

Instructions on Dissuading Farmers from Blindly Flooding into Cities

Central People's Government Administration Council April 17, 1953

According to recent reports from various places, since the beginning of spring, many peasants have entered the cities to look for jobs because they want to participate in industrial construction. According to the statistics of Shenyang and Anshan in Northeast China alone, there are more than 20,000 people. At present, due to the beginning of urban construction, the demand for labor force is limited, and as a result of farmers blindly entering the city, the number of unemployed people increases, causing difficulties in handling; in the countryside, due to the reduction of labor force, spring plowing and sowing are greatly affected causing losses in agricultural production.

In order to prevent the continued development of this chaotic phenomenon, the following instructions are specially issued, and the people's governments of all provinces and cities are expected to urge the relevant units to implement them in earnest:

1. The people's governments of all provinces and cities should immediately notify the governments of counties, districts and cities, and the farmers' associations to patiently explain to the farmers who are planning or requesting to go to the cities, and to dissuade them from going to the cities. Freedom to enter the city, unable to find a job, will not only suffer the loss of travel expenses, but also delay the production in the countryside; when urban construction needs to increase workers in the future, the district and local governments will be formally notified, and recruited in a planned and organized manner.
2. In the future, the county, district government will not issue introduction certificates to farmers who want to go to the city to find a job, except for those who have official documents from industrial and mining enterprises or construction companies to prove that they are appointment workers or contract workers.
3. Farmers who have already moved to the city, except for those needed by the construction unit, should be mobilized by the labor department and civil affairs department of the local people's government in conjunction with the trade union and other relevant agencies. In the process of handling, a serious attitude should be adopted. For those who really have difficulties in repaying the toll, the civil affairs department can provide appropriate subsidies to persuade them to return the money quickly; for those who really have difficulties in life, appropriate relief should be given.
4. All the farmers who are freely recruited by the construction units in the countryside, or the original appointment workers, if the unit thinks that they are not needed at present, they will be handled by the unit, mobilized to pay back the money, and pay the travel expenses.
5. The people's governments of counties, districts, and towns who wrote letters of introduction indiscriminately should be responsible for mobilizing farmers who introduced them to cities to seek jobs but could not find a job.
6. Village cadres and militiamen who are free to go to the city to look for work should all return to lead farmers to spring plowing and planting. Honored soldiers and demobilized soldiers who have been employed in rural areas come to cities to look for work, and they should also actively participate in production to ensure the completion of the national agricultural production plan.
7. All urban construction engineering units should make detailed and accurate plans for project design, start date, number of employees, and number of types of work, and notify local construction project management agencies and labor departments, so as to deploy and transfer labor in a planned

and organized manner. Those without permission or introduction from the labor department are not allowed to go to the village to recruit workers, let alone post posters to recruit workers indiscriminately.