Gandhinagar, Sunday: Chief Minister of the state Mr. Vijay Rupani has taken an important decision for the people managing food grain distribution at 17,000 fair price shops approved by the government.

Providing details of the decision taken by the CM, Secretary to the CM Mr. Ashwani Kumar said, “The Chief Minister has announced a financial assistance of Rs.25 lakhs for data entry operators and weighing men in case of demise on duty due to COVID-19. The said people are currently working at 17,000 fair price shops for ensuring a smooth flow of free food grain distribution.”

The process of providing assistance of Rs.1000 in the bank accounts of the 66 lakh NFSA card holders shall be initiated from 6 tribal districts namely Panchmahal, Chhota Udepur, Dahod, Aravalli, Sabarkantha and Mahisagar.

The state government shall also commence the purchase of tobacco from farmers at APMCs very soon. Talking about the commencement of businesses and industries from 20th April, 2020, the Secretary said, “The Chief Minister has made it clear that all the factories and industrial units falling outside the limits of municipal corporations and municipalities shall be allowed to operate. The units have been allowed to employ the workers for a 12 hour shift with additional remuneration for the extended hours. The workers shall receive a 30 minute break after every 6 hours. Women shall not work from 7 pm to 6 am.

The state government has also announced a compounding fee for the vehicles detained due to violating the norms of the lockdown. A compound fee of Rs.500 shall be charged for two wheelers and Rs.1000 for four wheelers.

The Secretary also said that the GSRTC bus service between Ahmedabad to Gandhinagar for Sachivalay employees is currently postponed.

Talking about the commencement of APMCs from 15th April, 2020, Mr. Kumar said, “69837 quintals of produce has been distributed in 3 days. This includes 48874 quintals of wheat and 15961 quintals of castor seeds.”

46.81 lakh liters of milk was distributed in the state. 86577 quintals of vegetables and 5159 quintals of fruits are available in the market.