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### 'Large number of Bihari migrants returning home'

*PTI*

MUMBAI: Maintaining every Indian has a right to work in any city, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said any attack on Bihari natives in the metropolis will invite condemnation.

"Whenever there has been such an attack, we have approached the (Maharashtra) government. There is no reason to feel offended by this. The Bihari adjusts easily anywhere and works hard," Modi told reporters during his visit.

Recently, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray had launched a tirade against Bihari migrants, saying anyone who could not learn to live in harmony with locals would be dealt with harshly. The statement had invited criticism from various quarters.

Asked about a report of Tata Institute of Social Sciences which said Biharis constituted the maximum number of migrants in the city, he said, "In fact the number of people going back to Bihar is more than the number of people venturing out for job opportunities."

"In fact, the number of job opportunities in Bihar has gone up considerably. The state Cabinet has cleared a budget of Rs 40,000 crore for industrial projects, including setting up 12 sugar mills."

Modi, who also holds the Finance portfolio, claimed sugar factory owners were now gravitating towards Bihar from Maharashtra.

"The land in Bihar is much more fertile than in Maharashtra as far as sugar cultivation is concerned. There is a lot of interest (in Bihar) from major industrialists in this regard," he added.

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