



■ **AJIT GULABCHAND**
President

1st FLOOR, NO. 1, MASTER BLOCK, OPP. MADHUBAN PARK,
SHAKARPUR EXTENSION, DELHI - 110092
Tel.: 91-11-2242 2922, 2242 0758
Email : ajit.gulabchand@cfiindia.com www.cfiindia.com

**CONSTRUCTION
FEDERATION OF
INDIA**

14th April 2021

Shri Sitaram Kunte
Chief Secretary
Government of Maharashtra
Mantralaya, Madam Cama Road,
Hutatma Rajguru Square,
Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400032

Sir,

- 1. Request to Allow Private Head/Corporate Offices with 25% Staff to Function &**
- 2. Seeking for Vaccination to Construction Workers below 45 Yrs Age with Creation of Separate Testing Facility**

Construction Federation of India (CFI) is the representative body of the leading infrastructure construction firms of the country engaged in building dams, power stations (Thermal, Hydro, Nuclear), highways, bridges, roads, irrigation and water supply projects etc. and other basic infrastructure of national importance.

The sector had to bear the worst brunt of covid19 as it is already battling cost overruns and financials of ongoing projects. Some of crucial projects are delayed while others are cancelled. CFI is deeply concerned about the recent up-ward spiral of the Second wave of Covid-19 infection and sharp rise in the positive cases across the Maharashtra. Impact of second wave could further delay execution of national importance projects and curtail growth rate of our sector and economy as well.

We are thankful for permitting Construction activities in the site where labourers are living, as per Office Order No: DMU/2020/CR. 92/DisM-1 issued on 13th April 2021.

Head/Corporate Offices of several Infrastructure Construction Firms are located in Mumbai and act as Command Centre/Central Processing Zone for several key activities such as

- Technological support
- Engineering support
- Logistic support for movement of plant / material from site to site.
- Construction Offices provides support to pan India/International operation of firm.
- Resource requirement / emergency / safety issues / financial operations.

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In addition, sites of major construction companies are located all across the country and shutting down Head Offices can lead to delays on other projects not acceptable to other clients. The financial year FY 20-21 having just ended, it would be necessary for the head offices of the companies to compile and prepare for the annual results to be published within the time frames specified by the statutes and company Laws.

We also seek your kind attention on the problems arising due to said GoM Order, **Point No.14- Construction Activity.....**

“ b) Every one engaged in the activity to get vaccinated at the earliest, as per criteria of GOI and organisations engaged in these activities should go for workplace vaccinations as per GOI guidelines at the earliest.

c) Defaults will lead to a fine of Rs. 10000/- for the developer of the construction site and repeated defaults may lead to closure of the site till existence of notification of COVID 19 epidemic. ”

Some key challenges being faced by construction industry includes:

- **Considering** large number of migrant workmen working in Mumbai, it will not be feasible for any Infrastructure Construction firm to conduct RT-PCR test which is time as well cost consuming. Difficulty in testing of all workmen at the interval of every fortnight and is practically impossible.
- **Testing** of such a huge number of workmen across Maharashtra will create shortage of Testing Laboratories & getting testing report will take more time & is very challengeable considering limited resources.
- **One of key challenges being faced is** - availability of hospital beds in Mumbai. Earlier in the previous lockdown, we were getting the hospital beds and now it has become extremely difficult.
- **Government of Maharashtra** will have to set up/ create some Special Covid Centres for Construction Workers / Workmen as so many projects are in progress.
- **Migrant** workers are in the age group of 18 – 55 years, we have initiated 45 years for vaccination in some projects. Below 45 years are not being entertained at the vaccination centres. After 5th April even front line staff /construction workers are stopped.

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In view of aforementioned genuine difficulties being faced by CFI members, **we earnestly request your good-self to kindly consider allowing Head/Corporate Offices of Private Sector with 25% Staff to function on the lines as permission granted vide point No. 14 (Construction Activity) of the said Order and Construction Activities may be deemed as essential activity as per Point No.2.**

Federation also sincerely appeals to **Maharashtra Government to consider providing Vaccination to the Construction Workers below 45 years age and also Create separate facilities for Testing of the Construction Workers so that our crucial pending projects of National & State importance are not disturbed in the key working season.**

Undoubtedly, your positive decisions and timely support will play a pivotal role in boosting construction activities, sustain economy of all the mutual stakeholders and subsequently complete crucial pending infrastructure projects of Mumbai city & State of Maharashtra.

We look forward to your kind consideration to the genuine request of Infrastructure Construction Sector.

With sincere regards,



(Ajit Gulabchand)
President CFI