



ਦਫਤਰ ਜ਼ਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਮੈਜਿਸਟਰੇਟ, ਐਸ ਏ ਐਸ ਨਾਗਰ

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Dated 14.04.2020

ORDER

WHEREAS, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 144 of Cr. PC curfew was imposed in the District till further orders for the containment and prevention of the spread of COVID19.

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that every person, especially those from lower income groups and those without social contact such as migrant labour, is made available food – cooked meals or dry rations – strenuous efforts have been made by the Government through the district administration with the able help of NGOs and Civil Society.

WHEREAS, till date over 30000 packets of dry rations have been distributed and cooked food in the form of langars is continuously being served in many areas in the district and there is a constant endeavour to ensure that no person sleeps hungry.

WHEREAS, the whole machinery is working for the containment and prevention of the spread of COVID19 but valuable time and energy is diverted by persons who make false claims of non-availability of food and frivolous objections about discrimination and non-involvement in the distribution process for vested interests etc.

THEREFORE, in view of many false claims of ration/ food not being available and petty-politics of select a few claiming discrimination – which upon verification, are found to be without any merit, it is decided that:

1. Any person who makes such a false claim of non-availability of food, essential services and the claim is later found to be baseless, shall be liable for penal action and shall be booked under the Disaster Management Act, amongst others, where in:

*“52. **Punishment for false claim** — Whoever knowingly makes a claim which he knows or has reason to believe to be false for obtaining any relief, assistance, repair, reconstruction or other benefits consequent to disaster from any officer of the Central Government, the State Government, the National Authority, the State Authority or the District Authority, shall, on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, and also with fine.”*

*“54. **Punishment for false warning** — Whoever makes or circulates a false alarm or warning as to disaster or its severity or magnitude, leading to panic, shall on conviction, be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine.”*

And shall also be booked under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

2. Where it appears to the Sector Food Relief Teams that the claim maybe false, the facts shall be verified by searching the premises, if required, and making such enquires as they deem fit. They shall, as far as possible, collect documentary and/ or audio-visual proof. While doing these, the team should always take due precaution including wearing a mask/ gloves etc.

3. If the claim is found to be false, the team shall then report the matter to the Area SHO concerned to register a case under the above-mentioned sections of the DM Act and the relevant provisions of the IPC.

Before parting with the order, it is reiterated that **each call for help shall necessarily be verified and immediate assistance, wherever required, must be provided without delay or discrimination.** These measures are being taken to only make the interventions more effective and targeted, by avoiding diversion caused due to fake alarms and petty politics in a crisis.

Girish

**GIRISH DAYALAN, IAS
DC, SAS NAGAR, MOHALI**