



DO No. M-11015/141/2020-FD

12th May, 2021

Dear Sir,

Please refer to DO letter of even no. dated 28th April, 2021 from Secretary, Panchayati Raj regarding various prevention and mitigation measures against Covid-19 pandemic to be implemented by the Rural Local Bodies in the States. The feedback information submitted by the States on the various measures taken up has been perused at this end.

It is observed that your State has undertaken various significant measures in this regard in intensive communication campaign for awareness generation, formation of quarantine centers and maintenance of sufficient sanitation to prevent spread of viral infection.

It is suggested that the State may take up the following additional measures as well, as suggested in the MoPR advisories sent to the States at various points of time, if not already being carried out:

- Involvement of elected representatives, teachers, ASHA workers as frontline workers for the communications campaign.
- Formation of Village Monitoring Committees (VMC)
- Training through short videos may be given to VMC.
- Ensure adherence to COVID appropriate behavior at the worksites while implementing various works undertaken in GPs
- Send customized SMS or WhatsApp messages for reinforcing COVID appropriate behavior through bulk messaging or cascade WhatsApp groups
- One stop call centre/ helpline/ WhatsApp for VMC members to reach out in case of emergency or any immediate requirement.
- Medical kits with essential medicines, oximeter, thermometer, Masks, sanitisers etc., should be made available to the AWWs/ Trained SHG members
- The information on availability of testing, hospital beds etc. should be tracked and displayed digitally on real-time basis to facilitate effective utilization of available infrastructure by the rural citizens.
- Digital display on availability of testing centers/vaccination centers, doctors, hospital beds etc. in the Panchayat offices, schools, Common Services Centers, by utilizing their IT infrastructure.
- The FFC Grants be utilized during the current fiscal period year 2020-21 for the purposes besides other basic services as outlined in the F.FC Guidelines and SFC/State Specific Guidelines.

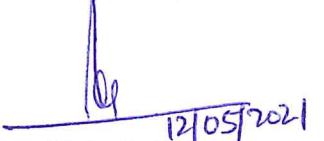
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- Wherever possible, they may improvise households as home quarantine locations, where maximum of the asymptomatic COVID positive cases can be managed. Additionally they may also set up specific quarantine/isolation centers for the needy and returning migrant laborers. In consultation with the Health Dept, the Panchayats may be designated to facilitate vaccination drives to ensure maximum coverage of eligible population.
- Various Central and State Government welfare schemes may be leveraged towards provision of rations, drinking water supply, sanitation, MGNREGS employment etc so that these reach the right beneficiaries.
- Important messages / instructions of the District administration should be sent to all VMC nodal person/ Sarpanch through Whatsapp.

The detailed report of the consolidated actions taken as above and also including any other additional best practices implemented, along with photographs / short videos etc may be provided to this Ministry at the earliest for compilation and records.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,


(K.S. Sethi)

Dr. M.V. Rao,
Additional Chief Secretary,
Panchayati Raj Department,
Govt. of West Bengal,
West Bengal.