Gyalshing, 6th April, 2020 (IPR): Shri. Lok Nath Sharma, Minister-cum-Area MLA Gyalshing-Bermiok Constituency met with the District Administration Officials of West Sikkim at the Zilla Bhawan, Kyongsa, Gyalshing, West Sikkim. Present in the meeting were Shri. Karma R. Bonpo, DC West; Shri. Tenzing Loden Lepcha, SP West; Shri. Karma L. Lepcha, ADC West; Shri. Tshering T. Bhutia, SDM (Gyalshing); Dr. Anusha Lama, CMO West along with other officials and dignitaries.

The meeting was called by the HM to understand the West District’s situation and the initiatives taken by the District Administration to tackle the COVID-19 situation in the West Sikkim.

Hon’ble Minister in his address to the gathering extended his gratitude to the District Officials, the Police personnel, the Health officials for their determination and dedication towards their duties during the time of crisis. He also thanked all who have actively taken part in helping the State Government through their donations and other form of selfless services. He urged the Health Officials and Police personnel to take proper precautions while performing their duties.

HM mentioned that the rations and relief materials would soon be reaching their respective beneficiaries. He also directed that the BDOs are active partakers in this situation hence their activeness and alertness is the need of the hour. The HM instructed that the Food and Civil Service Department are to check and take note of the stocks available in their respective infrastructures and make sure that they are stocked. He also stated that the instructions passed down by the State Government are for the general public’s benefit hence they need to be followed strictly. In his address, he urged the farming community of Sikkim to continue their work in the field whilst following the protocol of social distancing and unnecessary gathering. He also mentioned that the Agriculture and Horticulture Department would soon make the helpline available to the community so that they don’t face difficulty in selling their produce. He also mentioned that the FPOs are doing a commendable job in the transportation of agricultural products to the towns and markets which are beneficial for the public.

DC West informed that the distribution of the 1st phase of rations and relief materials have been started in West Sikkim, where in priority has been given to the stranded laborers and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. He informed that the Vehicular Permits are digitally issued to minimize crowding and human contact. He also briefed about the Government Facilities as Quarantine facilities in the sub-divisions and an Isolation center at the District Headquarter, Gyalshing. He informed that a ‘Transit Camp’ has been set up at the Kyongsa School Auditorium for drivers of Essential Commodities Vehicles who ply from the district to Siliguri are lodged there in order to keep them away from general public during their period of duty to ensure safety of the public.

SP West informed that the enforcement of lockdown is being done in two aspects, namely the vehicular movement and people. However, the essential services vehicles and personnel are being allowed to ply along with the public are being facilitated to acquire those essential services. He further mentioned that since the West District shares a long border with West Bengal a number of permanent picket posts have
been set up along the stretch to ensure no crossovers of people and vehicles happen. The Police personnel have been stationed at all major towns and villages to ensure lockdown in the district. Further, the police are also ensuring that the social distancing is being maintained when public access the essential services including banking, pharmacy and essential goods.

CMO West mentioned that in the West District so far no cases of COVID 19 has been reported and all 9 samples sent for testing have come to be Negative. She further informed that under the District Hospital Gyalshing a total of 7 PHC and 42 PHSC are functioning where packets of medicines have already been distributed and the 7 PHC are further directed to collect medicines from the central store in-case they run out of supply. She also informed that the district has in stock a total of 3000 triple layered mask; 121 N95 masks, 156 PPEs, 700 sanitizers of 100ml, 66 sanitizers of 300ml