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Maintenance of Ghaziabad's industrial clusters to go into hands of UPSIDA

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GHAZIABAD: The Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) is set to take over the maintenance work of industrial clusters from the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation. A govt order to this effect is awaited, officials said.

"UPSIDA is mandated to develop industrial clusters and parks in the state, but the maintenance work of these clusters is handed over to the respective municipalities. The maintenance work of industrial clusters requires expertise of a different kind, such as sewer discharge or industrial waste, or even roads that frequently get broken due to the movement of heavy vehicles. GMC is more adept at carrying out maintenance work of residential areas, and UPSIDA is best suited for it," said Ramesh Tyagi, who owns an

industry that manufactures mechanical goods in the Bulandshahr Industrial Area.

"In fact, a few months ago, we held demonstrations over the pathetic condition of roads in industrial sectors and even met UPSIDA officials, after which the authority announced in September that it will spend Rs 200 crore to improve infrastructure," added Tyagi.

The infrastructure revamp by UPSIDA will entail drain and road work, especially in the Bulandshahr Road Industrial Area, GT Road Industrial Area, Sahibabad Site 4 Industrial Area, and Loha Mandi, for which tenders worth Rs 200 crore have already been floated.

Ghaziabad district, across ten industrial clusters, has 109,842 micro industries, 4,075 small-scale industries, and 443 medium-scale industries, which provide employment to 852,657 workers.

Within the Ghaziabad municipal limits, there are 7,955 industries spread across five zones, which include 1,852 in the Vasundhara Zone, 2,238 in the City Zone, 1,705 in the Kaninagar Zone, 1,829 in the Mohan Nagar Zone, and 331 in the Vijay Nagar Zone.

A UPSIDA official, on the other hand, said, "The transfer of maintenance of industrial sectors to UPSIDA came up for discussion at the level of the state govt, which has given in-principle approval, and shortly a GO in this regard will be put out."

"Till the time an official order comes with regards to the transfer of maintenance work, we cannot comment on it, but GMC annually generates about Rs 44 crore from the industrial clusters which are in the jurisdiction of the corporation," said Sanjeev Sinha, Chief Tax Assessment Officer of GMC.

"But it is pertinent to point out that GMC will continue collecting house tax even if maintenance is taken over by UPSIDA, but for sewer tax and other taxes like water and roads, etc., which account for Rs 14 crore annually, will go to UPSIDA," added Sinha.