SEC DISCUSSES ON CURRENT COVID-19 SITUATION DURING LOCKDOWN


The State Executive Committee (SEC) held its meeting under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Shri Parimal Rai, IAS, yesterday. Shri Puneet Goel, Principal Secretary Science and Technology, Shri S.K. Bhandari, Secretary, Transport and Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary Revenue, Member Secretary, SEC & SDMA attended the meeting.

The SEC was briefed on the reports on Law & Order, Trucks Movement, Relief & Shelters, and Covid Status Report.

The SEC deliberated on the SOP to be followed for the inter-state movement of the persons stranded due to lockdown, after the start of special train services as per MHA guidelines issued for this purpose.

Principal Secretary, Science and Technology informed that he has asked the representatives of industries to collect and prioritize the information on the employees who need to come from outside Goa.

The SEC advised Secretary Health to develop a protocol for Covid testing and home quarantine for returnees, as their number would be large as compared to our current capacity. The need was felt for a testing protocol for those arriving by train.

Shri Kunal, Nodal Officer presented the revised SOP. The SEC agreed with the broad contours of the SOP and asked him to be prepared for the evolving dynamics based on the data received from the different sources including the online portal.

The SEC also advised Shri Kunal to monitor the compilation of the data from different sources, to clean the data for removing the duplicate entries based on their mobile numbers or other identifiers.

The SEC directed that the task of handling the movement of migrants is very delicate and a massive exercise. Therefore, the Nodal officer is empowered to issue all necessary directions to meet the emergent need.

Secretary Agriculture informed that the agricultural activities are normal. With 12 Harvesters working in the fields, 82% harvesting is complete. The department is also working on a mobile application to
bring buyers and farmers on one platform: to enable better price discovery of agriculture produce for the farmer's good.

Secretary, Fisheries informed that the department is collecting the data on the migrant workers in the fishing sector. As per the initial assessment of the department about 8,000 workers, mostly from Orissa and Jharkhand, have expressed their willingness to go back to their home State. He also informed that MPT is readying a SOP for receiving seafarers. The SEC advised that MPT's SOP needs to be aligned with MHAs guidelines, SOP issued by the DG Shipping and State's protocol on this issue.

Commissioner, Excise informed that the liquor manufacturers have produced about 4.72 lakh liters of hand sanitisers. He also informed that sanitiser is available in sufficient quantity for which the departmental heads can raise their requisition to him.

Secretary, Civil Supply informed that the pace of disbursement of PDS ration has picked up, including the lifting of subsidised pulses. She also informed that after rationalisation it has been decided that the sale of groceries would now be done through the trucks of the Horticulture Corporation, and the modified KTCL buses would be released for normal operations.

The Meeting also discussed on quarantine facilities. Secretary, Health informed that the quarantine facilities should be identified in advance for everyone who is coming in with the proper authorisation, as was done for the crew of Marella Discovery, to avoid any last minute issues. The SEC asked the Collectors in consultation with Secretary Health to put in place a mechanism to ensure the same.

The SEC discussed the MHA's order for movement of migrants. The SEC decided to appoint Shri Kunal, CEO to be the Nodal officer for coordinating the movement of migrants.

Collector, South-Goa discussed the modalities of testing seafarers who want to Sign-on, to board a ship. The SEC advised him to follow the SOP issued by the DG Shipping and MHA's guidelines, and coordinate with the Secretary Health for following the testing protocols.

Secretary, Port said the crew of Angriya may not come at present, as informed by their company, as per their current engagement plan, even though the State is ready for their arrival. Secretary, Port discussed the issues of the barge owners associations, who want to return to Goa. The
SEC advised him to work out a plan (SOP) while keeping in mind the protocols for the testing and quarantine requirements.

The SEC asked the DMA and Secretary for Panchayat to frame the modalities on how to open the markets which are currently closed with all the safety norms in place, as the continued closure would adversely affect the shop owners and the state economy.

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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY.
THIRD FLOOR,UDYOG BHAVAN,
NEAR AZAD MAIDAN, PANAJI GOA