National Horticulture Board
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, Govt. of India
85, Institutional Area, Sector – 18, Gurugram - 122015

Corrigendum-I

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ENGAGEMENT OF A MANPOWER AGENCY FOR PROVIDING SUBJECT MATTER SPECIALIST/ EXPERT FOR THE CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME OF NATIONAL HORTICULTURE BOARD.

28/09/2026

As per the directions of the competent authority the following amendments are hereby made in the RFP document.

S.N.	Clause No.	Original Clause	Modified Clause/New Clause
1	Clause 1.2.5	*"A Bidder shall deposit, along with its Bid, a bid security of INR ₹7,20,000 (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) (the "Bid Security"), refundable not later than 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the Bid Due Date, except in the case of the Selected Bidder whose Bid Security shall be retained till it has provided Performance Security under the Agency Agreement. The Bidders will have the option to provide Bid Security only in the form of a NEFT/RTGS or by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of NHB and payable at National Horticulture Board. A scanned copy of the Demand Draft or proof of payment through NEFT/RTGS along with UTR No, as the case may be, shall be uploaded on the e-procurement portal at the time of Bid submission and the original Demand Draft shall be submitted to NHB within the timeline prescribed in the Bid documents. The Bids shall be summarily rejected if they are not accompanied by the Bid Security in the prescribed form."*	"A Bidder shall deposit, along with its Bid, a Bid Security of INR ₹7,20,000 (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) (the "Bid Security"), refundable not later than 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the Bid Due Date, except in the case of the Selected Bidder whose Bid Security shall be retained till it has provided Performance Security under the Agency Agreement. The Bidders will have the option to provide Bid Security in the form of a **Bank Guarantee issued by a Nationalised Bank or a Scheduled Bank in India in the format prescribed at Annexure 1 of Corrigendum No. 1**, or NEFT or RTGS transfer, or Demand Draft drawn in favour of NHB and payable at National Horticulture Board. **In such event, the validity period of the Bid Security shall not be less than 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the Bid Due Date inclusive of a claim period of 60 (sixty) days and may be extended as may be mutually agreed between the Authority and the Bidder(s) from time to time. For the avoidance of doubt, Scheduled Bank shall mean a bank as defined under Section 2(e) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. A scanned copy of the Bank Guarantee, receipt of NEFT/RTGS transfer or Demand Draft, as applicable, shall be uploaded on the GeM portal at the time of Bid submission.** The **original Bank Guarantee** or Demand Draft, as applicable, shall be submitted to NHB within the timeline prescribed in the Bidding Documents. The Bids shall be summarily rejected if they are not accompanied by the Bid Security in the prescribed form **or documentary evidence in support of exemption from submission of Bid Security under Clause 2.24A, as applicable."**
2	Clause 1.3, Item 5 (EMD/Bid Security)	The Bidder must submit an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of **INR ₹7,20,000 (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)** in the form of NEFT/RTGS or through Demand Draft payable at National Horticulture Board:	The Bidder must submit an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of INR ₹7,20,000 (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) **in the form of Bank Guarantee as per the format provided at**

<table>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><table>
<tr><td>Beneficiary Name</td><td>National Horticulture Board</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bank Name</td><td>Indian Overseas Bank</td></tr>
<tr><td>Account Number</td><td>193501000010000</td></tr>
<tr><td>IFSC Code</td><td>IOBA0001935</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bank Branch</td><td>Plot No. 85,Sector-18, Institutional Area, Gurugram -122 015 (Haryana).</td></tr>
</table></td>
<td>Annexure 1 of Corrigendum 1 or NEFT/RTGS or through Demand Draft payable at National Horticulture Board:
<table>
<tr><td>Beneficiary Name</td><td>National Horticulture Board</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bank Name</td><td>Indian Overseas Bank</td></tr>
<tr><td>Account Number</td><td>193501000010000</td></tr>
<tr><td>IFSC Code</td><td>IOBA0001935</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bank Branch</td><td>Plot No. 85,Sector-18, Institutional Area, Gurugram -122 015 (Haryana).</td></tr>
</table>

