

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**  
**DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6**

ACS/FCS&CA/1/2020

Dated Dispur the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**ADVISORY ON AVAILABILITY OF FOOD ITEMS AND MAINTENANCE OF SUPPLY CHAIN.**

In view of the outbreak of Covid-19 disease, and subsequent lock down as ordered by state government and government of India, and in pursuance of the video conference held with the Deputy Commissioners under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Assam, on 25-03-2020, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs hereby issues the following advisory for maintenance of supply chain of essential commodities including food grains, groceries, vegetables, dairy products, meat and fish, salt and spices, oil, legumes and daals, etc for the public.

Next to the immediate need for quarantine and health care, food is the single most critical item, whose availability has to be ensured. Necessary food production centres like rice mills, flour mills, bakeries etc are required to function with increased emphasis on sanitization and stringent precautionary measures. Hence;

1. There is a need to identify various stakeholders in the supply chain, ie the wholesalers, dealers, retailers, labourers, labour sardars, etc. Regular meetings need to be held with them and local issues attended to promptly. In case issues require escalation or decision at higher level, they may be informed to government promptly.
2. An assessment of the requirement of various essential items as listed above, as well as availability of stock needs to be made by the Deputy Commissioner's office immediately, and reviewed on a daily basis. Representatives from respective departments viz Food and civil supplies, Agriculture and allied departments, Dairy, Cooperation, should be drafted to collect data which should be collated at DC's office and shared with government
3. Since the purpose of lock down is to ensure that no congregation of people takes place, timing of operation of wholesale shops can be from 8 Am to 4 PM and for retailers from 9:30 Am to 7PM. \*Social distancing is to be ensured in each establishment with proper sanitization facility
4. Meeting with Chambers of Commerce, Transporters is to be done regularly to ensure maintenance of supply chain of essential items
5. Close coordination with Railway authorities may be maintained, to ensure supply of necessary essential items including food and vegetables, as presently there is major dependence on railways for inter-state supply of essential items. Railway authorities can be requested to waive off demurrage charges. Railways are allowing break up of rakes at 3-4 locations. Chambers of commerce may be informed accordingly, and encouraged to nominate nodal persons to meet Railway representatives on regular basis. Police, Executive Magistrates and concerned officials may be sensitised on this issue too.
6. Availability of labour is to be ensured to clear stranded and future incoming rakes of food grains/essential goods in railways yards. Social distancing among labours

- and traders to allow their movement without any hassle. District authority may organise distribution vans for supply of essential items to every household.
9. All initiatives taken at the district level should be widely published through district websites, local print, audio-visual and social media.
  10. Lifting of PDS article is essential. All shops under PDS system have to be functional. Proper and timely lifting of food items has to be ensured by all GPSS and FPS.
  11. For any matter related to interstate movement of trucks or any other permission, Mr G.P Singh, ADGP, L&O, Assam, may be contacted.
  12. Daily report on food stock at the district level is to be sent by 4pm. Any shortage of food grains may be reported to Addl CS, Food & Civil Supplies without any delay.
  13. In Council areas, close coordination with the council authorities should be maintained to ensure seamless supply of essential items.

It is reiterated that at all times and in all operations, proper sanitising of premises, vehicles, instruments, etc, should be done and norms of social distancing should be rigorously followed.


  
Addl Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam  
Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department  
Dispur, Guwahati-06

Memo no: ACS/FCS&CA/1/2020-A

Dated, Dispur the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Copy to

1. The staff officer of the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Dispur for information
2. The Director, Food & Civil Supplies Department for information and necessary action
3. All Deputy Commissioners for information

By Order etc  
  
Addl Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam  
Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department  
Dispur, Guwahati-06