By E-mail
Engineer-in-Chief’s Branch
Integrated HQ of MOD(Army)
Kashmir House, Rajaji Marg
New Delhi – 110 011

No 36073/MES BAI/GEN/ /E8
25 Aug 2020

List ‘A’ & ‘B’
(Through MES Website)

DIFFICULTIES BEING FACED BY MES BUILDERS
DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. Disruption of supply chain due to spread of corona virus is an extra ordinary circumstances beyond human control. As a natural calamity, it has not only impacted future performances of contractors but also badly affected the financial position and cash flow of the builders. There were practically no activities allowed throughout the country during complete lockdown initially wef 25 Mar 2020 to 14 Apr 2020, which was further extended upto 31 May 2020. Thereafter, unlocking of lockdown process started from 01 Jun 2020 onwards, yet different State Governments have imposed various restrictions from time to time depending upon the conditions of the State to avoid further spread of the virus. The various restrictions put in place by the Government to control the effects of the virus have triggered disrupted continuous supply chain, further creating handicaps in performing contractual obligations.

2. Although Central Government together with the State Governments, are taking all effective measures to provide relief to all sectors but there are large number of difficulties being faced by the builders of MES like others. Some of them are highlighted as under:-

   (a) Scarcity of labour
   (b) Break in supply chain of construction materials
   (c) Health concerns
   (d) Restrictions imposed by State Governments
   (e) Restrictions by Defence Units
   (f) Non-availability of transport

3. To address these adverse times, there is a need for preparing strategies and action plans not only for business continuity and revival but also to improve Ease of Doing Business’ in the country. Accordingly, in view the above facts, it is instructed that following measures be taken at CEs/CWES/GEs level and render all support to the builders to facilitate speedy execution of works without hassles:-

   (a) To invite local representatives of MESBAI for interaction with an aim to identify other factors, which cannot be envisaged, that are
hampering the momentum of works and also to take proactive actions in removing such bottlenecks.

(b) To identify the bottlenecks/breaks in supply chain through interaction with local representatives of MESBAI and make efforts to mend them.

(c) To request Commanding Officers of local units to be compassionate and ensure emergency health care with the help of their locally available medical facility within their units to contractors working in their areas as well as their workmen till regular medical aid is available to them. This can help in reassuring contractors and their workmen and allaying health concerns amongst them.

(d) To be proactive and use their good offices in liaising with State Government authorities, district/local administration in getting relaxation in the restrictions imposed by them in order to facilitate speedy progress of work.

(e) To be proactive in getting health and security guidelines simplified, if possible, so that productive man hours can be saved.

4. In view of the above, all out efforts need to be made to support the builders within the existing provisions of law and without cross interference in responsibilities, powers and functioning of various administrative authorities.

5. This has the approval of E-in-C.

(R P Singhal)
Jt DG (Contracts)
for Engineer-in-Chief

Copy to:-

MES Builders Association of India:
807-808, Sahyog 58, Nehru Place
New Delhi - 110019

1. Unlock instructions have already been issued by Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. You are also requested to sensitize all your builders to mobilise full resources towards speedy execution of works and confirm.