CM briefs the Prime Minister about COVID-19 situation in Gujarat

Gandhinagar, Monday: Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi had a video conference with Chief Ministers from various states to review and assess the situation of COVID-19 in India.

Chief Minister of the state Mr. Vijay Rupani provided the details of various measures taken by Gujarat, based on the guidelines issued by the Prime Minister, to curb COVID-19. Mr. Rupani made it clear that the measures taken by the Prime Minister amidst the COVID-19 were visionary and inspirational. Phase-2 of the lockdown has been instrumental in reducing the rate of spread of COVID-19.

The Chief Minister said, “The co-operation between various states and the Centre amidst the crisis is the best example of co-operative federalism. The guidance and necessary tools, equipments, medicines and analysis of COVID-19 received from the Centre has been instrumental in reducing the effect of COVID-19 in Gujarat.”

Briefing about COVID-19 in Gujarat, he said, “There are 3301 COVID-19 cases in Gujarat. 2837 are active cases while 151 have succumbed to the pandemic. 313 patients have recovered. More than 51 thousand people have been tested in Gujarat till date. 22,468 people were tested for COVID-19 till 17th April, 2020. More than 28 thousand people were tested from 17th April, 2020 to 27th April, 2020i.e more than 2800 samples a day in the last 10 days.”

666 teams of health officers and workers conducted a door to door testing in Surat for 3 days. 750 teams conducted door to door testing in hotpots areas of Ahmedabad for 7 days straight.

The state government had announced for setting up dedicated COVID-19 hospitals the day the first case was registered in Gujarat. At present, there are 61 dedicated hospitals with a capacity of 10,500 beds with 1500 ICU beds and 1500 ventilators. COVID-19 centres have also been started for treating patients with medium symptoms. The state government will increase the total capacity to 12,500 in a week. There are 5000 beds for the same and the state government will further increase it to 10,000 beds in a week.

The Chief Minister also provided details of the deceased patients to the Prime Minister. 151 people have succumbed to COVID-19. A careful analysis of the deceased patients revealed that 85% of them suffered from one or more illnesses. In addition to that, 80% of the deceased were seriously ill by the time they were admitted.
Amreli, Junagadh and Devbhoomi Dwarka have not registered a single case of COVID-19 and 18 districts have a single digit number for active COVID-19 case.

The state government has ensured effective implementation of lockdown since 23rd March, 2020. More than 95,000 cases have been registered under Disaster Management Act and IPC for violating lockdown. Around 1 lakh 37 thousand people were arrested for the same and 1 lakh 37 thousand vehicles were detained.

The state government is also using drone surveillance to monitor the situation. Around 9000 cases were registered through drone surveillance and 1700 cases using CCTV surveillance for violating lockdown.

The CM assured Mr. Modi that Gujarat has sufficient provision of essential items for the citizens. 66 lakh NFSA card holders were provided with wheat, sugar, pulses, salt and rice in the first week of April by following social distancing. 60 lakh APL-1 card holders were also provided with free food grains during mid-April by divvying the people based on the last digit of their ration card. This enabled the state administration to complete the food grain distribution in 5 days. In addition to that, 66 NFSA card holders are being provided with an additional of wheat and rice free of cost from 25th April, 2020 under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana through 17,000 fair price shops.

Farmers sowing Rabi crops have been provided special permissions to harvest and transport their crops amidst the lockdown. Manure shops and summer seed shops have been granted permission to operate. Farmers have been given the permission to sell their agri produce in APMCs through prior registration in addition to following adequate safety measures.

The state has also permitted industries and business to operate from 20th April, 2020 based on the guidelines of MHA, Government of India. Around 25,000 thousand industries have resumed their operations and 5 lakh labourers have resumed their duties. In addition to that, around 30,000 labourers have resumed their duties at 700 private construction projects. More than 7000 workers are availing employment under MNREGA through SSJA. Export units outside containment zones have been provided the permission to start their operations.

However, the state administration has ensured the provision of only essential items in Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot and Vadodara. Only shops providing such goods and services are operational in these mega cities.

The state government has started the purchased of wheat at MSP. The Chief Minister assured the Prime Minister that all the activities that have resumed in Gujarat are following social distancing and other safety measures amidst the crisis.

Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Nitin Patel, Chief Secretary Mr. Anil Mukim and various senior officers were present during the video conference with the Prime Minister.

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