

COVID-19
URGENT

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

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From

Shri Ashok Meena, IAS
Principal Secretary to Government

To

**The Additional Chief Secretaries/
All Principal Secretaries/Secretaries to Government
All Heads of the Department/All Collectors**

Sub: Special drive for payment of pending dues of different MSMEs, Industries, Municipalities and Utilities during COVID-19 pandemic.

Sir/ Madam,

I am directed to say that much of the economic activity in the State has been severely affected during this COVID-19 related lock-down resulting in sharp drop in revenue earning of all organizations providing goods and services, which include MSMEs, Industries, Municipalities and Utilities. Government is taking various measures to fight this crisis on multiple fronts. So as to make good the financial distress of these entities to some extent and enable them to better cope with this period of economic slowdown, it has been decided to undertake following measures.

2. Payment of pending claims, liabilities etc. : Government Offices, State PSUs and other Government autonomous bodies procure goods and avail services from MSMEs, Industries, Municipalities and Utilities. Hence, their due entitlements are required to be settled in time by concerned authorities. Keeping in view the difficult times due to COVID-19 related lock-down, all Government Offices, State PSUs and other Government autonomous bodies are instructed that all dues/claims of MSMEs, Industries, Municipalities and Utilities should be released immediately within two weeks. This will help these entities in tiding over period of extremely low revenue realisation thereby improving their financial health to some extent.

3. **Release of EMDs, Security Deposits or Performance Securities** : In order to ensure proper and timely execution of a contract, the executing entities deposit refundable sum of money as EMDs, Security Deposits or Performance Securities, as per the terms and conditions of the contract, with the Executing Authorities. All such deposits are usually refunded by the concerned authorities once the contract is successfully executed. However, any such deposits held by the authorities where the due period is already over and the work has been completed must be released with immediate effect. All Government Offices, State PSUs and other Government autonomous bodies are instructed to ensure release of the same within a period of two weeks.

4. **Payment of pending dues to Utilities and Municipalities** : Pending electricity dues, water dues, holding taxes and other dues payable to Utilities and Municipalities are to be cleared by the Government Offices, State PSUs and other Government autonomous bodies at the earliest.

I would, therefore, request you to kindly complete the payment of all pending claims/ dues, and release of EMDs, Security Deposits or Performance Securities to the MSMEs, Industries, Municipalities and Utilities within a period of **two weeks**, i.e. not later than 31st May, 2020 to enable them to effectively tackle the crisis posed by COVID-19 and continue to deliver better service. Once this exercise is completed, a consolidated report relating to all entities under the control of concerned Departments may be compiled by 5th June, 2020. Respective FAs may furnish the consolidated information to Finance Department by 10th June, 2020.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

Principal Secretary to Government