SECRET
MOST IMMEDIATE/ACTIONABLE
CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

From
Deputy Commissioner,
Sirsa

To
1. DIG-SP, Sirsa
2. ADC-cum-Secy. RTA, Sirsa
3. All S.D.Ms in district Sirsa
4. City Magistrate, Sirsa
5. DRO, Sirsa/PO, DMC, Sirsa
6. DDPO, Sirsa
7. Civil Surgeon, Sirsa
8. Dy. Civil Surgeon (NHM), Sirsa
9. Distt. Surveillance Officer, Sirsa
10. DIPRO, Sirsa
11. DFSC, Sirsa
12. G.M. Roadways, Sirsa
14. All Tehsildars/NTs/BDPOs in distt. Sirsa
15. All EOs/Secretaries of ULBs & Mkt. Comm. in distt. Sirsa
16. Sr. Drugs/Drugs Control Officer, Sirsa
18. Secretary, Red Cross Society, Sirsa
19. DYC, NYK, Sirsa
20. Incharge, Distt. War/Control Room, Sirsa
22. Asstt. Dir., Indl. Health & Safety (BOCW), Sirsa
23. All Duty Magistrates (through concerned SDMs)
24. DIO, NIC, Sirsa

No. 23/01-190 /MA Dated:- 27/05/2020


Please find enclosed herewith a copy of minutes of meeting of Committee of Secretaries held on 10.05.2020 circulated by the Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan vide No. 272/2/1/2020-Cab.III dated 12.05.2020 received through the Financial Commissioner & Addl. Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana, Revenue & Disaster Management Department vide letter No. ER-DMC-PO-IV-2020/3012 dated 19.05.2020 for information and immediate necessary action.

DA: As above

For Deputy Commissioner,
Sirsa

[Signature]
COVID-19
Urgent/Immediate

To

All the Deputy Commissioners in the State


Please find enclosed herewith a copy of letter no. F.No.272/2/1/2020-Cab.III from Sh. Sh. Niranjan Chandrashekhar Cheriyamane, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi for information and further immediate necessary actions.

You are, therefore, requested to take further immediate necessary action in the matter.

Sandeep Sharma
Superintendent (DM Cell)
for Financial Commissioner Revenue & Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., Haryana, Revenue, Disaster Management Departments
Chandigarh.
F. No. 272/2/1/2020-Cab.III
Cabinet Secretariat
Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi, dated the 12th May, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM


The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of Record of Discussion (Doc No.69/2020-CA.III) of the video conference held at 11.00 A.M. on 10th May, 2020 in the Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhavan on the above mentioned subject.

2. It is requested that the status of action taken on the relevant decisions may please be uploaded in the ‘Committee of Secretaries’ module of e-Samiksha portal.

(Niranjan Chandrashekhkar Cheryamane)
Deputy Secretary
Tel: 23015861

Member, NITI Aayog
Chairman, Railway Board
Secretary, M/o Health & Family Welfare
Home Secretary
Member Secretary, NDMA
Secretary, M/o Information & Broadcasting
Director General, ICMR
Officer on Special Duty, D/o Health & Family Welfare

Copy to:

Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries (Health) of all States/UTs.

Copy for kind information to: Principal Secretary to Prime Minister
Principal Adviser to Prime Minister

(Niranjan Chandrashekhkar Cheryamane)
Deputy Secretary

INTERNAL CIRCULATION (One Copy)
Secy(C)/AS(RS)/JS(PA)/JS(SS)/DS(NCC)

Meeting Pad/ Office Copy
50 copies
CABINET SECRETARIAT

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

Venue : Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat
        Rashtrapati Bhavan

Date of meeting : 10.05.2020

Time of meeting : 11.00 A.M.

PRESENT

Shri Rajiv Gauba, Cabinet Secretary
Dr. V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog
Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav, Chairman, Railway Board
Dr. V.P. Joy, Secretary (Coord), Cabinet Secretariat
Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, M/o Health & Family Welfare
Shri Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Home Secretary
Shri Amit Khare, Secretary, M/o Information & Broadcasting
Shri G.V.V. Sarma, Member Secretary, NDMA
Prof. Balram Bhargava, Secretary, D/o Health Research (DG, ICMR)
Shri Rajesh Bhushan, O.S.D., D/o Health & Family Welfare
Shri Sanjeeva Kumar, Special Secretary, M/o Health & Family Welfare
Shri Govind Mohan, Additional Secretary, M/o Home Affairs
Ms. Rachna Shah, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
Shri Sandeep Sarkar, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
Shri Sanjeev K Jindal, Joint Secretary, M/o Home Affairs
Ms. Punya Salila Srivastava, Joint Secretary, M/o Home Affairs
Shri Niranjan Chandrashekhar Cheriyan, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat

Through Video Conference

Chief Secretaries & Principal Secretaries (Health) of all States & UTs.


