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Dr. SANJEEB PATJOSHI, IPS, Ph.D.



संयुक्त सचिव
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पंचायती राज मंत्रालय
JOINT SECRETARY
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Ministry of Panchayati Raj
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DO No.N-11011/9/2016-FD

Tel.: +91-11-23753819, Fax: +91-11-23317931
Dated 15th April, 2020

Subject: Utilization of Fourteenth Finance Commission's (FFC) Grants for tackling COVID-19 pandemic and lock down in Gram Panchayats.

Dear Principal Secretary/ Secretary

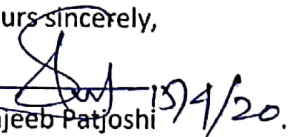
Please refer to my DO letter of even number dated 3th April, 2020 on the aforementioned subject-matter (copy enclosed) which outlined in detail the permissible activities out of Fourteenth Finance Commission's (FFC) Grants in the current F.Y. 2020-21 for tackling the prevailing situation arisen out of COVID-19 pandemic in the country, by the Gram Panchayats in the light of FFC Guidelines which mandates 'Sanitation' as one of the activities in the Gram Panchayats besides delivering of other basic services of sewerage, drinking water supply, street lights, etc.

2. In the meantime, it is being observed that besides above initiatives, Gram Panchayats are taking pro-active measures in the light of various advisories being issued by the Central Government/ MoH&FW/MHA/State Govt etc. as well as on their own accord to mitigate and prevention of infection COVID-19. All the State Panchayati Raj Departements are hereby intimated that all the initiatives/measures by Gram Panchayats - like the ones for creating Quarantine/isolation facilities, IEC activities of educating and sensitizing population, food shelters for feeding needy and hungry in the affected areas within Gram Panchayats - being taken Gram Panchayats for handling the COVID-19 lock down situation would be permissible under the purview of "Sanitation, water supply, maintenance of community assets etc." out of 14th Finance Commission Grants at the disposal of the Gram Panchayats.

3. I would, therefore, request you for taking immediate necessary action to communicate to GPs accordingly. Actions taken/being taken to this effect may please invariably be intimated to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on regular basis.

with regards

Yours sincerely,


Dr. Sanjeeb Patjoshi 15/4/20.

To

All Principal Secretaries / Secretaries
Panchayati Raj Departments,
All FFC Grantee States

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DO No.N-11011/9/2016-FD

Subject: Utiliation of Fourteenth Finance Commission's (FFC) Grants of tackling COVID-19 pandemic in Gram Panchayats.

Dear Principal Secretary/ Secretary

As you are aware , Fourteenth Finance Commission's (FFC) Grants with 5 period years 2015-20, have been mandated for their utilization by Gram Panchayats (GP) for delivering basic services of sanitation besides other services of drinking water supply, street lights, sewerage etc in the rural areas of the country. More than 90% of FFC Basic Grant allocation for year 2019-20 have been released to all states covered under FFC meant for Gram panchayats much before date 31-Mar-20.

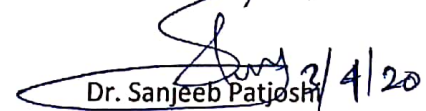
In the present difficult scenario in rural areas/ Gram Panchayats also, which has arisen out of COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the roles and responsibilities of the Gram panchayats are to maintain sufficient sanitation in their jurisdiction to prevent spread of viral infection by way of disinfection, fumigation of village roads, sewage drains and public use buildings of school and college, anganwadi centre, hospital building, library building, community hall, panchayat bhawan, market place, bank premises, post office premises, CSC premise, veterinary hospital within GP , garbage cleaning, lifting and disposal by sanitation workers who have to be given protective face masks, eye protective goggles, hand gloves, hand wash soaps, alcohol based sanitizers, gumboots, dustbins etc. Gram Panchayat level volunteers doing anti pandemic work need also to be given face mask, hand wash soap, alcohol based hand sanitizers, hand gloves, gumboots from Gram Panchayat side.

Hence it is advised that the FFC Grants , which includes Sanitation as one of the basic services in Gram Panchayats, shall be optimally utilized for disinfection ,fumigation, sanitization, sanitation and for purchases of masks, sanitizers etc. in Gram Panchayats, as aforesaid ,for effectively handling to contain/prevent/check of spread of COVID-19 pandemic in rural areas/Gram Panchayats. The FFC Grants which are presently at the disposal of the Gram Panchayats after the previous Financial Year 2019-20 ended on date 31.03.2020, shall be utilized during the current fiscal period year 2020-21 for the aforementioned purposes besides other basic services as outlined in the FFC Guidelines and SFC/State Specific Guidelines. **One year extension has already been allowed in PriSoft accounting application and to all FFC grants receiving states to utilize FFC grants upto date 31-3-21.**

I request for immediate communication of this advisory to the Gram Panchayat level authorities/functionaries for swift action. Action taken to this effect may please invariably be intimated to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on regular basis.

With regards

Yours sincerely,


Dr. Sanjeeb Patjoshi 3/4/20

To

All Principal Secretaries / Secretaries
Panchayati Raj Departments,
All FFC Grantee States