Any exemptions in Bid Security that are claimed by an entity shall be subject to the applicable policy of the Republic of India and furnishing of supporting documents in respect of such claim.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Clause 2.1.5</td>
<td>“A Bidder is required to deposit, along with its Bid, a Bid Security of INR ₹7,20,000 (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) (the “Bid Security”), refundable not later than 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the Bid Due Date, except in the case of the Selected Bidder whose Bid Security shall be retained till it has provided the Performance Security under the Agency Agreement. The Bidders shall have the option to provide the Bid Security only in the form of NEFT or RTGS transfer, or by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of NHB and payable at National Horticulture Board. In such event, the Bid Security shall remain valid for a period of not less than 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the Bid Due Date. A scanned copy of the NEFT or RTGS receipt, along with the UTR number, or a scanned copy of the Demand Draft, as the case may be, shall be uploaded on the e-procurement portal / GeM Portal at the time of Bid submission, and the original Demand Draft, where applicable, shall be</td>
<td>A Bidder is required to deposit, along with its Bid, a Bid Security of INR ₹7,20,000 (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) (the “Bid Security”), refundable not later than 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the Bid Due Date, except in the case of the Selected Bidder whose Bid Security shall be retained till it has provided the Performance Security under the Agency Agreement. The Bidders shall have the option to provide the Bid Security either in the form of a Bank Guarantee as per the format at Annexure 1 of Corrigendum 1, or NEFT or RTGS transfer, or by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of NHB and payable at National Horticulture Board.
In such event, the Bid Security shall remain valid for a period of not less than 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the Bid Due Date inclusive of a claim period of 60 (sixty) days and may be extended as may be mutually agreed between the Authority and the Bidder. A scanned copy of the NEFT or RTGS receipt,</td>
</tr>
</table>

		submitted to NHB within the timeline prescribed in this RFP. For the avoidance of doubt, the permitted modes of submission of Bid Security shall remain limited to NEFT/RTGS transfer and Demand Draft only. The Bids shall be summarily rejected if they are not accompanied by the Bid Security in the prescribed form.”	along with the UTR number, or a scanned copy of the Demand Draft, or **Bank Guarantee** as the case may be, shall be uploaded on the e-procurement portal / GeM Portal at the time of Bid submission, and the original Demand Draft or **Bank Guarantee or documents supporting exemption from payment of Bid Security** where applicable, shall be submitted to NHB within the timeline prescribed in this RFP. For the avoidance of doubt, the permitted modes of submission of Bid Security shall remain limited to NEFT/RTGS transfer Demand Draft/ **Bank Guarantee** only. The Bids shall be summarily rejected if they are not accompanied by the Bid Security in the prescribed form **or documentary evidence in support of exemption from submission of Bid Security under Clause 2.24A, as applicable**.
4	Clause 2.2.2, PQ Criterion No. 1 (Supporting Documents)	“NEFT /RTGS/ Demand Draft [Proof of submission in accordance with clause 2.1.5].”	“NEFT/RTGS receipt, Demand Draft, or Bank Guarantee in the format prescribed at Annexure 1 of Corrigendum No. 1 [Proof of submission in accordance with Clause 2.1.5].” **In case the Bidder is a Micro or Small Enterprise claiming exemption from payment of Bid Security then, it shall submit the Udyam Certificate clearly reflecting that it is the service provider of the primary service category entailing under this RFP.**
5	Clause 2.2.2, PQ Criterion No. 4 (Supporting Documents)	Copy of valid labour licence.	Copy of valid labour licence or a notarised self-declaration on stamp paper of Rs 100 establishing the applicability/non-applicability of the labour license.
6	Clause 2.2.2, PQ Criterion No. 8 (Supporting Documents)	Declaration duly notarized on stamp paper of INR 500 in this regard by the authorized signatory of the Bidder	Declaration duly notarized on stamp paper of **INR 100** in this regard by the authorized signatory of the Bidder
7	Clause 2.2.2, PQ Criterion	Declaration duly notarized on stamp paper of INR 500 in this regard by the authorized signatory of the Bidder	Declaration duly notarized on stamp paper of **INR 100** in this regard by the authorized signatory of the Bidder

