GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 220
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03rd FEBRUARY, 2023

GeM PORTAL

220(H)   SHRI BRIJLAL:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government has launched a Government sponsored Sale- Purchase Service Portal-GeM through the Common Service Centre of the Department of Posts and India Post;

(b)   if so, the details thereof, and the manner in which it would be beneficial for buyers, sellers and service providers;

(c)   the salient features of said service portal; and

(d)   the efforts made or being made by Government to make the system corruption free in the country and to bring necessary transparency in Government procurement, and the role of the said portal in fulfilling this ambition?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a): Yes, Sir. GeM has signed a Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] with Common Service Centre e-Governance Services India Ltd. [CSC-SPV], and Department of Post, Government of India, for the advocacy, outreach, mobilization, and capacity-building of last-mile Government buyers, sellers and service-providers in public procurement through the GeM portal.

(b) & (c): The Government sponsored Sale- Purchase Service Portal-GeM through the Common Service Centre of the Department of Posts and India Post shall be beneficial for buyers, sellers and service providers as under:-

>   i.   More than 5.2 lakh Common Service Centers [CSC] and approx. 1.5 lakh India Post offices across India are being trained to assist last-mile Government buyers, sellers and service providers with buyer/ seller registration, product catalogue

upload and management, order acceptance, fulfilment and invoice generation functionality on the GeM portal.

ii. Value-added services such as photography of product images, packaging, logistics and shipment of packages through Speed Post and Business Parcel will be provided through India Post website. Online, print and office communication channels will also be delivered to sellers and service providers at charges defined by CSC and Department of Post. GeM Services offered through CSCs will be made available to all Government buyers at no charge.

iii. Rates for packaging materials and shipment of packages through Speed Post and Business Parcel through India Post website, online, print and office communication channels will be shared with CSCs.

iv. Further, Department of Post will ensure the availability of India Post packaging material including boxes, BOPP tapes, bubble-wrap, flyers and air sacks in-store at nearest post offices, facilitate the pick-up, transmission and delivery of Speed Post and Business Parcel as per standards defined by Department of Post, and ensure priority processing of all GeM labelled packages.

v. No charges will be levied on sellers/service providers for the following services;

1. Buyer Registration – For single-state and multi-state Cooperative Societies

2. Seller Registration and Account Updation (with all KYC details)

vi. Charges to paid by sellers and service-providers for;

1. Product/ Service Catalogue Upload & Management, and

2. Value-added Services at Actuals (Packaging & logistics at CSC and India Post)

(d): GeM has implemented various features and functionalities in an effort to increase transparency in public procurement. Some of these initiatives include-

(i) Providing challenge rejection window to sellers who have been marked as disqualified in a bid by buyer,

(ii) Sellers are given feature to raise representation against any bid if seller finds bidding parameters restrictive in any manner

(iii) Results of technical and financial evaluation of bids floated on GeM are published in public domain.

(iv)   To provide a contactless platform where contact details of buyer and sellers are masked till placement of contract,

(v)   Blocking of funds in GPA against a contract to ensure timely payment,

(vi)   Display of data of all contracts in public domain.

(vii)   Masking of details of buyers and sellers in incidents while decision making

(viii)   Sending notifications of bids to all registered sellers under the relevant category by email/SMS

(ix)   System based checks and balances at appropriate places to avoid deviation from GTC to possible extent.

(x)   Finalization of specifications through consultative committee meeting process through consultation with relevant stakeholders.

(xi)   API based integrations for fetching the data at various stages from the source database of nodal department/ministry.

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