Cabinet Secretary held a video conference on the above subject with Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries (Health) of all States & UTs, at 11:00 am on 10.05.2020, from the Committee Room, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

2. At the outset, Cabinet Secretary referred to the classification of districts shared by Secretary, MoHFW vide her D.O. letter dated 01.05.2020 addressed to Chief Secretaries. It was observed that the classification was intended to focus on certain containment actions to meet the emerging situation. It was noted that containment zones must be delineated based on the ground situation and stringent social distancing measures need to be enforced therein. Also, buffer zones need to be identified and delineated with increased focus on surveillance. It must be ensured that the hitherto unaffected districts/areas continue to remain so. Information campaigns and large scale surveillance actions may be launched in such districts.

3. Cabinet Secretary also emphasized that the District Administration may be sensitized against insisting on permits/passes for permitted activities. It was suggested that Chief Secretaries may take stock of situation and take feedback from industry bodies in this regard.

4. It was stressed that there should be no hindrance in inter-state movement of medical professionals i.e., doctors, nurses, para-medics and technicians. Private clinics/health care establishments may be encouraged to resume operations so as to cater to non-COVID patients.

5. It was emphasized that resumption of any activity should not result in avoidable crowding such as during opening of liquor shops, thereby undoing the gains made during lockdown.

6. It was observed that Secretary, MoHFW may regularly monitor key parameters and keep States informed of the issues which need their attention.
7. It was informed that an inter-ministerial Group headed by OSD, DoHFW has been constituted for providing requisite technical and other support to States in emergency situations. In this regard, Cabinet Secretary reiterated that States may utilize the identified Central government resources for COVID-19 management. No separate permission is required to requisition them. Further, States may also requisition the resources available in the private sector.

8. Cabinet Secretary expressed concern over the migrant labour resorting to desperate measures like walking down to their distant native places. It was urged that Shramik Special trains may be urgently scheduled and their schedule be widely disseminated. States were requested to facilitate the movement of these trains.

9. Cabinet Secretary thereafter requested States to provide suggestions for the way forward, post-17th May 2020. Most of the States suggested that categorization of districts may not change frequently as it shall pre-empt any effective start of economic activity. Markets also need to open up so that the complete supply chain may function.

10. Chief Secretary, Bihar suggested that lockdown may continue till 31st May, 2020 by which time migrant labour movement is likely to settle down. It was informed that all returning migrant labour are being placed in institutional quarantine and being randomly tested. It was found that some of the returnees were COVID-positive.

11. Chief Secretary, Gujarat suggested that lockdown may be limited to the containment zones. He informed that movement of Shramik Special trains has been smooth and that surveillance testing is being enhanced.

12. Chief Secretary, Kerala suggested that movement of stranded persons may be permitted by the originating States after prior consent of the destination State. It was informed that an expert group constituted by the State Government has recommended that home quarantine will be more suitable compared to institutional quarantine, in respect of returnees. It was reported that out of 1228 persons who have returned from abroad so far, 02 have tested COVID-positive; therefore testing at point of departure may be organized where possible to minimize the chances of cross infection during the journey.
13. Chief Secretary, Haryana suggested that Shramik Special trains from Jhajjar and other stations may also be scheduled. Further, inter-state stops may be permitted for these special trains. It was also suggested that markets in Delhi may be opened so that their exporters may source inputs from there. The need for supporting MSMEs was also brought out.

14. Chief Secretary, Assam suggested that night curfew may continue till 31st May, 2020. It was requested that they need more time to prepare to receive migrant labour from other states.

15. Chief Secretary, Karnataka suggested that stringent restrictions may be imposed in containment zones and that rest of the areas may be treated as Green. However, there should be certain common prohibited activities such as public gatherings, cinema halls, shopping malls etc. It was also suggested that Railways may start reservations from any given future date. This will reassure migrant labour and other stranded persons. It was suggested that ambulance and bed management can effectively bring down fatality.

16. Chief Secretary, Maharashtra suggested that ICMR may conduct a quick study on likely behaviour of SARS-COV-2 during monsoons. Further due to increasing number of duty police personnel testing COVID-positive, insurance cover under PMGK package may also be extended to them.

17. Chief Secretary, Punjab suggested that a committee of experts may be constituted to prepare a medium-term outlook in respect of COVID-19 in terms of geographies and activities.

18. Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh suggested that ICMR may also support CSIR & ICAR labs for kits and other consumables. It was also suggested that lockdown could continue for some more time.

19. Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir suggested that the current MHA guidelines on lockdown measures may be extended till 31.05.2020. Further, liberalization was also suggested in districts classified as red.