	No. 10 (Supporting Documents)		
8	Clause 2.2.2, PQ Criterion No. 11	In clause 2.2.2 the following shall be added.	The Bidder shall have availability of candidates to be placed as per the Scope of Work. — Candidate profiles/CVs of at least 2 (two) candidates for each position (6 CVs in total) having the requisite qualifications and experience as specified under the Scope of Services.
9	Clause 2.12.3(i)	"Proof of submission of Bid Security in accordance with Clause 2.24 and the Data Sheet."	"Proof of submission of Bid Security in accordance with Clause 2.24, including NEFT/RTGS receipt, Demand Draft or Bank Guarantee, as applicable."
10	Clause 2.12.4(b)	"NEFT/ RTGS Demand Draft towards the Bid Security as required under Clause 2.24."	"NEFT/RTGS receipt, original Demand Draft or original Bank Guarantee, as applicable, towards the Bid Security as required under Clause 2.24."
11	Clause 2.24	2.24.1 The Bidder shall furnish as part of its Bid, a Bid Security referred to in Clauses 2.1.5 hereinabove in the form of a demand draft issued by a Scheduled Bank in India, drawn in favour of the Authority and payable at National Horticulture Board (the "Demand Draft") or through NEFT/RTGS at the details mentioned in clause 1.3. The Authority shall not be liable to pay any interest on the Bid Security deposit so made and the same shall be interest free. 2.24.2 Any Bid not accompanied by the Bid Security shall be summarily rejected by the Authority as non-responsive. 2.24.3 Save and except as provided in Clause 1.2.5 above, the Bid Security of unsuccessful Bidders will be returned by the Authority, without any interest, as promptly as possible on acceptance of the Bid of the Selected Bidder or when the Bidding process is cancelled by the Authority, and in any case within 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the Bid Due Date. Where Bid	2.24.1 The Bidder shall furnish as part of its Bid, a Bid Security referred to in Clauses 2.1.5 hereinabove in the form of a Demand Draft issued by a Scheduled Bank in India, drawn in favour of the Authority and payable at National Horticulture Board (the "Demand Draft"), or through NEFT/RTGS transfer at the details mentioned in Clause 1.3, **or by way of a Bank Guarantee issued by a Nationalised Bank or a Scheduled Bank in India in the format prescribed at Annexure 1 of Corrigendum No. 1.** The Authority shall not be liable to pay any interest on the Bid Security deposit so made and the same shall be interest free. 2.24.2 Any Bid not accompanied by the Bid Security shall be summarily rejected by the Authority as non-responsive. However, **Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and firms registered with the concerned Ministries/Departments, which are eligible for exemption from submission of Bid Security under applicable Government of India policies and have submitted**

