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Secretary



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Sub: One-time relaxation in utilization of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds for purchase/installation of testing, screening and other equipment/s in connection with COVID-19

Dear Madam/Sir,

As you are well aware, the Central Government has taken various measures to combat the threat posed by the COVID- 19 pandemic. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced a nationwide lock down for 21 days and also earmarked Rs 15000 crore for healthcare amongst other measures. Further, the Hon'ble FM has announced the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana with Rs 1.7 Lakh core outlay on 26.03.2020. One of the components of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana is the utilization of the funds collected under the District Mineral Foundation for medical interventions required for testing and treating the patients affected by COVID-19 pandemic with the aim to supplement the efforts of district administration to curtail the spread of this deadly virus.

2. The Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 20 A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 directed the concerned State Governments to incorporate the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) guidelines into the rules framed by respective State Governments for District Mineral Foundation. The guidelines for implementation of the PMKKKY were circulated vide this Ministry order dated 16th September 2015.

3. Now, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 20 A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act ,1957 read with emergent national interest to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, the following additional instructions are hereby issued for implementation of the projects under PMKKKY by utilizing the funds collected under District Mineral Foundation (DMF). These instructions will supplement the already issued guidelines dated 16th December, 2015 by Ministry on this matter.

4. The State Government may utilize the funds available under DMF for supplementing and augmenting facilities of medical testing, screening and other requirements in connection with preventing the spread of COVID- 19 pandemic as well as for treating the patients affected with COVID-19 pandemic subject to various instructions issued in this regard by Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India.


5. Utilisation of DMF fund as per the above relaxation is subject to the following conditions:

- a. It is to be ensured that the expenditure related to COVID- 19 does not exceed thirty (30) percent of the balance funds available with DMF.
- b. Funds can be utilized for purchase/installation of necessary medical equipment/s or creation of medical infrastructure as per the guidelines of Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in those districts with at least a minimum of one COVID-19 positive patient.
- c. In all the districts, funds can be used for purchase of face masks, soaps, sanitizers, and food distribution for poor people if other available funds are not sufficient as certified by the district magistrate.
- d. Technical configuration and specification of the equipment/s for COVID- 19 being purchased/installed shall be as per the laid down policies and guidelines of M/o Health and Family Welfare for COVID- 19 and other extant instructions.
- e. Due processes and procedure shall be followed by district administration while undertaking the purchase/installation of the equipment/s.
- f. It shall be the responsibility of the District Authority to conduct the mandatory audit into the purchase//installation of the protective equipment in connection with COVID-19 under DMF as and when it deems appropriate and feasible.
- g. Extant rules, regulations and codal provisions applicable for DMF are to be followed for any expenditure done to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

6. You are requested to direct the concerned authorities to take immediate measures for implementation of the above guidelines.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,


28/3/20
(Sushil Kumar)

Chief Secretary, All State Governments