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Secretary
Ministry of Panchayati Raj

R. Subrahmanyam
Secretary
Department of Social Justice and
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Sudhanshu Pandey
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Department of Food & Public Distribution

Renuka Kumar
Secretary
Ministry of Minority Affairs

Anil Kumar Jha
Secretary
Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Anjali Bhawra
Secretary
Department of Empowerment of Persons
with Disabilities (Divyangjan)

D.O. No. M-11015/124/2021-CB

Dear Chief Secretary,

Theme 7: Socially Secured Village

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 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 SDGs 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 address more than one SDG and concern more than one Ministry/ Department. **Theme 7 – Socially Secured Village** addresses targets in SDG 1 - **No Poverty**, SDG 2 - **Zero Hunger**, SDG 3 - **Good Health and Well Being**, SDG 4 - **Quality Education**, SDG 5 - **Gender Equality**, SDG 6 - **Clean Water Sanitation**, SDG 7 – **Affordable and Clean Energy**, SDG 8 - **Decent Work and Economic Growth**, SDG 9 – **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**, SDG 10 - **Reduced Inequalities**, SDG 11 - **Sustainable Cities and Communities** and SDG 16 - **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**.

3. In Leaving No One Behind (LNOB), focus is drawn to protection and creation of an environment which is conducive to the all-round development of disadvantaged, vulnerable and/or marginalized sections of society such as women, children, orphans, older persons, persons with disabilities, informal workers, migrants, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, indigenous people, trans-genders, and others. It also refers to those groups who are at risk and vulnerable and may be missed out, due to societal attitudes, lack of access and reach. During the COVID pandemic, importance and value of affirmative action to the vulnerable and affected residents by local communities represented through PRIs has been widely acknowledged. As the local Panchayat representatives are present in the GP at all times, it is felt that GPs are best placed to address issues of vulnerability, provide for social protection or social security systems, and ensure that no one is left behind. It is necessary to ensure this on priority much before 2030, for safety and social security are a sine qua non for ensuring protection of human rights and development.

Ajay Kumar Bhalla
Secretary
Department of Home

Rajesh Bhushan
Secretary
Department of Health & Family Welfare

Nagendra Nath Sinha
Secretary
Department of Rural Development

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Secretary
Ministry of Women & Child Development

Anita Karwal
Secretary
Department of School Education & Literacy

Rajesh Aggarwal
Secretary
Ministry of Skill Development and
Entrepreneurship

Dated: 31st March 2022

4. Thus, if a Gram Panchayat chooses to become a 'Socially Secured Village', it would require full support of Ministry/Departmental functionaries of Rural Development, Home Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, Tribal Affairs, Minority Affairs, Women and Child Development, Education, Health & Family Welfare, Skill Development, Panchayati Raj among others. In addition, if non-Governmental organizations, College students, Youth Organizations such as Nehru Yuvak Kendra volunteers etc. are also involved in the task of facilitating the Gram Panchayat to become a 'Socially Secured Village', then the goal can be realized faster. It would also be important to measure progress in this regard through the set of 79 relevant Indicators in the Local Indicator Framework (LIF) identified by the Expert Committee in its 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: <https://www.panchayat.gov.in>.

5. It is 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 on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day wherein GPs may resolve to focus on any one or more of the Nine Themes identified for realization of SDGs. GPs that decide to focus on attainment of **Theme 7: Socially Secured Village** would need to be encouraged with special hand-holding support to work towards that goal. Understanding socio-economic profile of the Panchayat, identification of persons and types of coverage required, preparation of a **Socially Secured Village Action Plan** would be basic steps in that direction. 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, as well as taking a whole of society approach, culminating in implementation of the Panchayat Action Plan on the Theme, integrated into the GPDP. It is felt that convergent action by all concerned Ministries/Departments among others at Central and State Government levels will go a long way towards attainment of desired outcome. Eventually, all GPs/villages have to become Socially Secured if SDGs are to be attained by 2030.

6. In Government of India, the Nodal Ministry for the **Theme 7-Socially Secured Village** is **Department of Rural Development**. 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 actions would be undertaken at the State and District level too and progress regularly monitored at High Level Committee constituted at State and District level.

With regards,


Yours sincerely,


(Ajay Kumar Bhalla)
Department of Home


(R. Subrahmanyam)
Department of Social Justice and
Empowerment


(Nagendra Nath Sinha)
Department of Rural Development



(Rajesh Bhushan)
Department of Health & Family Welfare

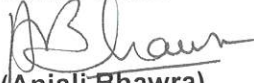

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Ministry of Skill Development and
Entrepreneurship


(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