		Security has been paid by Demand Draft, the refund thereof shall be in the form of an account payee demand draft in favour of the unsuccessful Bidder(s). Bidders may by specific instructions in writing to the Authority give the name and address of the person in whose favour the said demand draft shall be drawn by the Authority for refund, failing which it shall be drawn in the name of the Bidder and shall be mailed to the address given on the Bid.	**valid documentary evidence such as UDYAM Certificate in support of such exemption, shall be exempt from submission of Bid Security.** 2.24.3 Save and except as provided in Clause 1.2.5 above, the Bid Security of unsuccessful Bidders will be returned by the Authority, without any interest, as promptly as possible on acceptance of the Bid of the Selected Bidder or when the Bidding Process is cancelled by the Authority, and in any case within 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the Bid Due Date. Where Bid Security has been paid by Demand Draft, the refund thereof shall be in the form of an account payee demand draft in favour of the unsuccessful Bidder(s). Where Bid Security has been furnished in the form of a Bank Guarantee, the same shall be returned/released by the Authority. Bidders may by specific instructions in writing to the Authority give the name and address of the person in whose favour the said demand draft shall be drawn by the Authority for refund, failing which it shall be drawn in the name of the Bidder and shall be mailed to the address given on the Bid.
12	Annexure-I, Para 22	"I/ We offer a Bid Security of INR ₹7,20,000 (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) to the Authority in accordance with the RFP Document."	"I/We offer a Bid Security of INR ₹7,20,000 (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) to the Authority in accordance with the RFP and Corrigendum No. 1 or claim exemption under Clause 2.24.2, as applicable."
13	Annexure-I, Para 23	"The Bid Security in the form of a {Demand Draft/ NEFT/RTGS} has been submitted."	"The Bid Security in the form of a {Demand Draft/NEFT/RTGS/Bank Guarantee} has been submitted."

-Sd-
(Dr. Vijay Kumar Doharey)
Dy. Managing Director

ANNEXURE 1

BANK GUARANTEE FOR BID SECURITY

(Refer Clauses 2.1.5 and 2.25.1)

B.G. No. Dated:

1. In consideration of you, …………………………..……, having its office at ……………….., (hereinafter referred to as the "Authority", which expression shall unless it be repugnant to the subject or context thereof include its, successors and assigns) having agreed to receive the Bid of … (a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956/2013) and having its registered office at ……………………… (hereinafter referred to as the "Bidder" which expression shall unless it be repugnant to the subject or context thereof include its/their executors, administrators, successors and assigns), for **Engagement of a Manpower Agency for Providing Subject Matter Specialist/ Expert for The Cluster Development Programme of National Horticulture Board** (hereinafter referred to as "**the Project**") pursuant to the RFP Document dated issued in respect of the Project and other related documents including without limitation the draft Service Agreement (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Bidding Documents"), we (Name of the Bank) having our registered office at ……………………… and one of its branches at …………………….. (hereinafter referred to as the "Bank"), at the request of the Bidder, do hereby in terms of Clause 2.1.5 read with Clause 2.1.6 of the RFP Document, irrevocably, unconditionally and without reservation guarantee the due and faithful fulfilment and compliance of the terms and conditions of the Bidding Documents (including the RFP Document) by the said Bidder and unconditionally and irrevocably undertake to pay forthwith to the Authority an amount of Rs.…………. (Rupees ……………………….. only) (hereinafter referred to as the "Guarantee") as our primary obligation without any demur, reservation, recourse, contest or protest and without reference to the Bidder if the Bidder shall fail to fulfil or comply with all or any of the terms and conditions contained in the said Bidding Documents.

2. Any such written demand made by the Authority stating that the Bidder is in default of the due and faithful fulfilment and compliance with the terms and conditions contained in the Bidding Documents shall be final, conclusive and binding on the Bank.

3. We, the Bank, do hereby unconditionally undertake to pay the amounts due and payable under this Guarantee without any demur, reservation, recourse, contest or protest and without any reference to the Bidder or any other person and irrespective of whether the claim of the Authority is disputed by the Bidder or not, merely on the first demand from the Authority stating that the amount claimed is due to the Authority by reason of failure of the Bidder to fulfil and comply with the terms and conditions contained in the Bidding Documents including failure of the said Bidder to keep its Bid open during the Bid validity period as set forth in the said Bidding Documents for any reason whatsoever. Any such demand made on the Bank shall be conclusive as regards amount due and payable by the Bank under this Guarantee. However, our liability under this Guarantee shall be restricted to an amount not exceeding Rs (Rupees

…................................... only).

