

SEMINAR ON EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN UTTAR PRADESH

Multipronged measures to improve Ease of Doing Business in Uttar Pradesh

***“Common form for all clearances & Online issuance of clearances through single window system soon”*: Principal Secretary, Infrastructure & Industrial Development**

- ***Commercial Tax: 100% e-department***
- ***300 Commercial Tax Facilitation Centres set up across state***
- ***Pollution NoC not required for electricity connection***
- ***Orders for releasing electricity connection within 15 days***
- ***All applications to be accepted online for Pollution NoC***
- ***220 type of industries exempted from Pollution NoC in addition to Solar power projects***
- ***Departmental queries, objections to be conveyed in a single step to the entrepreneurs***

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Subsequent to intensive parleys with industrial associations and inter-departmental brainstorming sessions over the last six months, Government of Uttar Pradesh is geared up to move beyond efficiency in improving the doing business environment in the State.

*“While U.P. Commercial Tax department has made a pioneering effort to become 100% e-delivery tax department in the country, other key departments, such as environment, labour, power, etc. have taken significant strides to make their services industry-friendly through imparting transparency and time-bound issuance of clearances”, **said Principal Secretary, Infrastructure & Industrial Development, Shri Mahesh Kumar Gupta** here today. He was speaking at the seminar on ‘Ease of Doing Business in U.P.’, organised by Udyog Bandhu, the investment facilitation agency of U.P. government at Hotel Taj Vivanta today.*

Addressing the audience comprising of representatives of various industrial associations and government departments, **Shri Gupta informed** that *web-based single window clearance system of the State, **Nivesh Mitra** would soon be upgraded with **online common application form** for seeking clearances of different departments along with **single point gateway for payment of fee and online issuance of clearances** with no need of hard copies.*

He said that in addition to these steps, sensitisation of field-level government staff was imperative for the real impact to take effect. *“Udyog Bandhu will be organising workshops at division and district level for this purpose”, **said Shri Gupta**, who is also the Executive Director of Udyog Bandhu.*

Earlier, departments of Commercial Tax, Labour, Environment and Energy made detailed presentations, listing out the initiatives taken to simplify the processes involved in issuing various clearances to industries.

Commercial Tax Commissioner, Shri Mrityunjay Kumar informed that under a continuous process, the department had developed effective and efficient systems of collection of taxes based on progressive use of IT to ensure an environment which is congenial for flourishing of trade and commerce. He said that there was no physical submission of forms as department has transformed the manual processes into a 100% seamless online system.

Tax Commissioner told that **number of dealers registered for e-services of tax department is 3,40,654**. He said that online refund facility had also been introduced, apart from already available facilities, such as, e-registration, e-sancharan (for intra-state movement of goods), e-payment, e-return, etc. For the entrepreneurs who for some reason cannot access internet, the department has established over 300 Commercial Tax Facilitation Centres.

To expedite the release of electricity connection, **Director Distribution, U.P. Power Corporation Ltd., K M Mittal informed** that the department had taken a significant decision to delegate the authority of **releasing electricity connections up to 3000 KVA to Executive Engineer**, whereas, **over 3000 KVA connections would now be released by Chief Engineer** instead of Managing Director of power corporation. Moreover, **necessity of getting U.P. Pollution Control Board No-objection Certificate (NoC) has been done away with**. Besides, **number of enclosures required to get electricity connection has been brought down to two**. He said that orders had been issued to **release electricity connections within 15 days** of receiving applications, which can be submitted online.

Principal Secretary, Labour – Shri Arun Sinha said that the department had to strike a delicate balance between protection of interests of labourers and industry. Department has taken many steps, including **launch of a single portal, incorporating provisions of seven Acts**. Now industries would be able to submit **combined annual returns**, they can **make online payment of required fee**. He informed that since **inspections were barred in the state**, entrepreneurs should adopt self-certification. He said that it was proposed to increase the number of workers to 300 in a unit as the limit for permission required for retrenchment.

Chief Environment Officer of U.P. Pollution Control Board informed that in Uttar Pradesh, **220 type of industries had been granted exemption from need of pollution NoC**, which had been **extended to solar power projects** as well. He informed that now **Regional Officers had been authorised to dispose of applications of less polluting industries** falling in orange and green **categories within a month**. The department has already extended the increased validity period of water and air consent given by UPPCB to industries under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 respectively. Now, **the consent validity of red category, highly polluting industries has been raised to five years from two years, for the orange and green category of industrial units the consent validity has been increased to 10 and 15 years from the present 3 and 5 years respectively**.

Industrial Association representatives from **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), ASSOCHAM, PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)** commended the efforts of the government for improving the ease of doing business and committed full support. **Main suggestions** made by associations included synchronisation of various inspections, capacity building of government staff to implement the reforms, inclusion of running of industry to be a part of ease of doing business. **Indian Industries Association (IIA)** demanded a separate grievance redressal and feedback portal jointly with the association.

Among others, the seminar was attended by Principal Secretary, MSME – Shri Sudhir Garg, Chairman and CEO, NOIDA, Greater Noida – Shri Rama Raman, Director, Industries – Shri Venketshwar Lu, Special Secretary, Infrastructure & Industrial Development – Smt Kanchan Verma along with industrial associations and officials of Udyog Bandhu.