



## **Denial of Basic Amenities of Shelter, Food, Hygiene and Medical Care to Stranded Migrant Fish Workers at Veraval Fishing Harbour**



### **Non-Compliance of the Directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court & Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of Ministry of Home Affairs**



#### **NPSSFW(I) Moves National Human Rights Commission**

Around 4,000 migrant fish workers from Andhra Pradesh are stranded at Veraval fishing harbour of Gujarat for over a month due to the Covid-19 lockdown. They worked on the mechanised marine fishing vessels. On return of the fishing vessels from fishing these workers could not leave the harbour because of the lockdown. No proper shelter was provided for them either by owners of the fishing vessels or the Government authorities. Their wages were also stopped in spite of the advisory of the Government of India to provide the workers with wages during the lockdown. These workers were herded in some boats like cattle. The boat owners provided them with some food and water. No Government support was available. There was no medical support as well. Two of the migrant fish workers V. Jagannadham and M. Koyi Raju have died at the harbour.

NPSSFW(I) had requested both the Government of India and the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat to arrange for safe return of the migrant fish workers to their homes by special sealed train from Veraval to Srikakulam via Visakhapatnam and Vijaynagaram with necessary medical check-up and follow-ups.

In the mean time the apex court of the country as well as the Ministry of Home Affairs have issued directions and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for stranded migrant workers. But the local and state authorities of Gujarat did not act on those advisories and the condition of migrant fish workers did not improve.

In view of the above NPSSFW(I) has moved the National Human Rights Commission to take immediate action to ensure basic amenities of shelter, food, hygiene and medical care to the stranded migrant workers and save their lives.