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Chief Executive Officer

DO No.109/CEO-GeM/2019

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Sub: Steps taken by Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to contribute to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic

Dear Sunil,

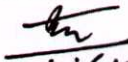
1. Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is the National Public Procurement Portal for procurement of goods and services required by Central and State Government organizations. GeM provides an online, end to end solution for procurement of commonly used goods and services for all Central Government and State Government Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Units (PSUs), local bodies and autonomous organisations. The platform reduces manual process inefficiencies and human interventions in procurement and enables increased coverage, access, cost savings and efficiency of faceless standardized public procurement.
2. At a time such as this when there is a national health emergency of an unprecedented and historic scale, GeM has taken a number of steps to contribute to the nation's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Several COVID- 19 specific categories have been created for Government organisations and the Corona warriors who are fighting this pandemic. Some of the steps in this direction are as follows:
 - 2.1. A separate COVID-19 page has been created at <https://gem.gov.in/covid19> with information on all COVID-19 categories of products and services and a daily status report in English and Hindi. Cotton hand made masks are also available at GeM.
 - 2.2. Steps have been taken to onboard more and more sellers and their products and brands for the newly created categories for COVID-19. This is a continuous exercise and is being monitored on a daily basis. The Marketplace now has a total of 203 Product categories related to the pandemic, of which 150 are medical and 53 auxiliary. In addition, there are 9 services which can be utilized by Government organisations for meeting their procurement needs.
 - 2.3. More than 11,000 Sellers and 30,000 products are available in COVID – 19 medical categories.

- 2.4. Taken together, all the COVID-19 Categories have more than 1.25 Lakh products and around twenty-seven thousand sellers.
3. Several process changes have been effected in quick time for facilitating fast, efficient and transparent procurement:
 - 3.1. New business rule to stock out sellers who do not update stock within 48 hours of notification for specific categories.
 - 3.2. Shorter duration Bids (reduced to 3 days from 10 days) with shorter delivery period (reduced to 2 days from 15 days) for specific categories.
 - 3.3. Prioritization of Product/Brand Approval for COVID-19 categories in the Queue Management System and according the highest priority to such requests.
 - 3.4. Extension of delivery period by 30 days beyond expiry of original Delivery Period.
 - 3.5. Creation of a new page for tracking COVID-19 categories and the number of sellers.
 - 3.6. Creation of shorter duration bids (3 days) for services on GeM.
 - 3.7. Introduction of Delivery Lead Time Filter for L1 purchase up to INR 5 lakhs. This will help the buyer in filtering sellers with the lead time for supply suited to a buyer's needs.
 - 3.8. New business rule for controlling price increase so that prices are not increased arbitrarily by sellers.
 - 3.9. Introducing a location filter at district/ state level to minimise delivery failure or refusal of sellers to service orders in L1 purchase up to INR 5 lakhs.
 - 3.10. Setting the Default Delivery Period as 3 days for shorter duration COVID-19 bids.
 - 3.11. Communicating with Buyers and Sellers through e-mail and dashboard, about the COVID 19 related features made available on GeM.
 4. Transactional data on the platform shows that Government organisations have been utilising the portal effectively for meeting their requirements:
 - 4.1. More than fifty thousand orders of value more than INR 450+ Cr. Value have been placed in COVID-19 categories since 1st March 2020.
 - 4.2. More than twenty thousand orders of value more than INR 230+ Cr. Value have been placed in COVID 19 Medical Categories since 1st March 2020. Major categories transacted are Alcohol Based Hand Rub/Hand Sanitizer, ICU Ventilator, Filtering Half Mask-Air Pollution Mask, Surgical Isolation or Surgical Masks, Surgical Drapes-Disposable, Sodium Hypochlorite Or Sodium Hypochlorite Solution, Floor Cleaners/ Detergent Surfactant Powder and Surgical Gloves.

5. The following categories for dedicated COVID-19 infrastructure are the latest additions to the Marketplace:
- 5.1. Temporary Hospital
 - 5.2. Isolation Facility Ward for COVID 19 Asymptomatic Patients (Level 1)
 - 5.3. Isolation Facility Ward for COVID 19 Asymptomatic Patients (Level 2)
 - 5.4. ICU Facility/ Ward for COVID 19 Patients
 - 5.5. Basic Facility for COVID Hospitals
6. GeM has been working continuously during the entire period of lockdown to help the buyers and sellers in their fight against the pandemic and will continue to do so. Several categories were created proactively while some others were created overnight as per requirements of Government organisations. The team in GeM is ready to address any emergent need of a buyer or a seller whenever required. I would request you kindly to inform me about any such requirement at ceo-gem@gov.in should such a need arise.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,


6/15/2020
(Talleen Kumar)

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