Section 20 of The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (11 of 1948).
2. Under Sub-section (3) of Section 14 of The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 (14 of 1936).
3. Under Sub-section (1) of Section 9 of The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 (25 of 1976).
4. Under Sub-section (1) of Section 27 of The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 (21 of 1965).
5. Conciliation Officer under Section 4 (1) of The industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
6. Under Section 17 of The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (61 of 1986).
7. Under Sub-section (1) of Section 28 of The Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 (37 of 1970).
8. Under Sub-section (1) of Section 20 of The Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1979(30 of 1979) .
9. Under Sub-section (3) of Section 42 of The Building & Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 (27 of 1996).
10. Under Section 7 of The Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996 (28 of 1996).
11. Under Sub-section (1) of Section 20 of The Employees' Compensation Act, 1923 (8 of 1923).
12. Under Sub-section(1) of Section 6 of The Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 (32 of 1966).
13. Under Sub-section (2) of Section 30 of The Orissa Shops & Commercial Establishment Act, 1956 (Orissa Act 30 of 1956).
14. Under Section 14 of The Maternity Benefit Act, 1951.
15. Under Sub-section (1) of Section 17(B) of The Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 (45 of 1955).
16. Under Sub-section (1) of Section 04 of The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961 (27 of 1961).
17. Under Sub-section (1) of Section 06 of The Orissa Industrial Establishments (National & Festival) Act, 1969.
18. Under Section 7 of The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.
19. Under Section 3(2) of The Trade Union Act, 1926.
20. Under Section 2 (c) of The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946.
21. Under Section 11 of The Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996 (28 of 1996).

By order of the Governor  
Sd/- J Dalanayak  
Under Secretary to Government

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**Jurisdiction of filing claim cases for migrant workmen  
Historical judgement of Honourable High Court of Karnatak**

**Dated this the 18th day of September. 1998**

**Before**

**THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE V.P. MOHAN- KUMAR**

**Writ Petition No. 21373 of 1994**

**Between**

Madhava K. Asnollikar,  
S/o - Kamalakar Asnollikar,  
aged about 34 years,  
Occ : Agriculturist  
Resident of Kodibag, Karwar, Dist - Uttara, Kannada  
(By Sri Vigneswar S. Shastri, Adv.)

...Petitioner

**and**

1. The Inspector under Payment of Wages Act-cum-  
Assistant Labour Officer, Chhatrapur,  
Ganjam, Orissa & 8 others.

... Respondents

This Writ Petition filed under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a writ of certiorari, order or direction to quash the order No. 2315(2) ALO dated 7th June 1994 issued by the 1st respondent, Annexure-A and also the order No. 2666/ ALO dated 5th July 1994 issued by the 1st respondent, Annexure-C and issue and appropriate order, writ or direction declaring that the proceedings initiated by the 1st respondent as in No. 2313 (2) ALO dated 7.6.1994 as per Annexure - A and No. 2666/ ALO dated 05.07.94 as per Annexure - C are dull and void and without authority of law etc.

This petition coming on for hearing in B' Group this day, the Court made the following :

**ORDER**

Alleging that the petitioner employed certain interstate Migrant Workers, Annexure-A-notice was issued to the petitioner calling upon him to deposit the amount indicated in the annexed statement amount to Rs. 23,600/-Petitioner replied by Annexure - B letter to the said notice. But the 1st respondent rejected the same by Annexure-C order. These orders Annexure-A and C, are impugned herein. A preliminary contention raised by the learned counsel that the petitioner is only an agriculturist and he has not employed any migrant workman as alleged. He also contended that the



alleged workmen are working in Karnataka and the 1st respondent has no jurisdiction to issue notice. As regards the second contention is concerned the workers are inter-state migrant and they are residing in Orissa. Under Section 21 of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 the notified authority to enforce the Act is the 1st respondent. Section 21 indicates the enactments mentioned in the schedule are made applicable to the migrant workers and the same indicates the power of the 1st respondent to see that those provisions are given effect to. The schedule of the Act includes, the Payment of Wages Act as well. Therefore with respect to the inter-state migrant workers who are residing in Orissa the Government of Orissa have jurisdiction to issue notice. Therefore, the 1st respondent is competent to issue notice. The next question is whether the petition is maintainable before this Court. The learned counsel cited a decision of this court reported in ILP 1990 Kar. 2244 to contend that his Court has no jurisdiction the matter. I am of the view the principle therein has no application to the facts of this case. This is a case of migrant workers who are residing in Orissa and the concerned authority to deal the case is the State of Orissa under the provisions of the above said Act. As such whole the cause of action arises in Orissa and not in Karnataka as now alleged by the learned counsel. Therefore the writ petition may not be maintainable before this Court. In this case I find that there was no prior notice as contemplated under Section 15 of the Payment of Wages Act calling upon the petitioner to show cause why action should not be taken to recover the alleged -short payment. The petitioner is justified in complaining that he was not heard before issuing the impugned notices. Therefore without finally holding that the writ petition is not maintainable, I direct that the petitioner may treat Annexure - A and C notices as show cause notices and submit a detailed reply within 6 weeks -from today to the said notices. After considering the said objection if any submitted, the concerned authority may pass appropriate orders. The authority will not take any coercive steps till a final decision is taken to the matter. The writ petition stands disposed of as above.

