BEACONS OF HOPE A SHOT OF HOPE

Councillor to rescue of women cab drivers

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There was a time when women taxi drivers on city roads were a rare sight. Today, there are hundreds of them on the roads. However, this is not a happy time for them, with more than 150 of them having lost their jobs during the pandemic. Luckily for them, Abhishek Dutt has proved a guardian angel for the beleaguered women.

Dutt, spokesperson of Indian National Congress, has distributed a month's ration to the distressed drivers after some of them reached out to him after losing their work contracts with two app-based cab companies. In addition, he also wrote to National Commission for Women chairperson Rekha Sharma, saying the women drivers were unable to earn their livelihood and weren't getting any support from any organisation. "I feel the government must come forward and provide support to them and safeguard all working women and ensure they aren't asked to leave due to the lockdown, his letter said. "The government must ensure that they are given jobs or some monthly stipend so they can support their families."

Speaking to **TOI**, Dutt said that in most of the cases, the women were the sole breadwinners in their family. "I have tied up with two big firms and have enrolled 120 women in the counselling session with them so that they have an alternative job option," he said. Dutt has also distributed rations to car cleaners, newspaper vendors and other people with similarly low-income levels.



Congress spokesperson Abhishek Dutt with women taxi drivers

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