

No. 15011/46/2020-ATC
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs

Women Safety Division, 2nd Floor,
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium,
India Gate, New Delhi-110002
December 1, 2020

To

1. **Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and UT Administrations**
2. **Director General (Police) of all States and UTs**

Sub: Institutional mechanism for preventing and countering human trafficking at State level.

Sir/Madam,

The Government of India has been taking various measures and initiatives in supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and UT Administrations in preventing and countering human trafficking on a continuous basis and has been making concerted efforts in combating the menace of trafficking in persons in a holistic manner.

2. You are aware that with a view to strengthening the law enforcement response against human trafficking, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had provided financial assistance **to State Governments from time to time for setting up Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs)** in 50% Police Districts of all States. An amount of Rs.25.16 crore was released to States during the Financial Years 2010-11 to 2019-20, for setting up AHTUs in 332 Districts of States.

3. AHTUs are **integrated task force(s) to prevent and combat trafficking in persons**; and comprise of a group of trained sensitive officials of Police, Women and Child Welfare Department and other relevant Departments of the State. AHTUs function as coherent units to prevent and combat trafficking. The objectives and responsibilities of AHTUs include, taking up the crusade against all criminal aspects of the crime of human trafficking; ensuring focused attention in dealing with offences of human trafficking; conducting rescue operations whenever they receive information about trafficking activities either from police sources, NGOs or civil society; ensuring a victim-centric approach; functioning as the grass root unit for collection and development of an exhaustive database on all law enforcement aspects of the crime, including information on traffickers and trafficking gangs etc. While the Central Government has provided financial assistance for setting up physical infrastructure in these Units, it is the responsibility of States to depute suitable manpower to manage these Units.

4. MHA has further released an amount of Rs. 100 crore under Nirbhaya Fund to all States and UTs in March 2020 **for strengthening the existing AHTUs in States and establishing new AHTUs covering all Districts** of the States and UTs all over India and also in international border areas guarded by Border Security Force (BSF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). MHA has been pursuing the matter with all States and UTs and have requested them to make use of this financial assistance on urgent basis and upgrade the existing AHTUs

and also establish new AHTUs in the Districts where such AHTUs are not in existence at present.

5. MHA has also released a sum Rs. 100 crores under Nirbhaya Fund to all States and UTs for setting up **Women Help Desks in 10,000 Police Stations of the States**. These Desks are to be manned by trained police officials and shall have enlisted panel of experts like lawyers, psychologists and NGOs to facilitate legal aid, counseling, shelter, rehabilitation and training etc. **These Women Help Desks in Police Stations shall also attend to all matters relating to human trafficking.**

6. To address the issue of human trafficking at State level in a comprehensive and full-bodied manner, **the following scheme of handling human trafficking at State level is prescribed** for adoption by all States and UTs:

Notifying State-level, District-level and Police Station-level Anti Human Trafficking Units by States and UTs:

i) Each State shall notify a **State-Headquarter level** Anti Human Trafficking Bureau headed by an **Additional Director General of Police level officer** to oversee and coordinate all trafficking related issues within the State and for coordination with other States/UTs.

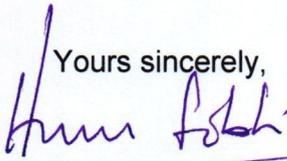
ii) States shall notify an Anti Human Trafficking Unit in every **District of the State**, which shall be responsible for all human trafficking related matters in each District and will report to the State-Headquarter level Anti Human Trafficking Bureau. Each District level AHTU shall function under the supervision of a Superintendent of Police/Deputy Superintendent of Police level officer and will be responsible for monitoring and coordinating all activities in the District.

iii) States shall notify a **Women Help Desk** in every Police Station of the State. The Women Help Desk shall *inter-alia* also be responsible to undertake matters of rescue, prevention, protection and support investigation of human trafficking cases of women of the respective jurisdiction and will coordinate activities with other Police Stations and will also perform such duties and responsibilities as directed by the District AHTU.

7. By establishing the above arrangement, each State will have a Unit for preventing and countering human trafficking at all levels of the State/UT – Headquarters of the State/UT, District level and Police Station level, thus dealing with the problem of human trafficking in a comprehensive manner.

8. **All States and UTs are requested to notify appropriate Units at all levels** as per the scheme indicated above and inform the Ministry of Home Affairs about notification of such Units at an early date.

Yours sincerely,



(Arun Sobti)

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