

1.5crore workers get monthly allowance

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Lucknow: While distributing a maintenance allowance of Rs 500 per month to 1.5 crore labourers and workers in the unorganised sector, chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday hit out at Opposition parties, saying that they had no desire to work for the poor and instead, had been misusing funds for their own selfish motives.

“Earlier governments were embezzling funds meant for the poor. They hid it in walls and our government is now sending bulldozers to their homes to retrieve this money. These people are accepting this is loot money because now they are requesting the election commission to ensure that these raids are held after the elections. These are the people who were a roadblock in the way of development, and our government will not spare them,” the chief minister said, referring to an income tax department raid against a Samajwadi Party MLC after which party chief Akhilesh Yadav had accused the government of vendetta politics.

The CM said that when SP was in power, the marriage grant given by the government was taken by middlemen and beneficiaries got nothing.

“When BJP came to power, it started the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana under which each married couple was getting Rs 51,000 as financial aid,” he said, adding that his government was making arrangements for the education of the children of labourers and workers by setting up Atal Residential Schools, providing them with social security of Rs 2 lakh during the pandemic, houses, toilets and cooking gas.

“The state also gave medical insurance of Rs 5 lakh to all workers in association with the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh,” Yogi said.

“During the first wave of the pandemic, over 40 lakh workers were forced to return to the state. Our government immediately started work to help them find employment and now, most of these people are employed in local industries or have started their own businesses,” the CM said.

Around 3.81 crore workers will be linked with the maintenance scheme of which accounts of 1.50 crore have been verified so far. These beneficiaries are being given maintenance money for two months in the first phase. In the next four months, assistance will be extended to the remaining beneficiaries. The chief minister added that sanitation workers will be incorporated in the scheme as well since they worked as front line workers during the pandemic.