

Panel readies 23-point best practices for states

Cab Secy-Led Task Force To Cover Areas For Reforms, Deregulation To Ease Rules For Biz

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New Delhi: The Centre is readying a 23-point template for reforms and deregulation, including some related to land, labour, utilities and permits at the state level, as it seeks to make life easier for businesses to operate across the country.

The moves are being piloted by a taskforce on deregulation and compliance reduction led by cabinet secretary TV Somanathan, following PM Narendra Modi's call for reforms at the state level, which he flagged during a meeting of chief secretaries, and was subsequently flagged in the Economic Survey. The panel is in addition to the Deregulation Commission, which is in the pipeline.

While seeking to usher in a single window clearance mechanism for companies, the committee, which met on Friday, is also looking at areas where inspections can be reduced and how no-objection certificates can be issued without inspection, which often delays and complicates matters.

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TO OFFER GREATER FLEXIBILITY

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- It is looking at possibility of issuing no-objection certificates without inspection, which often delays and complicates matters
- It is also looking at procedural changes and greater

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changes and greater use of technology to reduce the need to visit govt offices.

The validity of permits and licences is proposed to be made longer so that time is not wasted. "The idea is to provide for self-certification and third-party certification so that it is simpler for businesses," said an officer.

When it comes to land, which has been a major area of concern for investors, the proposals being looked at include ways to deregulate land use changes and allowing for changes in floor area ratio in a more transparent manner. The panel is also trying to look at land use patterns for industrial projects and represent them on GIS.

In the case of labour regulations, the task force is examining how greater flexibility can be provided in working hours and over-time within the current legal parameters. For instance, while allowing workers to work a maximum 48 hours a week, businesses may be allowed to flexibility in daily working hours.

Similarly, a key issue that is sought to be addressed is making it easier for women to work by making it flexible and ensuring that working conditions suit them.

Sources said that the plan is to share the best practices many of which are being implemented in some of the states already.