

SHUBHRA SINGH, IAS

Chairman

Tel. No. 23746639

19.03. 2020

Sub : Temporary export restriction on critical inputs of masks as proposed by Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD).

Dear Sir,

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has issued an OM dated 13th March, 2020 for effective regulation of masks, sanitizers and gloves, as a measure for dealing with the emergent situation arising out of COVID-19, under clause (I) of sub-section (2) of Section 10 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 in public interest. This is to ensure sufficient availability of surgical and protective masks, hand sanitizers and gloves at prices not exceeding the maximum retail price (MRP) printed on the pack size. At the same time, Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution vide its Notification dated 13.3.2020 declared masks (2ply & 3ply masks, N95 marks) and hand sanitizers as 'essential commodities' under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to ensure prevention of hoarding, black marketing and profiteering of these items. NPPA is coordinating with all State Governments and UTs for strict enforcement of these orders to ensure availability of these items to the consumers.

Further, a consultation was held by NPPA with AiMeD and the of All India Chemists and Druggists Association (AIOCD) and manufacturers of masks, gloves and sanitizers on 16.03.2020 to understand the constraints related to manufacturing and supply of these items. In this meeting, the participants from the industry urged that the fabric used for making of masks be restricted from exports since the price of this material has increased exorbitantly resulting into higher manufacturing cost to the manufactures. It was agreed in the meeting that a detailed presentation would be made by the manufacturers to the Ministry of Textiles in the matter.

I am enclosing the mail sent by Mr. Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator, Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD) to the Joint Secretary Ministry of Textiles on 18.3.2020 giving details of the raw-material and components which are essential to manufacturing masks. It has been stated that while the PP MELTBLOWN Non Woven Fabric is imported in the country, the Nosewire and Loop Elastic non latex are manufactured in India. All these are currently in short supply and it has been requested that these materials are not allowed for re-export till May end in the context of COVID-19.

An early direction in the matter would help ease the situation of scarcity arising due to limited manufacturing of masks in the country.

Yours sincerely,

Encl : As above.

(Shubhra Singh)

Shri Ravi Capoor
Secretary
Ministry of Textiles
Udyog Bhawan
New Delhi.