

**Government of Punjab  
Department of Home Affairs & Justice**

To

1. All the Divisional Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners in the State
2. All the Zonal IGPs, Commissioners of Police, DIGs and SSPs in the State

No.SS/ACSH/2020/297

Dated: Chandigarh, the 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

**Sub: Not allowing permitted activities leading to shortages of essential commodities.**

Shri Ajay Bhalla, IAS, Union Home Secretary has, vide his DO letter dated 12.04.2020 (copy enclosed), pointed out that the State authorities are not allowing the activities specifically permitted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India and unless these activities are permitted there could be shortage of essential commodities. The instructions are clarificatory in nature and an updated copy of consolidated guidelines of MHA is enclosed herewith for your information.

You are accordingly requested to allow the permissible activities and ensure that there is no restriction on manufacture, sale and transport of essential commodities.

*Darshan Arora*  
**Additional Chief Secretary (Home)**  
14.04.2020

CC:

1. CPS/CM
2. CS
3. PSCM
4. DGP Punjab
5. ADGP-Law & Order

AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव  
Home Secretary  
भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
North Block,  
New Delhi

D.O. No. 40-3/2020-DM-1(A)

12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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- 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.

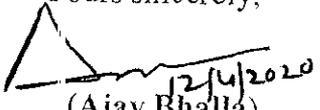
4. These stipulations will apply to all areas other than the areas requiring containment, quarantine and surveillance measures (hotspots) as per the guidelines of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India where State Governments/local authorities have imposed restrictions for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

  
12/4/2020  
(Ajay Bhalla)

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

**Consolidated Guidelines on the measures to be taken by Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, State/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.**

1. Offices of the Government of India, its Autonomous/ Subordinate Offices and Public Corporations shall remain closed.

Exceptions:

- a. Defence, central armed police forces.
- b. Treasury (including, Pay & Accounts Offices, Financial Advisers and field offices of the Controller General of Accounts, **with bare minimum staff**),
- c. Public utilities (including petroleum, CNG, LPG, PNG), power generation and transmission units, post offices.
- d. Disaster management and Early Warning Agencies
- e. National Informatics Centre.
- f. *Customs clearance at ports/airports/land border, GSTN; and MCA 21 Registry with bare minimum staff. (Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020)*
- g. *Reserve Bank of India and RBI regulated financial markets and entities like NPCI, CCIL, payment system operators and standalone primary dealers with bare minimum staff. (Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020)*

2. Offices of the State/ Union Territory Governments, their Autonomous Bodies, Corporations, etc. shall remain closed.

Exceptions:

- a. Police, home guards, civil defence, fire and emergency services, disaster management, and prisons.
- b. District administration and Treasury (including field offices of the Accountant General with bare minimum staff)
- c. Electricity, water, sanitation.
- d. Municipal bodies—Only staff required for essential services like sanitation, personnel related to water supply etc.
- e. Resident Commissioner of States, in New Delhi with bare minimum staff, for coordinating Covid-19 related activities and internal kitchens operations. *(Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020)*
- f. Forest offices :Staff/ workers required to operate and maintain zoo, nurseries, wildlife, fire-fighting in forests, watering plantations, patrolling and their necessary transport movement. *(Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020)*
- g. Social Welfare Department, with bare minimum staff, for operations of Homes for children/ disables/ senior citizens/ destitute; women / widows; Observation homes; pensions, *Anganwadis. (Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020)*
- h. Agencies engaged in procurement of agriculture products, including MSP operations. *(Addendum-2, dated: 27.3.2020)*

- i. 'Mandis' operated by the Agriculture Produce Market Committee or as notified by the State Government, FPOs, Cooperatives. (Addendum-2, dated: 27.3.2020)

The above offices (Sl. No 1 & 2) should work with minimum number of employees. All other offices may continue to work-from-home only.

3. Hospitals, Veterinary Hospitals and all related medical establishments, including their manufacturing and distribution units, both in public and private sector, such as dispensaries, chemist, Pharmacies (including Jan Aushadhi Kendra) and medical equipment shops, laboratories, Pharmaceutical research labs, clinics, nursing homes, ambulance etc. will continue to remain functional. The transportation for all medical personnel, nurses, para-medical staff, other hospital support services be permitted, *Ayush hospitals, Individual hospitals and Telemedicine's*

4. Commercial and private establishments shall be closed down.

Exceptions:

- a. Shops, including ration shops (under PDS), dealing with food, groceries, fruits and vegetables, dairy and milk booths, meat and fish, animal fodder, *fertilizers, seeds and pesticides*. However, district authorities may encourage and facilitate home delivery to minimize the movement of individuals outside their homes. (Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020, Addendum-2, dated: 27.3.2020)
- b. Banks, insurance offices, and ATMs including IT vendors for banking operations; Banking Correspondent and ATM operation and cash management agencies.
- c. Print and electronic media.
- d. Telecommunications, internet services, broadcasting and cable services. IT and IT enabled Services only (for essential services) and as far as possible to work from home.
- e. Delivery of all essential goods including food, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment through E-commerce.
- f. Petrol pumps, LPG, Petroleum and gas retail and storage out etc.
- g. Power generation, transmission and distribution units and services.
- h. Capital and debt market services as notified by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- i. Cold storage and warehousing services.
- j. Private security services.
- k. Data and call centers **for Government activities only**.
- l. Farming operations by farmers and farm workers in the field. (Addendum-2, dated: 27.3.2020)
- m. 'Custom Hiring Centres (CHC)' related to farm machinery. (Addendum-2, dated: 27.3.2020)
- n. *Shops of agriculture machinery, its spare parts (including its supply chain) and repairs to remain open. (Addendum-4, dated: 03.4.2020)*
- o. *Shops of trucks repair on highways preferably at fuel stations (Addendum-4, dated: 03.4.2020)*

- p. *Operations of the fishing (marine)/ aquaculture industry feeding & maintenance, harvesting, processing, packaging, cold chain, sale and marketing; hatcheries, feed plants, commercial aquaria, movement of fish/ shrimp and fish products, fish seed/ feed and workers for all these activities. (Addendum-5, dated: 10.4.2020)*

All other establishments may work from- home only.

5. Industrial Establishments will remain closed.

Exceptions:

- a. Manufacturing units of essential goods, *Ayush drugs*, including drugs, pharmaceutical, medical devices, their raw materials & intermediates. *(Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020)*
- b. Production units, which require continuous process, after obtaining required permission from the State Government.
- c. Coal and mineral production, transportation, supply of explosives and activities incidental to mining operations. *(Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020)*
- d. Manufacturing units of packaging material for food items, drugs, pharmaceutical and medical devices, *including Ayush drugs*. *(Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020)*
- e. Manufacturing and packaging units of Fertilizers, Pesticides and Seeds. *(Addendum-2, dated: 27.3.2020)*
- f. *Tea industry, including plantation with maximum of 50% workers. (Addendum-4, dated: 03.4.2020)*

6. All transport services – air, rail, roadways – will remain suspended.

Exceptions:

- a. Transportation for essential goods only.
- b. Fire, law and order and emergency services.
- c. Operations of Railways, Airports and Seaports for cargo movement, relief and evacuation and their related operational organisations. *(Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020)*
- d. Inter-state movement of goods/ cargo for inland and exports. *(Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020)*
- e. Cross land border movement of essential goods including petroleum products and LPG, food products, medical supplies. *(Addendum-1, dated: 25.3.2020)*
- f. Intra and inter-state movement of harvesting and sowing related machines like combined harvester and other agriculture/horticulture implements. *(Addendum-2, dated: 27.3.2020)*
- g. *Transit arrangement for foreign nationals in India as per attached SOP. (Addendum-3, dated: 02.4.2020)*

7. Hospitality Services to remain suspended

Exceptions:

- a. Hotels, home-stays, lodges and motels, which are accommodating tourists and persons stranded due to lockdown, medical and emergency staff, air and sea crew.
  - b. Establishments used/ earmarked for quarantine facilities.
8. All educational, training, research, coaching institutions etc. shall remain closed.
9. All places of worship shall be closed for public. No religious congregations will be permitted, without any exception.
10. All social/ political/ sports/ entertainment/ academic/ cultural/ religious functions / gatherings shall be barred.
11. In case of funerals, congregation of not more than twenty persons will be permitted.
12. All persons who have arrived into India after 15.02.2020, and all such persons who have been directed by health care personnel to remain under strict home/ institutional quarantine for a period as decided by local Health Authorities, failing which they will be liable to legal action under Sec. 188 of the IPC.  
*Exceptions:*
  - a. *Release of quarantined persons, who have arrived in India after 15/2/2020, after expiry of their quarantine period and being tested COVID-19 negative. (as per attached SOP: Addendum-3, dated: 02.4.2020))*
13. Wherever exceptions to above containment measures have been allowed, the organisations/employers must ensure necessary precautions against COVID-19 virus, as well as social distance measures, as advised by the Health Department from time to time.
14. In order to implement these containment measures, the District Magistrate will deploy Executive Magistrates as Incident Commanders in the respective local jurisdictions. The Incident Commander will be responsible for the overall implementation of these measures in their respective jurisdictions. All other line department officials in the specified area will work under the directions of such incident commander. The Incident Commander will issue passes for enabling essential movements as explained.
15. All enforcing authorities to note that these strict restrictions fundamentally relate to movement of people, but not to that of essential goods.
16. The Incident Commanders will in particular ensure that all efforts for mobilization of resources, workers and material for augmentation and expansion of hospital infrastructure shall continue without any hindrance.
17. Any person violating these containment measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides legal action under Sec. 188 of the IPC.