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Secretary
Department of Telecommunication

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

Dated: 31st March, 2022

Dear Chief Secretary,

Theme 6: Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in 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 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 address more than one SDG and concern more than one Ministry/ Department. **Theme 6 – Self-sufficient Infrastructure in Village** addresses targets in SDG 1- **No Poverty**, SDG 2- **Zero Hunger**, SDG 4- **Quality Education**, SDG 5- **Gender Equality**, SDG 6- **Clean Water Sanitation**, SDG 9- **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** and SDG 11- **Sustainable Cities & Communities**.

3. Every village needs to have basic infrastructure to enable it to provide for its basic needs and put itself on the path of continuous growth and sustainable development. For this, basic and support infrastructure relating to water, sanitation, housing, health, education, child development, engendered development, clean energy, internet, poverty reduction and livelihoods related, such as threshing floor, milk chilling plants, fish drying yards, godowns, veterinary sub-centres, fodder areas etc. are critical to realize the SDG goals that are envisaged by 2030.

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4. The twin objectives of ensuring equitable and inclusive local economic development will be optimized through preparation of comprehensive and holistic GPDP at GP level by focusing more on making GP – a self-sufficient infrastructure GP. Infrastructure gaps revealed in *Mission Antyodaya* survey undertaken by Ministry of Rural Development need to be bridged on priority. Recognizing this, special thrust has been given for building village level infrastructure through various programmes including the Flagship programmes of PMAY (Grameen), PMGSY, MGNREGA, Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), Bharat Net etc. and priority use of the 15th Finance Commission Grants.

5. A Gram Panchayat with **Self-Sufficient Infrastructure**, would need to have, *inter alia*, the following:

- Quality school infrastructure with separate toilets for boys & girls, safe drinking water facilities, school furniture as well as facilities for playground & library;
- Quality public infrastructure - GP Bhawan, Anganwadi Centres, Health & Wellness Centre, Common Service Centre (CSC);
- All weather road connectivity, street lights;
- Pucca houses for all;
- Piped water supply to all Households and covered drainage system; solid & liquid waste management system;
- Reliable energy supply with focus on clean energy sources; and
- Quality digital infrastructure – internet availability

6. Thus, if a Gram Panchayat is to realize the goal of '**Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Village**', it would require full support of Departmental functionaries of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Rural Development, Health & Family Welfare, Women and Child Development, Education and Panchayati Raj among others. It would also be important to measure progress in this regard through a set of 21 Local Indicators in a 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>.

7. 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 6: Self-sufficient Infrastructure in Village** would need to be encouraged with special hand-holding support to work towards that goal. Undertaking survey of infrastructure deficit in the Panchayat through Mission Antyodaya would be the first basic step in that direction. Role and responsibility of all stakeholders would need to be clearly delineated and

understood. Resource mapping would need to be undertaken factoring in resources available under various schemes of Central and State Government, as well as taking a 'whole of society' approach wherein local community too can pitch in to bridge certain infrastructure deficits through 'shramdaan' (community labour) and their integration into the GPDP and implementation thereof would be necessary for achieving the goal. 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 well endowed with basic infrastructure if SDGs are to be attained by 2030.

8. In Government of India, the Nodal Ministry for the **Theme 6: Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Village** is **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**. 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,

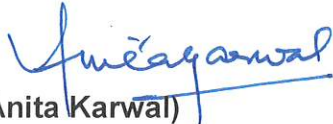
Yours sincerely,



(Rajesh Bhushan)
Department of Health & Family Welfare



(Indevar Pandey)
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(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