Chief Minister Hemant Soren today said that he is expecting more help from the Centre in terms of medical equipment for 'corona-warriors' working day and night against COVID-19 in the State.

The CM, after a meeting with Governor Droupadi Murmu and senior officials in the State, said that he has apprised the Governor of the situation in the State and the immediate needs of Jharkhand.

"We have had a meeting with the Governor, where we have said that despite being poor and backward state we have made adequate arrangements to fight coronavirus. The only shortage is of medical equipment for corona warriors and we are not getting adequate assistance for the same. After very late we got thermal scanners, masks, PPE etc and we have asked the Governor to help make it available," he said.

The CM further said that the Governor has assured that she would request the Central government to provide medical equipment such as PPE, ventilators as soon as possible.

Earlier, holding a meeting with CM Hemant Soren and senior officials of the State here on Monday, the Governor said that she would request the President of India for necessary medical equipment for Jharkhand. She said that the President and Vice President had asked during video conferencing to apprise them of any assistance to the states to fight against Coronavirus.

The governor said that 80 per cent of the people in Jharkhand live in the village. "Initially it did not come to Jharkhand, but currently there have been four cases of infection, of which three are women. After the lock-down ends, people trapped outside the State will come back home and we need to be prepared in advance for that. This disaster can be fought by involving volunteers from social organizations and others. Corona virus infection will not spread if people strictly follow social distancing," she added.

The CM informed the Governor that from the Central Government, 5,000 PPE, 100 thermal scanners, 25,000 N-95 masks have been received. He said that the State government is informing the Governor of State about the situation from time to time. "This is our responsibility. All states have their own internal system. We had intensified efforts to prevent infection even before the first case of infection came in the State,' he added.

“Our Information Center is working round the clock for people trapped outside the State. 15 senior IAS officers have been made nodal officers. So that people trapped outside the state can get help. About 6. 94 lakh people are out of the State, most of them stranded in Maharashtra. The State government has access to 60 to 70 per cent of the people trapped outside. Food is being provided at the panchayat and police station level to all needy people within the state. Chief Minister Dal Bhat Yojana is operated as before. There is no shortage of food grains in the state. Rs 10,000 each have been made available to all the Mukhiya of Panchayat,” said the CM.

The CM also informed the Governor that DCs of all districts have been provided with Rs 50 Lakh each so that no one dies of hunger. The government is also preparing for post lockdown situation when about 5-6 lakh people will come to the State.

Chief Secretary Sukhdeo Singh informed on the occasion that there are four test machines in the State another four machines will soon be set up for COVID-19 tests. "As many as 15000 test kits are available in the State. Private hospitals have been tagged for 250 ventilators and 300 additional ventilators are being ordered.

The pension amount for the months of March and April has been released. The lifting of Anaj has started till May. Adequate funds are available in MNREGA. By February 15, 1. 73 lakh people from outside came to Jharkhand, out of which 1.45 lakh people have been home-quarantined. About 30,000 home guard jawans and forest guards have been identified in the State, who will be assigned the task as per the requirement," he said.
Director General of Police MV Rao said that the lockdown is being strictly followed. People are being made aware by not using force. More than 40 cases related to this are being monitored on social media. 25 people have been arrested. Police morale is high.
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