

सुनील कुमार, आई.ए.एस.
SUNIL KUMAR, IAS



सचिव
भारत सरकार
पंचायती राज मंत्रालय
SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

D.O. No. M-11015/76/2020-CB

Dated: August 18, 2020

Dear

As you are aware, India's war against COVID 19 has entered a phase wherein more utilities are opening up and economic activities are being resumed. While the fatality rate on account of COVID 19 is showing a declining trend, number of tests being conducted is going up and approaching the one million mark per day, number of recoveries are also increasing, it is disconcerting to note that the number of 'new' cases continue to increase and are hovering around 50,000 to 60,000 per day. It seems that perhaps a sense of complacency has set in with regard to observance of three key COVID appropriate behaviours in some parts of the country.

2. There are some recent reports which suggest that spread of COVID 19 is no longer confined to urban areas alone and could be spreading to smaller towns and rural areas in some parts of the country. Health Authorities continue to reiterate that if the fight against COVID 19 is to be successful, everyone (including those in rural areas) needs to strictly adhere to the following COVID 19 appropriate behaviour:

- i. Wearing homemade reusable face cover or mask
- ii. Maintaining 6 feet distance (Do Gaj Ki Doori)
- iii. Maintaining personal hygiene (such as avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth unnecessarily and Hand washing frequently and thoroughly).

3. In this regard, your attention is also drawn to my D.O. No. M-11015/76/2020-CB, dated May 15, 2020 wherein need for stepping up vigil and putting in place a robust system to continually monitor 'community preparedness' especially in rural areas so as to ensure that COVID 19 did not spread to rural areas had been emphasized. You may like to instruct the District and Block officials to review the steps taken in this regard and undertake with renewed vigour dissemination of messages relating to COVID Appropriate Behaviours among the residents in rural areas. Support of all elected PRI functionaries in Gram Panchayats, Block Panchayats, Zila Panchayats may again be taken in this important exercise. Strict vigil and adherence to COVID 19 appropriate behaviour will go a long way in controlling spread of COVID 19 in rural areas.

4. You will agree that any complacency at this stage will undo the good work done so far in controlling the spread of COVID 19 in rural areas. Hence, you are requested to take all possible steps to check any complacency that may have set in regarding observance of key COVID 19 appropriate behaviours.

Yours sincerely,

(Sunil Kumar)

All ACS/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries of States/UTs