

विनय कुमार

सचिव

Binoy Kumar

Secretary



भारत सरकार
इस्पात मंत्रालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

D.O.No.PS/Secy(S)/Misc./2020
24th March, 2020

Dear *Chief Secretary*

Subject: Production, supply and distribution of steel and its input materials – Section 2(1)(a)(xii) of Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981

This is reference to the recent restrictions imposed by several State Governments on the operation of non-essential commercial establishments and movement of people, in order to prevent the spread of Covid 19. In this regard, it has come to the notice of this Ministry that the several Steel plants across the country are facing problems w.r.t. entry of workers, supply of raw material and despatch of finished steel etc. this is likely to adversely affect not only the operations of these steel plants but also has the potential to damage their plant and machinery.

2. In view of the fact that Section 2(1)(a)(xii) of the ESMA, 1981 clearly lists "any service in any establishment or undertaking dealing with the production, supply or distribution of coal, power, steel or fertilizers;" as an "Essential Service", it is requested that no restrictions should be imposed on the operation of Steel plants (both Integrated Steel Plants as well as Induction Furnace or Electric Arc Furnace based steel units), entry-exit of workers engaged in these plants, movement (both rail and road as well as through waterways/sea) of raw materials (iron ore, coal, limestone, dolomite, ferro-alloys, scrap, sponge iron etc) and intermediate or finished products to and from such plants.

3. Considering the fact that mining activities are integral to the operation of steel plants, it is also requested that no restrictions should be placed on the operation of mines of iron ore, coking coal, thermal coal, limestone, dolomite, manganese, chromite etc, as well as operation of Sponge iron, ferroalloys, iron ore pellet plants etc which supply critical raw materials for steel making.

4. Suitable instructions may also be issued for allowing un-restricted inter-State movement of trucks carrying the above-mentioned raw materials and finished steel in order to maintain an efficient supply chain.

With regards
Yours sincerely

Binoy Kumar
(Binoy Kumar)

Chief Secretaries of all States
(As per list attached)