

अजय भल्ला, भा.प्र.से.  
AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव  
Home Secretary  
भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
नॉर्थ ब्लॉक/North Block  
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

D.O. No. 40-6/2020-DM-I(A)/ Pt (2)

16<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Dear Chief Secretary,

Please refer to Ministry of Home Affairs' Order No. 40-3/2020-DM-I(A) dated 23.03.2021 whereby Guidelines for effective control of COVID-19 have been issued. As per these Guidelines, lockdown is limited to the Containment Zones and all economic and other activities are permitted outside the containment zone subject to strict adherence to prescribed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Further, there shall be no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement of persons and goods as also reiterated in my D.O. letter of even number dated 23.03.2021.

2. In last few days, a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases has been observed in the country along with high positivity rate. In order to break the chain of transmission and curb the spread of Covid-19, various States/UTs have imposed additional restrictions on certain activities and curfews etc.

3. As you are aware, **availability of adequate and uninterrupted supply of Medical Oxygen** is an important pre-requisite for managing moderate & severe cases of COVID-19. With increasing cases, the medical oxygen supplies will need to keep pace with the requirements of the States.

4. Keeping in view the requisition of Medical Oxygen and to ensure its smooth supplies to concerned agencies, Empowered Group-II, which is mandated for coordinating medical logistics including oxygen, has prepared a supply plan that is required to be followed by all States/UTs and concerned agencies. A copy of Secretary (Health)'s D.O. letter dated 15.04.2021 along with the aforesaid plan is enclosed.

5. It is emphasised that **Medical Oxygen is an essential public health commodity** and any impediment in the supplies of Medical Oxygen in the country may critically impact the management of patients suffering from COVID-19 disease in other parts of the country.

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6. Therefore, you are requested to ensure that:

(i) **no such restriction** is imposed on the movement of Medical Oxygen **between the States/ UTs** and transport authorities shall be instructed to accordingly allow **free inter-state movement** of oxygen carrying vehicles;

(ii) **no restrictions** shall be imposed on oxygen manufacturers and suppliers to limit the oxygen supplies only to the hospitals of the State in which they are located;

(iii) there shall be free movement of oxygen carrying vehicles **into the cities**, without any restriction of timings, while also enabling **inter-city supply** without restriction; and

(iv) the supply plan as referred in para 4 above should strictly be adhered to by all the States/UTs.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Encl. as above

  
16/04/21  
(Ajay Bhalla)

Chief Secretaries of All States