Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim Shri Ganga Prasad today convened Second Review Meeting with the State Government on the current status and Sikkim’s plan of action against the spread of global pandemic COVID 19 at Raj Bhavan. Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang, Hon'ble Minister for Health Dr. M.K. Sharma, Chief Secretary Shri S.C Gupta, Director General of Police Shri A Shankar Rao, Addl. Chief Secretary to Governor Dr. K Jayakumar, Principal Secretaries of Health and Labour Departments, Secretary of Health Department and other officers were present on the occasion.

The meeting began with the appraisal of latest report and action taken by the State Government in view of the ongoing lockdown and its impact on the lives of common man. Sikkim is among the three states in the country with Zero Corona positive cases as on 8th April 2020, and the meeting deliberated on the possible measures and restrictions to be put in place to keep Sikkim safe.

Hon'ble Chief Minister apprised that the situation is normal in the State and the government has given utmost priority on equitable distribution of relief material to the intended beneficiaries.

Despite some issues of transportation of some essential ration component and sudden rise in the number of beneficiaries during the process of distribution, government is taking all necessary steps to ease the hardships being faced by the people during lock down period. He also informed that in view of likely extension of lock down period in the country beyond 14th April in the backdrop of sudden rise in cases of COVID 19 over the last one week, State government is taking some necessary measures as under;

1. All educational institutions will continue to remain closed till situation normalises.
2. Buffer stock of all essential commodities including health consumables is being maintained.
3. Government will continue to keep highest vigil at the border check points and restriction of movement will remain in force even if the neighbouring states lifts the lockdown.
4. The partial relaxation of lockdown norms if any within the State after the stipulated time will be in line with the guidelines issued by Union Government with strict compliance on social distancing.
5. Financial assistance has also been extended to Non-Sikkimese students currently residing in Sikkim and studying in Sikkim University.
6. 55 Sikkimese students who were in facility quarantine at SICUN Assam Lingzey are being transported to their respective homes after necessary medical check-up has been done.
7. People of Sikkim have extended full cooperation in government’s efforts in the enforcement of lockdown and have shown highest degree of awareness, resilience and self-restrain. Hon’ble Governor during the meeting urged the State Government to expedite the process of setting up of Testing Lab for COVID 19 in the State so that early detection and treatment of COVID 19 patient in the event of its occurrence in Sikkim. Hon’ble Minister for Health informed that the process has begun and State government has given top priority in establishing the testing facility in collaboration with ICMR. Hon’ble Governor further suggested that State Government should take highest precaution, strengthen its mechanism and its preparedness to tackle COVID 19 to prevent it from entering Sikkim. This has become all the more important since there has been rapid increase of COVID 19 positive cases since the beginning of April. He further urged the government to take the interest and welfare of vulnerable section of our society into highest priority in view of the likelihood of lockdown period getting extended beyond 14th of April.

completion of quarantine period.