



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

12th May, 2021

Dear *Shri C.S. Rao,*

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 like supply of medical kits to AWWs/ SHGs, formation of quarantine centers and home isolation facilities, maintenance of sufficient sanitation to prevent spread of viral infection and proper communication of instructions from District Administration to the VMC Nodal persons/Sarpanches.

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:

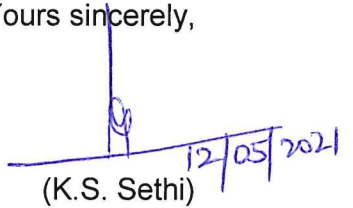
- Initiation of an intensive communication campaign for awareness of rural communities on the nature of COVID infection and preventive measures
- Elected representatives, teachers, ASHA workers to be deployed as frontline workers for the communications campaign
- Formation of Village Monitoring Committees (VMC)
- Training through short videos to be given to VMC.
- Ensure adherence to COVID appropriate behaviour 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.
- 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. should be made by utilizing the IT infrastructure in the Panchayat offices, schools, Common Service Centers etc.
- The XIV FC / XV FC Grants be utilized for the purposes besides other basic services as outlined in the FC Guidelines and SFC/State Specific Guidelines
- 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.

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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) 12/05/2021

Shri C.S. Rao,
Principal Secretary,
RD & PR Department,
Govt. of Sikkim,
Sikkim