

No.2/21/2020-BP&L (Part-II)
Government of India
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

ShastriBhawan, New Delhi-110001
Dated, the 3rd April, 2020

To

Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs

Subject: Information, Communication and Public Awareness regarding COVID-19.

Sir/Madam,

The Press Information Bureau in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set up a Fact Check Unit to receive messages from the public at large and respond to them in a defined time-frame. Union Home Secretary has also vide D.O. No. 40-1/2020-DM-1 dated 01.04.2020 asked the State Governments and UT Administrations to take necessary action and comply with the Directions/Advisories/Orders issued by the Central Government for containment of spread of COVID-19 in the country.

2. In view of the above, the Ministry extends all support to the State Governments/UT Administrations in creating awareness regarding the disease and disseminating correct information to the people in all parts of the country. The States/UTs may like to take the following measures to reach out to the people in a more comprehensive manner:

- i) Any fake/incorrect news circulating in social, print or electronic media and requiring clarification from the Union Government may kindly be brought to the notice of the Fact Check Unit in Press Information Bureau. This Unit will get the necessary clarification from the concerned quarter and convey correct facts to the State/UT Government/public at large.
- ii) State Governments/UT Administrations may also like to set up teams/units in the Districts/State headquarter to counter fake/incorrect news in the local/vernacular media on real-time basis.
- iii) Audio and visual creatives on awareness, etc.prepared by various agencies in Govt. of India may be taken and used for further dissemination after translation into local languages, wherever required.

- iv) Information released by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare/Ministry of Home Affairs and other Ministries of the Government may be made available to the people of the State in local languages.
- v) Best practices of States/UTs in tackling the pandemic may be shared with the Ministry for dissemination at the national level and for sharing these practices with other States/UTs.

3. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has a large network of Media Units in the country, namely Press Information Bureau, Regional Outreach Bureau, All India Radio and Doordarshan. Their services may be utilised for dissemination of information regarding COVID-19 to the print, electronic and social media for the benefit of the public. A mechanism for smooth flow of information from the State/District Control Room to the PIB and other units in your State may be established on priority.

4. A daily report on the above mentioned issues may be emailed to the Ministry on its email address- jsb2-moib@nic.in with copy to secy.inb@nic.in so that the Hon'ble Court can be apprised of the action taken.

Yours faithfully,



(Neerja Sekhar)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

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Copy to:-

CEO, Prasar Bharati / Principal DG, PIB / DG BOC ... for giving directions to all units to extend full cooperation to the States/UTs in this regard.