Sd/-  
High Court of Karnataka  
Bangalore

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# ରାଜ୍ୟ ଶ୍ରମ ସଂସ୍ଥାନ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର

## ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର



### ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠିତ - ମେ -୧ (ଶ୍ରମିକ ଦିବସ) ୧୯୯୩

- ◆ ମୋଟ ୧୬୫ଟି ଟ୍ରେନିଂ ପ୍ରୋଗ୍ରାମ୍ କରାଯାଇ ଜାତୀୟ ଶିଶୁ ଶ୍ରମିକ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର ଶିକ୍ଷା ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷକ, ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ଶ୍ରମ ନିରୀକ୍ଷକ, ସହକାରୀ ଶ୍ରମ ଅଧିକାରୀ, ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଶ୍ରମ ଅଧିକାରୀ, ସହକାରୀ ଶ୍ରମ କମିଶନର, ଉପଶ୍ରମ କମିଶନର, ଶ୍ରମିକ ସଂଗଠନ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକର୍ତ୍ତା, ଶ୍ରମ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାଳୟର ତୃତୀୟ ଓ ଚତୁର୍ଥ ଶ୍ରେଣୀ କର୍ମଚାରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସମୟରେ ଶ୍ରମ ଆଇନ ଭିତ୍ତିକ ଟ୍ରେନିଂ ଦିଆଯାଇଅଛି ।
- ◆ ମୋଟ ଦୁଇଟି ସେମିନାର କରାଯାଇ ପ୍ରଶାସକ, ଶ୍ରମିକ ସଂଗଠନ ନେତା, ସାମ୍ବାଦିକ ତଥା ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନମାନଙ୍କୁ ସୁଯୋଗ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଇଅଛି ।
- ◆ ମୋଟ ୧୬ଟି କମ୍ପ୍ୟୁଟର ଟ୍ରେନିଂ, ୪୦ଟି କର୍ମଶାଳା ଏବଂ ୧୫ଟି ଜିଲ୍ଲାସ୍ତରୀୟ ଅଭ୍ୟୁଦୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ/ସଚେତନତା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ କରାଯାଇଅଛି ।
- ◆ ସାରାରାଜ୍ୟରେ ମୋଟ ୪୧ଟି ଶିଶୁ ଶ୍ରମିକ ସର୍ଭେ, ୧୨ଟି ଶିଶୁ ଶ୍ରମିକ ନମୁନା ସର୍ଭେ, ୭ଟି ଦାଦନ ଶ୍ରମିକ ସର୍ଭେ କରାଯାଇଅଛି ।
- ◆ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ୧୯୯୯ ମହାବତ୍ୟା ପରେ ପରେ ବାତ୍ୟା ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ୭ଟି ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ୬୦ଟି ଶିଶୁ ଶ୍ରମିକ ନିରୋଧ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର କରାଯାଇଥିଲା ।
- ◆ ଏକ ଶ୍ରମିଭିତ୍ତିକ ପୁସ୍ତକ ପାଠାଗାର ଭାବେ ପରିଚିତ ଲାଭ କରିଛି । ଇତି ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଏହି ସଂସ୍ଥାନ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପ୍ରକାଶିତ ପୁସ୍ତକମାନଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ୧୦ଟି ନ୍ୟୁଜ୍ ଲେଟର ଏବଂ ଲେବର ରାଉଣ୍ଡ ଅପ୍, ହ୍ୟାଣ୍ଡ ବୁକ୍ ଅନ୍ ଚାଇଲ୍ଡ ଲେବର ଲ, ଶିଶୁ ପୁରାଣ ଓ ଶିଶୁ ଭାଗବତ, ପ୍ରବାସୀ ଶ୍ରମିକଙ୍କୁ ଆଇନଗତ ସୁରକ୍ଷା, ଶିଶୁ ସମ୍ପଦ ୧ ଏବଂ ୨, ଶ୍ରମ ଦର୍ପଣ-୧ ଇତ୍ୟାଦି ଅନ୍ୟତମ ।

ରାଜ୍ୟ ଶ୍ରମ ସଂସ୍ଥାନ ସଦାବେଳେ ଶ୍ରମିକ ଓ ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ସେବାରେ ।



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