

Ques As several states are under lockdown again, urgent response is needed from centre to overcome distress in rural areas. Discuss (200 words).

Ans. India is deeply impacted because of Covid-19 second wave and in comparison to first wave, this time villages are impacted more. Because of lockdown in all states, migrant workers moved back to their home states and villages which is creating stress in rural areas from employment perspective as well as daily consumption perspective. Centre government is already running various social welfare schemes for rural people like MGNREGS, TPRS etc which are helping rural people in these difficult times. To take additional people under these scheme, central government need to take various measures to help additional people in following ways:-

- (i) Allocation of more funds to schemes like MGNREGS
- (ii) Allocation of more food grains as an exception to migrant workers
- (iii) Increase the number of employment days under MGNREGS
- (iv) Additional DBT can help as an exception for people who have migrated to their home for lockdown period only
- (v) Various healthcare measures like testing centre, vaccination drives etc to make sure the people who moved to villages are safe along with already residing people of those villages
- (vi) Decentralization and more responsibilities to PRLs (Panchayat etc institutions) to ensure the proper

welfare of people and all the beneficiaries are getting 100% benefits of schemes without any left out case.

These steps can ensure that rural stress can be overcome with proper planning, resource allocation, monitoring and execution. It will also ensure the <sup>good</sup> health of all rural people along with their economical and other needs.