Sub.: India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Strengthening Project


1. Railway Board, vide letter referred above had, inter-alia, provided the conditions which need to be complied with for procurements to be eligible for funding under the subject project.

2. In this regard reference has been received at Railway Board seeking following clarification:
   a. Whether the tenders with universal eligibility criteria be floated beyond the limit indicated in the referred letter to avail future financing.
   b. Whether procurement from approved vendors, as per Drug Procurement Policy issued by Railway Board, admissible under the universal eligibility criteria condition of World Bank.

3. Following is clarified:
   a. Railways are permitted to book funds, in retrospective as well as prospective procurements, only upto the extent indicated in the referred letter. In case all the allocated funds are booked by a Railway Unit a reference for any enhancement of funds can be made to Railway Board. The universal eligibility criteria should be incorporated in tenders for prospective procurement within the prescribed allotment only.

   b. With regard to limiting the competition to registered vendors, registered through a transparent and open registration process, World Bank has opined that the process cannot be considered as 'Open Tender.' However, considering the provisions of the subject project, the procurement from registered vendors can be resorted to as 'RFQ' (Request for Quotation) mode of procurement with procurement value limited to USD 1 million per procurement case.

This is issued with the approval of competent authority and disposes Northern Railway letter no. 78-S/COVID-19/SPS dated 16/09/2020.

(Kanwalpreet)

DRS (IC), Railway Board

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