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PRESS RELEASE

Bhubaneswar 29/04/2020,

Sri Subroto Bagchi, Chief Spokesperson of Govt. of Odisha on COVID-19, Sri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Information & Public Relations Department, Smt. Salini Pandit, Mission Director, National Health Mission, Odisha and DMET Prof. Dr. C.B.K. Mohanty briefed the Press about steps taken by Government of Odisha for prevention of COVID-19.

➢ Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik has said in a message addressed to the people of the State that COVID-19 situation has created many challenges for us. Taking care of Odia brothers and sisters returning from foreign countries was our first challenge. Odisha was the first State to start registration of foreign returnees. The situation was controlled well due to the cooperation of our people.

➢ Hon'ble Chief Minister has said that taking care of the returnees from Nizamuddin was our second challenge. With the cooperation of people of the State the situation has been controlled.

➢ Hon'ble Chief Minister has further said that taking care of the brothers and sisters returning from West Bengal was our third challenge. It is seen that many West Bengal returnees are now among COVID-19 positive cases in the State. However, with the cooperation of people we have tackled the situation and it is under control.

➢ Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik said that coming days are crucial for us. A large number of Odia brothers and sisters will return from highly infected States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan and West Bengal, our neighbouring State. They are members of our family. At the time of crisis, one is first reminded of mother and mother land. They are all our children, our brothers and sisters. It is our responsibility to take care of them. Number of positive cases may increase if more people arrive. But the situation will be under control, if general public extend full cooperation to the Government.

"STAY HOME, STAY SAFE"
Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Naveen Patnaik has said that COVID-19 is matter of life and death. The infection can multiply even 100 times by 10 percent people. However, if we obey the regulations and advisories of the Government and give our complete cooperation, Odisha can create history in the entire country in containing COVID-19. Hon'ble Chief Minister has appealed the people of Odisha to cooperate wholeheartedly in the fight against COVID-19.

Telemedicine Services have started in Sambalpur, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore, Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Rayagada, Jharsuguda and Subarnapur District along with Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar from today. Health & Family Welfare Department has advised the general public to stay at home and to consult Doctors when required in COVID-19 situation.

Keeping in view domestic violence against women and girls during COVID-19 pandemic, Department of Women and Child Development and Mission Shakti has started Webinar for Counsellors and staff working in one stop centres. 200 persons have participated in it.

As State Government has relaxed restriction on the movement of migrant workers, nearly 30,000 workers out of around 90,000 workers, who were in various relief camps/shelters in the State, have started working in different sectors.

Hon'ble Chief Minister has emphasised on giving priority to extend crop loan as 90% of farmers in the state are small and marginal farmers. Hon'ble Chief Minister has directed to provide crop loan of 7500 Crore to farmers through cooperative sector for the Kharif season and to prepare a meticulous plan of action in this regard.

During the Lock Down period, advance PDS ration for the month of April, May and June has been distributed among 89,45,793 Ration Card Holders. As announced by Hon'ble Chief Minister, 913 crore 30 lakh 22 thousand rupees has been distributed so far to 91 lakh 33 thousand 22 PDS Ration Card Holders @ Rs. 1000/- each as cash relief in COVID-19 situation. Similarly, 1,09,712 new individual beneficiaries of 40,243 families have been included under State Food Security Scheme. Further inclusion of eligible beneficiaries is in progress.

Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana 16,45,582 NFSA Card Holders have been provided 5 Kg rice per head for 3 months and 1 Kg Dal for Card for 3 months free of cost. Similarly, the State Government has also provided additional rice of 5 Kg per head for 3 months and 1 Kg Dal for Card for 3 months free of cost to 11,314 Card Holders under State Food Security Scheme.

"STAY HOME, STAY SAFE"
7180 nos of Temporary Medical Centres have been completed in 6798 Gram Panchayats of the State. In all these Centres, total number of 1,74,766 beds have been readied to provide COVID-19 health services in rural areas.

Today, 3,64,296 destitute and helpless persons have been provided with food in 5530 Gram Panchayats. Similarly, in 114 ULBs 41,016 persons have been provided with food.

From 28th April morning to 29th April morning, 26 no of cases have been registered by the Police in the state for violation of different regulations and guidelines related to COVID-19 of which 25 no. of cases for violation of lock down and 1 case for rumour mongering. 48 persons have been arrested by police for different violations.

**Health Update**

- Up to midnight of 28th April, 29108 samples have been tested.
- Number of Positive Cases stands 122.
- 39 persons have already recovered/ discharged.
- No. of Death case 1.
- No of active cases are 82.
- 176 persons are in hospital isolation.

Surya Mishra
Information Officer