

No. Rev. (DMC) (C) 20-2/2020 (COVID-19)
Revenue Department (DMC)
Government of Himachal Pradesh

From

The Principal Secretary (Rev-DM) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh.

To

1. The Administrative Secretaries to the Government of HP
2. The DGP, HP Police Department
3. The Head of Departments, Himachal Pradesh
4. The Deputy Commissioner-cum-Chairperson (DDMA), All Districts

Dated-Shimla, the 14th April 2020.

Sub-

Regarding - Directions issued by the National Disaster Management Authority & National Executive Committee, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for the State Governments for containment of COVID-19.

Sir/Madam,

On the subject cited above I am to say that in order to deal with the growing challenge of COVID 19 pandemic, the National Disaster Management Authority and the Chairman, National Executive Committee, Ministry of Home Affairs vide order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 24.3.2020 has issued directions/guidelines under the Disaster Management Act 2005 directing Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India, State/Union Territory Governments and State/Union Territory Authorities on measures to be taken for containment of COVID-19 Epidemic in the Country. Subsequently, four addendums to these guidelines were also issued by MHA vide dated 25.03.2020, 26.03.2020, 02.04.2020 and 03.04.2020 respectively which were shared by this department with you.

Ministry of Home Affairs vide DO letter vide dated 12.04.2020 has informed that it has come to the notice of the ministry that in some parts of the country, the aforesaid guidelines and clarifications are not being implemented in letter and spirit. Specially,

- i. trucks carrying essential and non-essential goods are being detained;
- ii. workers needed for operation of manufacturing units of essential goods, and other exempted categories are not getting authorizations/passes for their movement;
- iii. inter State movement of goods and personnel related to categories (i) & (ii) above is getting impended as passes/authorizations issued by authorities of one State/UT Government are not being respected by the authorities of other State/UTs; and
- iv. operations of cold storage and warehouses are not being allowed.

The aforesaid restrictions, regarding activities specifically permitted by MHA, have potential of creating shortages of essential commodities. With a view to bring in clarity at the implementation level, the guidelines and its subsequent addendums are being reiterated for strict observance at various levels.

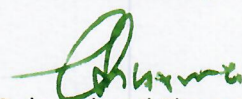
These stipulations will apply to all areas other than the areas requiring containment, quarantine and surveillance measures (hotspots) as per the guidelines of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India where State Governments/local authorities have imposed restrictions for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

It is important to note that the orders and guidelines issued by the Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India under the Disaster Management Act 2005 are statutory and legally binding. Violation of these instructions would be personal liability of the officer concerned. It is therefore desired that action against relevant provisions of the Disaster Management Act 2005 may be taken against those who create obstructions in implementation of these directives/guidelines.

You are, therefore, requested to kindly adhere to these guidelines and orders issued from time to time in letter and spirit and violations of the directions of NDMA, NEC and SEC may be dealt as per the provision of the DM Act, 2005 as enclosed with the DO Letter *ibid*. Action Taken Report in this regard may be sent to the Disaster Management Cell, Department of Revenue at sdma-hp@nic.in.

Encl.: As above.

Yours faithfully,



(Onkar Chand Sharma)

Principal Secretary (Revenue) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh



D.O. No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A)

12th April, 2020

Dear Chief Secretary,

Kindly refer to the Guidelines on Lockdown measures to be taken by Ministries/Departments of Government of India, States/Union Territory Governments and State/Union Territory Authorities for containment of COVID-19 epidemic in the country, as notified by Ministry of Home Affairs on 24.03.2020, and clarifications issued subsequently.

2. It has come to the notice of this Ministry that in some parts of the country, the aforesaid guidelines and clarifications are not being implemented in letter and spirit. Specifically,

- (i) trucks carrying essential and non-essential goods are being detained;
- (ii) workers needed for operation of manufacturing units of essential goods, and other exempted categories are not getting authorizations/ passes for their movement;
- (iii) inter State movement of goods and personnel related to categories (i) & (ii) above is getting impeded as passes/ authorizations issued by authorities of one State/ UT Government are not being respected by the authorities of other States/ UTs; and
- (iv) operations of cold storage and warehouses are not being allowed.

3. The aforesaid restrictions, with regard to activities specifically permitted by MHA, have the potential of creating shortages of essential commodities. With a view to bringing in clarity at the implementation level, the following are being reiterated for strict observance by the authorities at various levels:

- i. Inter-state and intra-state movement of all trucks and other goods / carrier vehicles with one driver and one additional person is allowed as long as the driver is carrying a valid driver's license. This is irrespective of the nature of the cargo, whether essential or otherwise. No further permit or approval would be required.
- ii. Empty trucks/ goods carriers should also be allowed to operate while on way to pick up goods, or returning after completing a delivery. Hence, there is no cause to stop empty trucks provided they have valid documents such as driving license & road permit etc.

- iii. Local authorities should actively facilitate the movement of truck drivers and cleaners from their place of residence to location of their trucks.
- iv. Local authorities should facilitate the easy to and fro movement of workers to workplace and back, in respect of all the permitted industrial/ commercial activities.
- v. Railways, Airports, Seaports, and Customs authorities have already been authorized to issue passes for their staff and contractual labour. This may be ensured.
- vi. Regarding issuance of passes to workers engaged in the manufacturing of permitted categories, the State/ UT Governments are advised to expeditiously issue passes on the basis of authorizations issued by companies/ organizations. The State/ UT Governments shall ensure that these passes are honored both for movement within their State/ UT and in bordering areas of other States/ UTs.
- vii. MSMEs engaged in the manufacture of essential items like wheat flour (*atta*), pulses (*dal*) and edible oils should be allowed to function freely, without any hindrances.
- viii. Warehouses/ cold storage should be allowed to freely function with allowance for to and fro movement of trucks and without regard to the nature of the goods whether essential or otherwise. Warehouses of companies should also be allowed to operate.

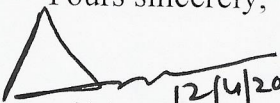
4. **These stipulations will apply to all areas other than the areas requiring containment, quarantine and surveillance measures (hotspots) as per the guidelines of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India where State Governments/local authorities have imposed restrictions for preventing the spread of COVID-19.**

5. It is clarified that movement of persons and vehicles, as above, shall be subject to strict adherence to norms of hygienic and social distancing, as is required in the context of COVID-19.

6. It is again reiterated that all district authorities and field agencies may please be informed of the above instructions, so that there is no ambiguity at the ground level, and activities allowed by MHA are carried without any hindrance.

with regards,

Yours sincerely,


12/14/2020
(Ajay Bhalla)

Chief Secretaries of All States
(As per Standard List attached)