

Combat against COVID 19

Steps under taken by the Govt. of Kerala

Immediately after the detection of Corona Virus in China and the first identification in the country happened in Kerala the govt of Kerala started its preventive steps. As a state, having a large population residing outside the country for lively hood and at the same time a large number of people came from out the state for their lively hood, we have to be very cautious. Govt. took it very serious and precautionary measures have been taken in the initial phase itself. When the number of Covid 19 infected person increased the govt. announced lockdown on 23rd March evening through the daily press briefing by the CM. Govt. also announced a special package worth of Rs 20000 crore in the context of COVID 19. Which includes

- 1320 crore for providing Rs1000/- assistance to families not eligible for welfare pensions
- 50 crore for subsidized meals at Rs 20/- per meal.
- Loan worth of Rs 2000 crore will be provided through Kudumbasree.
- Rs 2000 crore for employment guarantee programme.
- 2 months welfare pensions in advance will be given in March itself
- Rs 500 crore health package.
- State govt. will clear arrears by April, will amount Rs 14000 crore.
- Fitness charge relaxation for Autos and taxies.
- Entertainment taxes reduces for cinema halls
- Tax relief for passenger vehicles.
- Relaxation in bill payment deadline for electricity and water utilities.

Declared that the state will ensure the availability of food and medicines to everyone

- ❖ The govt. declared during the lockdown period, the primary responsibility of the district administration and other departments concerned is to make sure that food, medicines and medical aid are reaching to all the needy people.
- ❖ The service of ward-level caution committees, voluntary organizations and Janamaithri Police shall be utilized for making sure that food is being supplied to those who are not able to cook it. It is nonnegotiable that the system should ensure no one will starve because of lockdown.

- ❖ The system also should take care of people who don't have shelters and hence force to live in streets.
- ❖ The local bodies should take the initiative to identify those who require food. There will be some people who do not have a kitchen and other facilities to cook food. Proper information should be passed to all regarding the contact numbers through which they can contact when any need arises and even for food.
- ❖ For this purpose each local body has to start one community kitchen and ensure that food will be served to the needy in their home through volunteers. The local bodies should identify cooks for community kitchens. (A large no of local bodies already started community kitchen within 24 hours considering the request of the CM)
- ❖ Proper attention will be given to those people under medical treatment and staying alone. The ward level smithies will look after them.
- ❖ The govt. also directed "The hospital canteens should supply necessary food to the patients and the bystanders."
- ❖ The Govt. also instructed departments concerned to make sure that shop owners are not hoarding essential commodities to exploit the situation. Overpricing should also be dealt with seriousness.
- ❖ The govt. also directed the district administrations *to give special focus on the guest laborers' (migrant workers)*.
- ❖ The govt. also decided **to provide food grain to people without ration cards**
- ❖ The government, held talks with wholesale and retail traders in the state, has decided to set up a special mechanism for bringing food grain from other states.
- ❖ ***Volunteer army***: For helping to those who are suffering from the stringent provisions of the lockdown, ***a volunteer army comprising people in the age group of 22 to 40 will soon be functional and they will get deployed at the local body level.*** Those who are interested can register through a dedicated portal '***Sannadham***'. "The volunteers thus registered will be provided with identity cards. The local bodies have also been asked to provide them with conveyance expense and other expenses." The registration procedures are started today. CM told today's press briefing that the response is very encouraging.
- ❖ The expected strength of the volunteer army is 2, 36,000.

- ✓ 200 volunteers per panchayat,
- ✓ 500 volunteers per municipality,
- ✓ 750 volunteers per corporation area.

The duties of the volunteers includes

- Delivery of cooked food from the community kitchen to the houses of the needy and identifies people.
 - Brining essential commodities to the community kitchen.
 - Helping the households who could not go out and purchase essential commodities and food materials.
 - Function as a bystander who needs help in the hospital or else on health ground.
 - Delivery of materials decided by the ward level committee.
 - Helping the ward level committee in the combat against COVID 19.
- ❖ All local bodies already identified buildings and made all buildings ready with needed materials to convert them in to isolation wards if community transmission happened.
 - ❖ For coordinating all official machineries and voluntary forces the state govt. already started a war room in the Govt. Secretariat itself with a team of top level officials.
 - ❖ KSRTC will ensure proper mobility of the health workers.
 - ❖ Govt. will give special attention to pregnant women, Kids, Old and transgender.
 - ❖ CM advised people that those who have facility for doing vegetable farming in small scale or doing kitchen gardening it is the best opportunity to utilize the time creatively. The agriculture department will provide seeds and manure.

Till date the govt. succeeded in creating social vigilance up to village level by taking all citizens in to confidence.

The Govt. is trying to provide all information's to the public through the press conference by the CM every day at 6 pm. In the press conference the media persons are pointing out any violation of the Govt. directions by the officials and also giving suggestions and raising their critic also.

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