

Key Highlights of 4th Tranche of Economic Stimulus Measures Announced By The Government Of India (Gol) On 16th May 2020

The Union Finance Minister addressing the nation on 16th May 2020, announced the 4th Tranche of Relief Measures by ushering in policy reforms in Coal sector, Mineral sector, Defence sector, Civil Aviation sector, Power sector, social sector, Space sector and Energy sector.

A summary of Measures announced by the GoI are as under:

A. POLICY REFORMS TO FAST TRACK INVESTMENT

| Particulars | Measures of the Govt. | Impact |
|--|---|--------|
| Policy Reforms to fast-track Investment – Effort towards Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self Reliant India) | Fast track Investment Clearance through Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS). Project Development Cell in each Ministry to prepare investible projects, coordinate with investors and Central/State Governments. Ranking of States on Investment Attractiveness to compete for new investments. Incentive schemes for Promotion of New Champion Sectors will be launched in | |
| | sectors such as Solar PV manufacturing; Advanced cell battery storage etc. | |
| Upgradation of Industrial Infrastructure | Scheme will be implemented in States through Challenge mode for Industrial Cluster Upgradation of common infrastructure facilities and connectivity. | |

• Availability of Industrial Land/ Land Bank for promoting new investments and making information available Industrial Information System (IIS) with GIS mapping.

B. POLICY REFORMS IN COAL SECTOR

Government will introduce competition, and private transparency participation in the Coal Sector through:

 Revenue sharing mechanism instead of regime of fixed Rupee/tonne – Any party can now bid for a coal block and sell in market. Earlier only captive open consumers were allowed to bid.

Commercial **Mining**

- Introduction of | Entry norms to be liberalized Nearly 50 blocks to be offered immediately - No eligibility conditions.
 - Exploration cum production regime for partially explored blocks - will allow private sector participation in exploration.
 - Production earlier than scheduled will be incentivized through rebate in revenue share.

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| Diversified opportunities in Coal sector | Coal Gasification / Liquefication will be incentivised through rebate in revenue share – this will assist India in switching to a gas based economy with significantly lower environment impact. Infrastructure development of Rs. 50,000 crores | |
| Liberalized Regime | Coal Bed Methane (CBM) extraction rights to be auctioned from Coal India Limited's (CIL) coal mines. Ease of doing business measures, such as Mining Plan simplification, will be taken. Concessions in commercial terms given to CIL's consumers – reduction in reserve price in auctions for non-power consumers, credit terms eased, and lifting period enhanced. | |

C. POLICY REFORMS IN MINERAL SECTOR

| Enhancing Private | Structural reforms to boost growth, employment, technology upgradation through: | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Investments | Introduction of a seamless composite exploration-cum-mining-cum- production regime. | |

- 500 mining blocks would be offered through an open and transparent auction process.
- Introduce Joint Auction of Bauxite and Coal mineral blocks to enhance Aluminum Industry's competitiveness.
 Will help aluminium industry reduce electricity costs.
- Remove distinction between captive and non-captive mines to allow transfer of mining leases and sale of surplus unused minerals for better efficiency in mining and production.
- Ministry of Mines is in the process of developing Mineral Index for different minerals.
- Rationalization of stamp duty payable at the time of award of mining leases.

D. POLICY REFORMS IN DEFENCE SECTOR

Self-reliance in Defence Production

- 'Make in India' for Self-Reliance in Defence Production – will reduce huge defence import bill.
- Corporatization of Ordnance Factory Board to improve autonomy, accountability and efficiency in ordnance supply

- FDI limit in defence manufacturing under automatic route will be raised from 49% to 74%.
- Time bound defence procurement process and faster decision making.

E. POLICY REFORMS IN CIVIL AVIATION SECTOR

| Reduction in flying cost – Efficient Airspace Management | Restrictions on utilisation of the Indian Air Space will be eased so that civilian flying become more efficient. Expected benefit of about Rs 1000 crores in aviation sector. Optimal utilization of airspace; reduction in fuel use, time. | INR 10,000 million (\$133 million approx.) |
|--|---|--|
| More World- class Airports through PPP | Airport Authority of India (AAI) has already awarded 3 airports out of 6 bid for operation and maintenance on PPP basis. 6 more airports identified for 2nd round. Bid process to commence immediately. Additional Investment by private players in 12 airports in 1st and 2nd rounds. Another 6 airports will be put out for the third round of bidding. | |

Global hub for Aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO)

- Tax regime for MRO ecosystem has been rationalized - Major engine manufacturers in the world would set up engine repair facilities in India in the coming year.
- Convergence between defence sector and the civil MROs will be established to create economies of scale.
- Maintenance cost for airlines will come down.

F. POLICY REFORMS IN POWER SECTOR

| | A Tariff Policy laying out the following reforms will be released: |
|---------------|--|
| Tariff policy | Consumer rights – DISCOMS inefficiencies not to burden consumers; prescribed standards of services; ensure adequate power; |
| reform | Promote Industry – Progressive reduction in cross subsidies; time bound grant of open access; project developers to be selected competitively. |
| | Sustainability of sector – No regulatory access; timely payment of Gencos; DBT for subsidy; Smart prepaid meters. |

| Privatization of Distribution in Union Territories (UTs) | Sub-optimal performance of power distribution & supply | _ |
|--|--|---|
| | Power Departments / Utilities in Union Territories will be privatized. | |
| | Will lead to better service to consumers and improvement in operational and financial efficiency in Distribution | |
| | Provide a model for emulation by other Utilities across the country. | |

G. POLICY REFORMS IN SOCIAL SECTOR

| | Government will enhance the quantum | INR | 81 |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------|----|
| Boosting | of Viability Gap Funding upto 30% each | billion | |
| private sector | of Total Project Cost as VGF by Centre | (\$1.08 | |
| investment in | and State/StatutoryBodies. | billion | |
| Social | | approx.) | |
| Infrastructure through | Total outlay expected is INR 8100 Crore | | |
| revamped Viability Gap Funding Scheme | Projects to be proposed by Central ministries/state Govt/statutory entities. | | |

H. POLICY REFORMS IN SPACE SECTOR

| Boosting | • Will provide level playing field for private | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Private | companies in satellites, launches and | |
| Participation In Space Activities | space-based services. | |

- Will provide predictable policy and regulatory environment to private players.
- Private sector will be allowed to use ISRO facilities and other relevant assets to improve their capacities.
- Future projects for planetary exploration, outer space travel etc to be open for private sector.
- Liberal geo- spatial data policy for providing remote sensing data to tech entrepreneurs.

Establish research reactor in PPP mode

for production of medical isotopes.

I. POLICY REFORMS IN ENERGY SECTOR

Establish facilities in PPP mode to use irradiation technology for food preservation.

Atomic Energy Related Reforms

 Link India's start-up ecosystem to nuclear sector- Technology development cum incubation centres will be set-up for fostering synergy between research facilities and tech entrepreneurs. For details, please refer the link below to Press release of Ministry of Finance dated 16th May 2020:

Click Here

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