4. This Guarantee shall be irrevocable and remain in full force for a period of 180 (one hundred and eighty) days from the Bid Due Date inclusive of a claim period of 60 (sixty) days or for such extended period as may be mutually agreed between the Authority and the Bidder, and agreed to by the Bank, and shall continue to be enforceable till all amounts under this Guarantee have been paid.

5. We, the Bank, further agree that the Authority shall be the sole judge to decide as to whether the Bidder is in default of due and faithful fulfilment and compliance with the terms and conditions contained in the Bidding Documents including, *inter alia*, the failure of the Bidder to keep its Bid open during the Bid validity period set forth in the said Bidding Documents, and the decision of the Authority that the Bidder is in default as aforesaid shall be final and binding on us, notwithstanding any differences between the Authority and the Bidder or any dispute pending before any Court, Tribunal, Arbitrator or any other authority.

6. The Guarantee shall not be affected by any change in the constitution or winding up of the Bidder or the Bank or any absorption, merger or amalgamation of the Bidder or the Bank with any other person.

7. In order to give full effect to this Guarantee, the Authority shall be entitled to treat the Bank as the principal debtor. The Authority shall have the fullest liberty without affecting in any way the liability of the Bank under this Guarantee from time to time to vary any of the terms and conditions contained in the said Bidding Documents or to extend time for submission of the Bids or the Bid validity period or the period for conveying acceptance of Letter of Award by the Bidder or the period for fulfilment and compliance with all or any of the terms and conditions contained in the said Bidding Documents by the said Bidder or to postpone for any time and from time to time any of the powers exercisable by it against the said Bidder and either to enforce or forbear from enforcing any of the terms and conditions contained in the said Bidding Documents or the securities available to the Authority, and the Bank shall not be released from its liability under these presents by any exercise by the Authority of the liberty with reference to the matters aforesaid or by reason of time being given to the said Bidder or any other forbearance, act or omission on the part of the Authority or any indulgence by the Authority to the said Bidder or by any change in the constitution of the Authority or its absorption, merger or amalgamation with any other person or any other matter or thing whatsoever which under the law relating to sureties would but for this provision have the effect of releasing the Bank from its such liability.

a)

8. Any notice by way of request, demand or otherwise hereunder shall be sufficiently given or made if addressed to the Bank and sent by courier or by registered mail to the Bank at the address set forth herein.

9. We undertake to make the payment on receipt of your notice of claim on us addressed to [name of Bank along with branch address] and delivered at our above branch which shall be deemed to have been duly authorised to receive the said notice of claim.

10. It shall not be necessary for the Authority to proceed against the said Bidder before proceeding against the Bank and the guarantee herein contained shall be enforceable against the Bank, notwithstanding any other security which the Authority may have obtained from the said Bidder or any other person and which shall, at the time when proceedings are taken against the Bank hereunder, be outstanding or unrealised.

11. We, the Bank, further undertake not to revoke this Guarantee during its currency except with the previous express consent of the Authority in writing.

12. The Bank declares that it has power to issue this Guarantee and discharge the obligations contemplated herein, the undersigned is duly authorised and has full power to execute this Guarantee for and on behalf of the Bank.

13. For the avoidance of doubt, the Bank's liability under this Guarantee shall be restricted to Rs. ……… crore (Rupees ……………......... crore only). The Bank shall be liable to pay the said amount or any part thereof only if the Authority serves a written claim on the Bank in accordance with paragraph 9 hereof, on or before [……. (indicate date falling 180 days after the Bid Due Date)].

Signed and Delivered by....................................Bank

By the hand of Mr./Ms …………………….., its ………………….. and authorised official.

