



सत्यमेव जयते

परमेश्वरन अय्यर  
सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय

पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता विभाग  
**Parameswaran Iyer**  
Secretary

Government of India  
Ministry of Jal Shakti

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation

सुनील कुमार  
सचिव  
भारत सरकार  
पंचायती राज मंत्रालय

**Sunil Kumar**  
Secretary  
Government of India  
Ministry of Panchayati Raj

D.O.No.S-11011/1/2020-SBM-DDWS  
8th April, 2020

Dear *Neelam*,

**Subject: Safety of front-line field workers and stepping up cleanliness in villages- reg.**

Please refer to the joint advisory issued vide our D.O. letter of even number dated 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 regarding utilization of 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission grants to Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) for provision of drinking water & sanitation services.

2. As you are aware, Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] aims at improving overall cleanliness of villages and personal hygiene. A large number of field functionaries always remain involved in the sanitation related activities under the programme. Many of them are continuously providing their invaluable services even during the current critical situation occurred due to Covid 19 pandemic outbreak. It is important that all such front-line field workers involved in sanitation activities under the programme are provided with necessary protective gears such as masks, hand gloves, etc. This will not only enable them to continue providing service to our communities during these critical times but also prevent them from getting infected and the inadvertent spread of the infection.

3. You are therefore requested to ensure that all such front-line field workers involved in sanitation activities under the programme are provided with necessary protective gears. Guidelines of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the use of protective gears such as masks, hand gloves, etc. may be followed. This advisory may be shared with all District Collectors urgently, and the Collectors may take stock of such front-line field workers involved in sanitation work under the programme during the current pandemic situation, to provide them with the necessary protective gears.

4. State Governments may also like to advice rural local bodies to use existing funds available with Gram Panchayats to strengthen the cleanliness of village surroundings by purchasing disinfectants e.g. bleaching powder, sanitizers and other necessary arrangements to ensure that villages and surrounding areas are clean.

Sunil Kumar

Best Wishes

Yours sincerely

Parameswaran Iyer

**Addressed to All Chief Secretaries by Name**