

Temporary Night Shelters in Bhopal: Ram Roti Yojana

The Bhopal Municipal Corporation started the *Ram Roti Yojana* scheme in November 2010 to provide good low-cost food and shelter options to poor persons. Operational in Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, a night halt at the *rein baseras* (night shelters) costs only ₹ 2 per night (USD 0.04) for which each traveller is provided with a bed sheet, blanket, pillow and *durrie* (cotton carpet), as well as access to toilet and bathroom facilities. Under the scheme, food is served in the morning and evening from counters at bus stands and railway stations to people making a night halt at shelters and poor travellers, at the rate of ₹ 5 (USD 0.09) per head. The food packet contains six rotis, cooked vegetables, pickles, onions and green chilli.

Prior to the implementation of the scheme, existing shelters in Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur were renovated to ensure they were well-equipped, and were maintained by the respective municipal corporations. Each night shelter has the capacity to accommodate 300 persons making a night halt. Other facilities at the shelter include a ramp for handicapped persons and installed water coolers.

In February 2011, the Urban Administration and Development Minister announced that *rein baseras* would be constructed in the cities of Madhya Pradesh that have a population of 100,000 or more - such as Hoshangabad, Itarsi, Betul, Vidisha and Sehore - and also be extended to the remaining 10 municipal corporations in the state (Satna, Rewa, Dewas, Ujjain, Khandwa, and Burhanpur).

Source: Department of Public Relations, Madhya Pradesh (www.mpinfo.org)
Social Inclusion of Internal Migrants in India, UNESCO, 2013