(Signature of the Authorised Signatory)

(Official Seal)

RESPONSE TO PRE-BID QUERIES

Sl.	Page number and section of RFP	Statement	Our queries	NHB's response / clarification
1	p. 14, Clause 2.2.2 item 4	The Bidder should be registered for or obtained a valid labour license issued by the competent labour authority, wherever applicable under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 or any other Applicable Law.	We understand that the license requirement applies only where the relevant law requires one. The estimated initial deployment is three experts per cluster for 12 clusters (36 experts), and a specialist consulting firm may therefore have no applicable license to produce at the bidding stage. We humbully request NHB to delete item 4 as a prequalification condition. This would permit wider participation. If item 4 is retained, we request confirmation that a reasoned declaration of non-applicability will be accepted.	Clause 2.2.2, Item 4 applies only where registration or a labour licence is required under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 or any other Applicable Law. A Bidder to whom such requirement is not applicable as on the Bid Due Date shall submit, in lieu of the licence, a duly signed declaration stating the factual and legal basis of non-applicability. Such declaration shall be accompanied by relevant supporting documents, wherever available. Acceptance of the declaration shall remain subject to verification by NHB. **Kindly refer to corrigendum 1.**
2	p. 14, Clause 2.2.2 item 5	For the purpose of this RFP, "Similar Services" shall mean assignments involving recruitment, deployment, management, payroll administration or staffing of manpower / outsourced	We request confirmation that a government or government-supported PMC or technical assistance assignment may qualify where the firm recruited, deployed,	Such an assignment may qualify only to the extent that its contractual scope expressly includes recruitment, engagement, deployment, management, payroll administration or staffing of manpower, professional staff, technical personnel or expert consultants for an eligible client covered under the definition of Similar Services.

		personnel / professional staff / technical personnel / expert consultants for Government Departments, PSUs, autonomous bodies, statutory authorities, government-supported projects or similar institutional client.	paid and managed experts as part of a wider consulting contract.	The mere engagement of a bidder for a PMC, advisory or technical-assistance assignment shall not, by itself, qualify as Similar Services. The Bidder shall establish the relevant scope through the agreement, Letter of Award, work order, client certificate or other supporting documents prescribed under Clause 2.2.2, Item 5.
3	pp. 14–15, Clause 2.2.2 item 5	The Bidder shall have successfully completed/initiated at least 3 (three) assignments for Similar Services of any value during the last 5 (five) years immediately preceding the Bid Due Date for Central Government Departments, State Government Departments, PSUs, Autonomous Bodies, Statutory Authorities or Government-supported institutions. During the last seven financial years preceding the current financial year, the Bidder shall have successfully executed or completed Similar Services meeting any one of the following: the total contract value shall be divided by the total period in years	We understand these to be separate cumulative requirements and request confirmation that the same eligible assignments may be used to demonstrate both. Where a contract includes other advisory services, should its annualised value be assessed on the whole contract or only the identifiable Similar Services component?	The requirement concerning at least three Similar Service assignments during the immediately preceding five years and the Minimum Value of Similar Services requirement during the immediately preceding seven financial years are separate and cumulative eligibility requirements. The same assignment may be relied upon under both requirements, provided that it independently satisfies the applicable definition, period, status, documentary evidence and value requirements. In a composite contract, only the value demonstrably attributable to Similar Services shall be considered. The entire contract value shall be considered only where the contract documents establish that the whole contractual scope qualifies as Similar Services. For composite contracts, only the value attributable to Similar Services, as evidenced from the agreement, work order, client certificate, completion certificate or other supporting documents submitted by the Bidder, shall be considered. NHB may seek clarification in accordance with Clause 2.19 of the RFP. Annualization shall be undertaken by dividing the eligible contract value by the corresponding contract period expressed in years.

