Sunil Kumar
Secretary
Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Vini Mahajan
Secretary
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

Sujata Chaturvedi
Secretary
Department of Youth Affairs

Indevar Pandey
Secretary
Ministry of Women & Child Development

Rajesh Bhushan
Secretary
Department of Health & Family Welfare

Anita Karwal
Secretary
Department of School Education & Literacy

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha
Secretary
Ministry of Ayush

सत्यमेव जयते

D.O. No. M-11015/124/2021-CB   Dated: 31st March, 2022

Dear Chief Secretary,

<div align="center"><u>**Theme 2: Healthy Village**</u></div>

As you are aware, India is a signatory to United Nations 2030 Agenda for achieving inclusive, people-centric and holistic Sustainable Development through 17 identified Goals. To this extent, the Government of India is operating with strategic visioning, prioritization, and implementation methods to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the motto of "Leaving No One Behind", through "Whole of Government and Whole of Society" approach.

2.   You will appreciate that the SDGs are cross cutting in nature and a particular SDG can be mapped to many Ministries which can be addressed through various schemes. Keeping this aspect in view, Ministry of Panchayati Raj has initiated thematic approach of relevance for Panchayats and villages through aggregating 17 SDG goals into 9 broad themes for localization of SDGs at grass-root level and their attainment through concerted and collaborative efforts of all concerned stakeholders. These themes again address more than one SDGs, thus involving more than one Ministry/ Department. For instance, **Theme 2- Healthy Village** addresses **Goal 2-** Zero Hunger, **Goal 3-** Good Health & Well Being, and also connected to **Goal 4-**Quality Education, **Goal 5-**Gender Equality, **Goal 6-**Water and Sanitation and **Goal 12-**Sustainable Consumption and Production.

3.   If a Gram Panchayat resolves to transform itself into a Healthy Village, it would envision, inter alia, efficient and effective working of 'curative' facilities in the GP such as Sub-centres, Health & Wellness Centres, tele-medicine facilities, Primary Health Care centres (PHCs); very effective 'preventive' measures such as supply of clean drinking water supply, non-contamination of drinking water source/stored water, control of vector breeding, effective collection and disposal of solid & liquid waste, hazardous waste and measures to control lifestyle diseases through yoga, outdoor activities etc. Furthermore, the village would also need to ensure that all villagers, be they infants, children, youth or women, are properly fed and nourished.

4.   Thus, if a Gram Panchayat is to become a 'Healthy Village', it would require full support of Departmental functionaries of Health, Ayush, Women & Child Development, Drinking Water & Sanitation, School Education, Youth Affairs, Panchayati Raj among others. In addition, if Non-Governmental organizations, Institutions and others working in the area, College students, Youth Organizations such as the NYKS & the NSS are also involved in the task of facilitating the Gram Panchayat to become a 'Healthy Village' by working with the local community to bring about behavioral changes, then the goal can be realized faster. It would also be important to measure progress in this regard through a set of 26 Local Indicators in a Local Indicator Framework (LIF) identified by the Expert Committee in it's report on 'Localization of SDGs in Panchayati Raj Institutions' which has already been shared with all States and stakeholders and is available on the web site of Ministry of Panchayati Raj: http://panchayat.gov.in.

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5.   It has been suggested to all States/UTs to organize meetings of all Gram Panchayats during the *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)* iconic week allocated to Ministry of Panchayati Raj between April 11 to April 17, 2022 followed by meeting of Gram Sabha on 24th April, 2022 wherein Gram Sabha may resolve to focus on any one or more of the Nine Themes identified for realization of SDGs. All GPs in a Block/District, which undertake to focus on attainment of **Theme 2: Healthy Village**, would need to be provided special hand-holding support to work towards that goal. Preparation of a Healthy Village Plan would be the first step in that direction. Thereafter, role and responsibility of all stakeholders would need to be clearly delineated and understood and resource mapping to be undertaken factoring in resources available under various schemes of Central and State Government, other organizations, in a whole of society approach, taking stock of their roles and contributions in various aspects including Training, IEC, Advocacy, Monitoring, Recognition, and finally culminating in effective implementation of the Plan. It is felt that convergent action by all concerned Ministries/Departments among others at Central and State Government levels will go a long way in attainment of desired outcome. Eventually, all GPs/villages have to become Healthy Village if SDGs are to be attained by 2030.

6.   In Government of India, the Nodal Ministry for the **Theme 2 -Healthy Village** is **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.** All other Ministries and Departments, which are signatory to this Joint Letter, will provide full support under their ongoing schemes to this effort at the GP/Village level. We expect and hope that similar convergent action would be undertaken at the State and District level too and effectively communicated to all field functionaries and progress regularly monitored at High Level Committee constituted at State and District level.
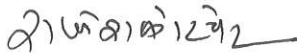
With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Indevar Pandey)
Ministry of Women & Child Development

(Rajesh Bhushan)
Department of Health & Family Welfare

(Vini Mahajan)
Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation

(Anita Karwal)
Department of School Education& Literacy

(Rajesh Kotecha)
Ministry of Ayush

(Sujata Chaturvedi)
Department of Youth Affairs

(Sunil Kumar)
Ministry of Panchayati Raj

To,
The Chief Secretaries,
All States/UTs

Copy to:Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, All Related Departments, All States/ UTs