

**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India**

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**Ensure smooth movement of medical professionals and para-medical staff, and opening of all private clinics, nursing homes and labs; Essential to tackle both COVID and non-COVID Emergencies: MHA to States**

**New Delhi, May 11, 2020**

Cabinet Secretary chaired a meeting, through Video Conference on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020, wherein the issue of restrictions being imposed by some States/ UTs on the movement of medical professionals and para-medical personnel was flagged.

In pursuance of this meeting, MHA has written to all States/UTs pointing out that unhindered movement of all medical professionals is essential for meeting public health requirements and saving precious human lives. Any restriction on the movement of medical professionals and para-medical staff can lead to severe constraints in rendering COVID and non-COVID medical services, it adds.

In the view of above, the communication emphasizes that all State/ UT Governments should ensure smooth movement of all medical professionals, nurses, para medical, sanitation personnel and ambulances. This would help in rendering all COVID and non-COVID medical services to patients without any constraint. It was also stated that the inter-State movement of all above mentioned professionals may be facilitated by the States/UTs.

It has been further emphasized that all private clinics, nursing homes and labs, with all their medical professional and staff, be allowed to open. This would facilitate in catering to all patients, COVID and non-COVID emergencies, without any hindrance and relieve the burden on hospitals.

**To see Official Communication regarding Movement of Medical Professionals↓**

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**VG/SNC/VM**

AJAY BHALLA, IAS



गृह सचिव  
Home Secretary  
भारत सरकार  
Government of India  
North Block,  
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D.O. 40-10/2020-DM-I(A)

Dated: 11.05.2020

Dear *Chief Secretary,*

Kindly refer to the meeting, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary through Video Conference (VC) on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2020, wherein the issue of restrictions being imposed by some States/ UTs on the movement of medical professionals and para-medical personnel was flagged.


2. As you are aware, the services of medical and para-medical staff are urgently required in meeting the challenge of COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the existing staff, apart from this duty, also have to render normal responsibilities, such as conducting immunization programmes, handling the onset of vector and other seasonal diseases, and meeting other non-COVID emergencies etc.

3. In this scenario, as pointed out by the Cabinet Secretary, any restrictions on the movement of medical professionals and para-medical staff can lead to severe constraints in rendering COVID and non-COVID medical services. As such, ensuring unhindered movement of all such medical professionals is essential for meeting public health requirements and saving precious human lives.

4. At many places, private clinics and nursing homes are also reported to have not been allowed to open. The functioning of these medical facilities, which supplement the regular medical infrastructure, and relieve the burden on hospitals, is also crucial. I would urge all States and UTs to ensure that such clinics and nursing homes continue to function without any hindrances.

5. I would like to emphasize that all State/ UT Governments should ensure that their field officials allow smooth movement of all medical professionals, nurses, para medical, sanitation personnel and ambulances, and ensure the opening of all private clinics, nursing homes and labs with all their medical professional and staff. Such movement shall also be facilitated inter-State, wherever required.

*With regards,*

Yours sincerely  
  
(Ajay Bhalla)

To

**Chief Secretaries of all States**