4	p. 16, Technical Scoring Criteria, item 2	30 Marks: Aggregate annualised value of Similar Services is equal to the minimum qualifying value and up to 1.5 times such minimum qualifying value. ₹4.32 crore to ₹6.48 crore: 20 Marks	We request a corrected marking table and confirmation of the scale that will be applied to the minimum qualifying score of 70 marks.	**No Change.** **Explanation:** The Technical Scoring Criteria shall be evaluated in accordance with the substantive marking criteria prescribed under Evaluation Parameter No. 2, which allocates a maximum score of 40 marks and prescribes score bands of 30 marks, 35 marks and 40 marks. The illustrative examples are required to be read harmoniously with the substantive evaluation criteria and the overall allocation of 40 marks under the said parameter. The Minimum Technical Score shall remain 70 marks out of 100.
5	p. 13, Clause 2.2.2 item 1; p. 24, Clause 2.24; p. 52, Agreement Clause 21	"The Bidder shall have submitted Bid Security / EMD of INR ₹7,20,000 (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Thousand Only) in the form and manner prescribed in this RFP."	We understand that eligible Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) may receive exemption from EMD under the applicable public procurement policy. We request NHB to confirm whether a bidder with valid Udyam registration as a Micro or Small service provider may claim exemption from the ₹7,20,000 EMD, notwithstanding the "no relaxation" clause. If so, kindly amend the RFP and enable the exemption on GeM. Please also confirm whether any tender document or processing fee is payable, whether eligible MSEs are exempt from it, and	**Kindly Refer to Corrigendum 1** No tender document fee or processing fee has been prescribed under the RFP. The requirement of Performance Security is separate and shall continue to apply to the Selected Bidder.

			whether the separate 5% Performance Security remains required after award.	
6	p. 17, Clause 2.2; p. 40, Agreement Clause 4.1	The Bidder shall enclose with its Technical Bid, to be submitted as per the format at Appendix-II, complete with its Annexes and supporting documents as mentioned in Clause 2.2.2. Upon issuance of a requisition by NHB/SHM, the Service Provider shall submit at least three (3) eligible curriculum vitae/resumes for each approved position, together with supporting documents evidencing the prescribed qualifications and experience, within ten (10) working days from the date of such requisition.	We understand that no Approach and Methodology, work plan or candidate CVs are required with the technical bid. Kindly confirm that CVs become due within 10 working days after each post-award requisition.	**Kindly refer to Corrigendum 1**
7	p. 48, Agreement Clause 13.5	For avoidance of doubt, NHB/SHM shall not make any separate payment or reimbursement towards EPF, ESIC, gratuity, bonus, insurance, statutory challans or any other statutory or employment-related liability over and above the prescribed	We request clarification of which employer-side statutory costs are already included in the prescribed honorarium and which, if any, the agency must meet from its quoted service charge.	The Agency Agreement expressly provides that no separate payment or reimbursement shall be made towards EPF, ESIC, gratuity, bonus, insurance, statutory challans or any other statutory or employment-related liability over and above the prescribed Honorarium, admissible amounts and accepted Service Charge. Bidders are required to independently assess the incidence of all statutory liabilities applicable to them while quoting the Service Charge.

		Honorarium, admissible amounts and accepted Service Charge.		The Service Provider shall remain responsible for determining, depositing and documenting all statutory contributions in accordance with Applicable Law. The Service Provider shall not deduct or recover its Service Charge, administrative expenditure, margin or employer-side statutory liability from the Honorarium payable to Personnel, except to the extent a deduction is expressly mandated by Applicable Law. Bidders shall account for all obligations and costs while quoting the Service Charge.
8	p. 7, Clause 1.2; p. 9, Clause 1.3	Financial Bids received with "NIL" Service Charge shall be treated as non-responsive and shall be rejected. The Bid price shall be quoted as Service Charge in percentage terms. Applicable taxes shall be indicated separately and shall be payable in accordance with Applicable Law.	We request confirmation of the minimum and any maximum service-charge percentage permitted for this GeM bid, and whether the percentage entered on GeM must be exclusive of GST as indicated by the RFP.	The RFP does not prescribe a numerical minimum Service Charge, except that a **NIL or zero Service Charge is non-responsive**. No maximum Service Charge has been prescribed in the RFP. The Service Charge shall be quoted as a percentage of the total Honorarium payable to the deployed Personnel, in the manner prescribed in Appendix-III and on the GeM Portal. The quoted percentage shall be exclusive of GST and other applicable taxes. Where the GeM bid field applies a different system-based price-entry methodology, the Bidder shall follow the GeM bid configuration, read together with the price-breakup format prescribed by NHB. In case of any inconsistency between the Portal configuration and the RFP, the RFP shall prevail.
9	p. 7, Clause 1.2; p. 48, Agreement Clause 13.2	The Service Charge shall be exclusive of applicable taxes and shall constitute the sole criterion for evaluation of	We request confirmation that NHB will pay applicable GST in addition to these	GST shall be paid strictly in accordance with Applicable Law against a valid tax invoice.

