



MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
PSP Division

From	:	Foreign New Delhi
To	:	All Indian Missions/Posts abroad
Rptd.	:	HODs at Headquarters
No.	:	2677 /AS(PSP)&CPO/2020
Date	:	29 June, 2020

HoM/HoP from Additional Secretary (PSP) & CPO

Please refer to my earlier message of 24 June, 2020 in which Missions/Posts abroad were requested to allow only those passengers destined for West Bengal to board the aircraft who have pre-booked the Quarantine Centres(QC) from the list attached with that message. This would obviate the difficulties being faced at Kolkata airport where the returnees are demanding home quarantine on arrival which is not permissible as per the guidelines of MoHFW of 24 May, 2020.

2. The Government of West Bengal(GoWB) have conveyed that despite these instructions, they have observed that some of these passengers disembarking at Kolkata are repeatedly violating the conditions of institutional quarantine and demanding to be allowed home quarantine which is not permissible as per the SOP of Government of India. They have further informed that on occasions, these passengers have resorted to slogan shouting and heckling of the on-duty airport staff and the officials of the GoWB posted at the airport. This is leading to recurrent law and order problems at the airport.

3. GoWB have conveyed that such repeated instances where the entire work force at the airport is being subjected to continuous unruly behaviour and unjustified demands for hours cannot be permitted. Such acts were also exposing the entire staff posted at the airport to grave health hazard due to non-adherence of social distancing norms.



4. In view of the above mentioned difficulties, GOWB has been constrained to withdraw the State Government's approval for flights under the Vande Bharat Mission to West Bengal with arrival from 1 July, 2020 onwards till a suitable SOP is worked out for proper screening of such passengers by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad before boarding the flight destined for West Bengal. They also intent to setup a verifiable mechanism of pre-booking of institutional quarantine centres so that only passengers with pre-booking receipts are allowed to board the flights for West Bengal.

5. Considering the withdrawal of NOC by GoWB, you are requested not to schedule any flight to West Bengal on or after 1 July, 2020 until further instructions from GoWB.

With regards,

(Arun K. Chatterjee)

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