



NATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY FEDERATION OF INDIA

Regd. No. 362 / IV of 8 May, 2013

Ref: - NSEFI/MNRE/2020-21/45

Date: 9th July, 2020

Pranav R Mehta
Chairman

To,
Shri Raj Kumar Singh,
Honorable Minister of State (I/C),
Ministry of Power, New and Renewable Energy
Rafi Marg, Shram Shakti Bhavan,
New Delhi, Delhi – 110 001

Sub: Request for extension in project milestone timelines on account of lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreak – extension till 30th November 2020

Ref:

1. MNRE OM dated 20.03.2020
2. MNRE OM dated 17.04.2020
3. MNRE OM dated 30.06.2020
4. NSEFI letter dated 30.06.2020

Dear Sir,

Greetings from National Solar Energy Federation of India.

The outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19) throughout the globe was declared as a global emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Feb'20. In this regard, Government of India (GoI) had imposed a complete nationwide lockdown since 22.03.2020 and the same still continues partially, as the situation is actually worsening day by day. Some of the states had already started to restrict activities prior to 22nd March 2020, on account of COVID spread.



NATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY FEDERATION OF INDIA

Regd. No. 362 / IV of 8 May, 2013

Since the imposition of lockdown, development of various under construction projects are still in a standstill situation. The COVID-19 outbreak was first reported in China, and thereafter it spread across the globe. While the full lockdown imposed by the GoI is being lifted in phased manners, the ground situation is that the work could not happen during lockdown, and the labours actually started returning to their natives when lockdown started to phase out. As a result, the project activities continue to remain severely hampered due to imposition of lockdown.

Despite unlock-1 phase being initiated with restoration of few services (till 30th June 2020) and subsequent, unlock-2 guidelines relaxing certain additional services, restrictions still continue like suspension of railways, imposition of night curfews, restriction on social gathering etc. Further, many cities & states continue to have stringent lockdown like situation in place. Such impositions have further impacted the project development activities in addition to the labours being unable to commute back to their workplaces till date.

Further, international travel continues to remain prohibited till date, which has impacted the procurement process of imported items like modules & inverters, resulting in total halt in the procurement process.

Considering the above situation, MNRE had provided blanket extension to all under construction projects for a period of Lockdown period + 30 days. Recently, vide MNRE OM dated 30.06.2020, it has been clarified that the lockdown period is considered from 25th March till 31st May 2020.

With due respect, we would like to state that due to labour exodus in the country to their natives during and immediately after the Lockdown period, rapid increase in COVID 19 cases across the country, continuation of curfew & containment zones in many cities and transport restrictions for domestic and international travel have resulted in halting of the land procurement, construction and procurement activities .

Further, while a noble step has been taken by the GoI announcing free ration to the poor throughout the country till November, 2020, this may also result in extended stay by labour in their native places.

The GOI is fully aware of these challenges, and to address the labour exodus challenges, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman had declared extension of six (06) months to all Public Private Partnership contracts.



NATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY FEDERATION OF INDIA

Regd. No. 362 / IV of 8 May, 2013

In view of the preceding facts, we request your kind office to kindly direct the concerned authorities for blanket extension in the project timelines for the under-construction projects till 30th November 2020, considering force Majeure condition.

Thanking and assuring you of our best attention at all times

With Best Regards



Pranav R Mehta

Chairman, National Solar Energy Federation of India

Cc:

1. **Shri Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, IAS - Secretary, MNRE**
2. **Shri J N Swain, IAS - MD, SECI**
3. **Shri Amitesh Kumar Sinha, IRAS - Joint Secretary, MNRE**