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भारत सरकार  
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Government of India  
Department of Health and Family Welfare  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

DO No. H.11022/09/2022-MS  
Dated the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Colleague,

Over the past two and a half years, in our collective battle against COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare workers at all fronts and at all levels have delivered on their commitment to ensuring health of all. While the country has largely applauded the efforts taken by the health fraternity, occasionally some incidents of physical violence against doctors and other professional /healthcare workers (most recently from Rajasthan) have also been reported. Such incidents may promote trust deficit and fear in the minds of the health care personnel, which is detrimental to patient care.

2. Government of India has taken a number of initiatives for ensuring safety and security of healthcare workers. On 22nd April 2020, Union Ministry of Health has issued an Ordinance duly amending the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 providing protection to health care personnel and their property against violence during epidemics. The said Ordinance was further notified as 'The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Act, 2020' on 29th September 2020.
3. The amended Act states that "whoever commits or abets the commission of an act of violence against healthcare service personnel; or causes damage or loss to any property" shall be punished with imprisonment and with fine. Such offenses are also cognizable and non-bailable.
4. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on multiple occasions through formal communication as well as during video conferences with states has highlighted the need to ensure safety and security of healthcare workers at their living/working premises.
5. Security and safety of the healthcare staff, patients, visitors and relatives in the hospitals needs to be ensured by making suitable provisions of appropriate safety installations and adoption of appropriate safety measures.
6. Considering the importance of the issue, it is requested that all States & UTs may undertake a detailed review and ensure that prompt and necessary steps are taken for ensuring healthcare workers safety and well-being.

With regards

Yours sincerely

  
(S Gopalakrishnan)

To  
Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary (Health) of all States/UTs