As you are aware, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken proactive actions for effective management of COVID-19 pandemic. Under 'India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package- Phase-II' (ECRP-II), the States/UTs are being supported for creation of health infrastructure at all level of healthcare including prefabricated structures to meet the required health infrastructure needs for any potential surge in COVID-19 cases.

2. In recent review meetings, the States/UTs have requested for flexibilities under ECRP-II for expeditious implementation of approved activities. In this regard, following clarifications are issued:

(a) Option for permanent structures along with prefabricated structures: The States/UTs may consider permanent structure or prefabricated structure in view of the local context and requirements subject to the condition that the support under the ECRP-II shall be limited to the approved unit cost. Further this support is available only till 31st March, 2022.

(b) Exemption from procurement through GeM: The States/UTs may procure the items (including drugs) from sources other than GeM. However, the States/UTs should keep the non-availability certificate from GeM for records. Further, if the items are available in GeM but the State/UTs (through State Medical Services Corporation, etc.) are able to procure at lesser rates than prevailing GeM rates, the procurement may be done through State Medical Services Corporation. All relevant records of prevailing GeM rates in such cases, may be kept by the States for later reference and audit.

3. In addition, all States/UTs are requested to take necessary action for expediting progress under ECRP-II and for promptly updating the physical and financial progress in NHM-PMS portal. Further, timely release of funds to the State Health Society and implementation agencies must be ensured to complete the work within the prescribed timelines.

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Vikas Sheel)

To

Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary, (All states/UTs)

Copy to:

AS&MD(NHM) / JS(Policy) / ED, NHSRC / MD, NHM (All States/UTs) / Director (NHM - I/II/III/IV)