20. Chief Secretary, Tripura suggested that stranded persons may be permitted to travel by air. Further, inter-State stops for Shramik Special trains may be permitted.
Also, movement across the Bangladesh border may continue to be put on hold. It was requested that testing protocol may be issued for the crew of long-distance cargo vehicles. Further, support for testing and ventilators were sought.

21. Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh suggested that stringent measures may be limited to containment zones and that rest of the areas may be permitted to open up. This will help in learning to live with COVID-19.

22. Chief Secretary, Manipur suggested that protocol for pooled testing may be reviewed. More samples may be permitted to be pooled together.

23. Chief Secretary, Rajasthan suggested that measures outside the containment zones must be left to the discretion of the States. Further, opening of markets is essential for industries to restart effectively. This will create demand for labour which may also address the anxiety of migrant labour.

24. Chief Secretary, West Bengal suggested that post-17th May, a decentralized, nuanced approach may be adopted, so that, both life and livelihood are taken care of. Further, a high capacity Roche testing machine may be assigned to West Bengal.

25. Chief Secretary, Mizoram suggested that Inter-State stops may be permitted for the Shramik Special trains.

26. Chairman, Railway Board informed that 320 Shramik Special trains carrying 3.5 lakh persons have been operated till 09.05.2020. It was further informed that Railways can operate upto 250 Shramik Special trains per day. It was requested that the originating and receiving States may co-ordinate and inform requirements at the earliest. Further, 3-4 stoppages can be allowed in the destination State. Inter-State stops will also be permitted, particularly in cases of pooling of passengers from smaller States. Trains originating from Jhajjar (Haryana) and all such stations will be scheduled based on the advice of the States.

27. DG, ICMR informed that Roche has committed to supply the high capacity machines @ two machines per month. These will be suitably deployed. ICMR is regularly replenishing VTM, RNA extraction kits, test kits & reagents at all government labs. The States may activate other labs as well. Private labs may be
encouraged to obtain NABL accreditation so that these may also be registered for COVID-19 testing.

28. Secretary, MoHFW noted that suggestions/inputs from States on COVID-19 management are welcome and may be shared at the earliest. It was urged that private clinics and hospitals may be operationalized as non-COVID services are being compromised. Chief Secretaries were requested to review the health system preparedness for the forthcoming monsoons during which vector borne diseases and other seasonal diseases would also need attention. Attention of States was also drawn to revised discharge protocol for COVID-19 patients. It was also urged that movement of healthcare professionals may be facilitated across State borders and no permits/passes be insisted for their movement.

29. Member, Niti Aayog emphasized that States must not allow the gains made during the lockdown period to reverse. It was cautioned that there may be surges in infections in various parts of the country with de-escalation of lockdown measures. All States need to prepare the health infrastructure both in the private and the public sectors to meet any surge in demand. It was noted that behavioral change is the best safeguard against COVID-19; therefore, citizens must be impressed upon to continue maintaining social distancing norms and wear masks.

30. Home Secretary noted that the guidelines issued by MHA may be understood in letter and spirit, and communicated effectively to the men on the ground. There was a need to disseminate information about likely schedule of Shramik special trains among stranded migrant labour so that their anxiety is addressed. Chief Secretaries were also suggested to review the implementation of MHA’s guidelines to check further spread of COVID-19 among duty police personnel and in prisons.

31. Member Secretary, NDMA urged that industrial safety instructions issued by NDMA may be disseminated to industries.

32. After detailed deliberations, the following action points emerged:

i. States may immediately reach out to migrant labour and counsel them not to resort to measures like walking to their native places. They should be taken to nearby shelters and provided with food and other amenities till
such time they are facilitated to board Shramik Special trains or buses to their native places.

ii. M/o Railways and MHA may prepare a schedule of Shramik Special trains at least for next one week in consultation with the States. This schedule may be widely disseminated.

iii. States may not refuse their domiciles from returning.

iv. States may organize random testing of migrant labour staying in quarantine facilities, for effective surveillance.

v. ICMR may urgently issue revised guidelines on pooled testing.

vi. States may ensure unfettered movement of medical professionals i.e., doctors, nurses, paramedics and technicians etc., both within and across State borders.

vii. States may work with the private hospitals and clinics to start non-COVID services at the earliest. MoHFW SOPs on infection control etc. may be shared with them.

viii. ICMR may undertake a rapid study on likely behaviour of SARS-COV-2 during monsoon.

ix. States may communicate their suggestions to MoHFW / MHA on the way forward for containment of COVID-19.

x. States may prepare for the possible surge in COVID-19 cases post-lockdown. A campaign focused on behavioural changes essential to live with COVID-19 may be planned and implemented at the earliest.

The video conference ended with a vote of thanks to all participants.

*****