

AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव  
Home Secretary  
भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
North Block,  
New Delhi  
1st April, 2020

D.O. No. 40-1/2020-DM-I

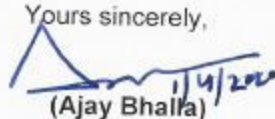
Dear *Chief Secretary,*

As you are aware, Government of India has imposed lockdown measures to prevent COVID-19. The Apex Court while considering the Writ Petition (Civil) No 468 of 2020 had sought Status Report on the steps taken by Union of India. On 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020, the Union of India filed the detailed Status Report and the Apex Court expressed satisfaction with the proactive and timely actions taken by the Union of India for preventing the spread of Corona Virus [COVID-19].

2. The Hon'ble Court while taking up the prayers made in ibid PILs took serious note of the panic created by fake news leading to mass movement of migrant labourers, their plight and untold suffering.
3. While referring to the provisions of Disaster Management Act, 2005 and Indian Penal Code the Hon'ble Court observed that (quote) "we trust and expect that all concerned viz., State Governments, Public Authorities and Citizens of this country will faithfully comply with the directives, advisories and orders issued by Union of India in letter and spirit in the interest of public safety" (unquote).
4. The Apex Court has also given observations and directions regarding provision of relief camps/shelters for the migrant labourers and the basic amenities such as food, medicines etc. to be provided in line with MHA/NDMA directives and other welfare activities to be taken by the State Governments.
5. The Apex Court has also given directions on taking effective measures to check circulation of the fake news.
6. In view of aforesaid directions made by the Apex Court, all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are requested to take necessary action and also to comply with the Directives/Advisories/Orders issued by the Central Government for containment of spread of COVID-19 in the country.
7. In this context, I would also like to apprise you that the Government of India is creating a web-portal where people can verify facts and unverified news promptly. States and Union Territories are requested to create a similar mechanism at State level for issues relating to the State.
8. The Action Taken Report on this may please be sent to this Ministry so as to apprise Hon'ble Court about the same. The next date of hearing is on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(Ajay Bhalla) 1/4/2020

Chief Secretaries of all the States