

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

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2715**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**IMPACT OF CORONA ON SEZs**

2715. SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री ) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made a final assessment on losses incurred to units established in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) during the Corona period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken some measures to help units established in SEZs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हरदीप सिंह पुरी)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
(SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI)

(a) and (b): The Government does not make an assessment of losses incurred by units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs). SEZ units have an obligation to achieve positive Net Foreign Exchange (NFE) earnings to be calculated cumulatively for a period of 5 years from the commencement of production.

(c) and (d): Yes Sir, the following measures were taken during the COVID-19 outbreak to mitigate the hardship and to facilitate SEZ Developers/Co-developers/Units:-

- i. The last date of filing of various compliances was extended from 31.03.2020 to 30.06.2020 e.g. Quarterly Progress Report (QPR), SOFTEX form and Annual Performance Reports (APR).
- ii. Development Commissioners (DCs) were directed to facilitate extension of Letter of Approvals (LoAs) and other compliances scheduled to expire during COVID pandemic, through electronic mode, in a time-bound manner. Further, DCs were directed in cases

where it was not possible to grant extension through electronic mode to ensure that the Developer / Co-developer / Units did not face any hardship due to such expiry of validity during this period of disruption, and ad-hoc interim extension / deferment of the expiry date was granted without prejudice till 30.06.2020.

- iii. Along with IT/ITES Units, Non IT/ITES Units in SEZs have also been allowed to take desktop/laptop outside SEZs to work from home. This has enabled exports especially in IT/ITES sector to register a positive growth despite lockdown.
- iv. Power has been delegated to Development Commissioners for broad-banding in case of manufacturing of essential items like masks, sanitizer, gowns and other protective/preventive products/instruments subject to post-facto ratification by the Approval Committee.
- v. Directions were issued that there should be no increase in lease rent for the units in Central Government SEZs for the Financial Year 2020-21. Payment of lease rent of first quarter was deferred upto 31st July 2020 for all the units in Central Government SEZs. Further, Development Commissioners were also requested to allow the units to clear the first two quarterly instalments of lease rent in six equal instalments starting from October 1st, 2020.
- vi. Development Commissioners were also requested to advise developers of State Government/Private SEZs to consider similar relief measures in their zones.
- vii. All Development Commissioners have been sensitized to adopt electronic work culture and to extend necessary support to the units, including those involved in manufacturing of drugs, essential items etc, and to follow COVID guidelines.

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