Lt Governor briefs the PM about the control efforts of UT Administration to combat COVID-19 in J&K

JAMMU, APRIL 11: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today briefed the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, about the efforts of the UT Administration for management and containment of COVID-19 pandemic in Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister was interacting with Chief Ministers and heads of all States/UTs through video conferencing to review the efforts of the States/UTs to combat COVID-19.

The Lt Governor informed the PM that there are 8 deaths and 224 positive cases in the UT, with 98% of the cases having travel history or contacts of the positive patients. In J&K, 5 districts are affected with coronavirus and 77 areas have been declared as Red Zones, he maintained.

He further informed that 14 dedicated COVID hospitals with 208 ventilators, 22,250 isolation beds, and 30,000 non-hospital beds are available and over 1,000 ventilators are being procured. Further, about 100,000 people are under home quarantine and 80,000 migrants are being quarantined. Around 3,000 health care professionals, 30,000 police personnel and others have been trained, who are working towards the containment of the spread of coronavirus, he added.

He further informed that the UT Administration has rolled out an effective mechanism and strenuous efforts are being made to reach out to the beneficiaries under various welfare schemes including PM KISSAN; 8 lakh account holders under PMJDY; 12.5 lakh families getting LPG, 7 lakh families being provided with ration and other benefits. Dedicated call centres have been established to assist the stranded labourers and students from and outside the UT, he added.

During the interaction, the Prime Minister observed that next 3-4 weeks are critical to determine impact of steps taken so far to curb the spread of the virus and suggested spending more on agriculture and allied sectors. He also spoke about popularizing the ‘Aarogya Setu’ app to ensure downloads in greater numbers. Aarogya Setu app is a digital tool to fight against COVID-19, which will come up as a cryosaar to facilitate travel etc, he added.

The Prime Minister categorically assured that India has adequate supplies of essential medicines and said that measures are being taken to ensure self-reliance in production and critical equipments for all sectors. He emphasized that the motto of the government earlier was ‘jaan hai to jahaan hai’ but now it is ‘jaan bhi, jahaan bhi’. He talked about strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and reaching out to patients through tele-medicine and also suggested that direct marketing for farm produce can be incentivized to prevent crowding in mandis. He observed that the combined efforts of the Centre and the States/UTs have definitely helped to reduce the impact of COVID-19.

Soon after the video conferencing, the Lt Governor chaired a meeting on COVID-19 control efforts and directed for effective implementation of restrictions in Red Zones with aggressive and targeted testing to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lt Governor directed for conducting 100% testing of inmates of Old Aged Homes in wake of the emerging situation and instructed the officers to ensure supply of essentials in Red Zones so that people do not face any inconvenience on this part.

As precautionary measures, the Lt Governor directed for immediate capacity enhancement with regard to availability of quarantine and isolation beds and directed for enhancing of infrastructural requirements. He directed for readying of at least 3,000 quarantine beds in Kashmir and 1,500 beds in Jammu. He further directed for sufficient supply of ventilators and Oxygen canisters and emphasized on the maintenance of adequate stocks and isolation protocols across J&K.

Deliberations were also held on various important issues including stock positioning of protective equipments; intensifying contact tracing campaign; smear transportation of essential commodities; effective mobilization of volunteers; conducting of health checkups on regular basis; fumigation and sanitation drives; besides other preventive measures.