		Financial Bids. Payment shall be made on the basis of the prescribed Honorarium and other admissible amounts payable to the deployed Personnel, together with the Service Charge quoted by the Service Provider and accepted by NHB, subject to certification of attendance and satisfactory performance by SHM/NHB.	amounts. Kindly specify the GST treatment and invoice basis for honorarium, service charge and actual TA/DA reimbursements etc.	The Service Provider shall indicate the Service Charge and applicable GST separately in its invoice. The taxable value and GST treatment of the Honorarium, Service Charge, TA/DA and other admissible amounts shall be determined in accordance with the applicable GST law. Reimbursement of TA/DA shall be restricted to actual expenditure supported by documentary evidence and shall not exceed the prescribed monthly ceiling. Nothing in the RFP shall be construed as granting a tax exemption or guaranteeing any GST treatment. Any tax, interest or penalty arising from an incorrect classification, valuation, invoice or statutory compliance attributable to the Service Provider shall be borne by the Service Provider.

S. No.	**Pre-Bid Query**	**NHB Response / Clarification**
1	Kindly provide the number of experts to be deployed state-wise and cluster-wise during the initial contract year	**Kindly refer to Annexure 2 of the Agency Agreement.** The indicative requirement of Subject Matter Specialists/Experts is provided therein. Deployment may be increased or decreased in accordance with Clause 1.1.7 of the RFP.
2	The CVs have to be submitted as a part of technical bid or subsequently after the issue of work order?	**Kindly refer to corrigendum 1.**
3	Will the Subject Matter Experts be stationed at SHM offices, NHB offices, or at Cluster locations? Kindly clarify the primary place of deployment.	**Kindly refer to Clause 1.1.7 of the RFP and Appendix-I of the Agency Agreement.** Deployment location shall be as determined by NHB/SHM based on project requirements.
4	Will the experts be provided laptop facilities by the client or it has to be arranged by the agency	**Kindly refer to Appendix-I of the Agency Agreement.** The Agency shall make necessary arrangements for performance of its obligations unless otherwise specified by NHB/SHM.

5	In case manpower requirement is reduced during the contract period, whether any compensation will be payable to the Agency for completed recruitment activities already undertaken?	**Kindly refer to Clause 1.1.7 of the RFP.** No separate compensation is envisaged under the RFP on account of increase or decrease in manpower requirements.
6	Is there any minimum notice period that NHB will provide before raising additional manpower requirements?	**Kindly refer to Clause 4.1 of the Agency Agreement.** Requirements shall be communicated by NHB/SHM in accordance with the provisions of the Agency Agreement.
7	For additional consultants/manpower requested by NHB and change in scope of work, kindly clarify whether the same Service Charge quoted in the financial bid will apply to all future requisitions irrespective of category and remuneration.	**Kindly refer to Clause 1.2.7 of the RFP and Clause 13.2 of the Agency Agreement.** The accepted Service Charge shall apply in accordance with the terms of the RFP and Agency Agreement.
8	Kindly clarify whether any upper ceiling or maximum permissible Service Charge percentage has been prescribed by NHB.	**Kindly refer to Clause 1.2.7 of the RFP.** No maximum Service Charge has been prescribed. However, NIL Service Charge shall be treated as non-responsive.
9	We are a consultancy organization, for which labour license and registration/licence under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 are not applicable. We provide manpower services as PMU/PMA/PMC/TSA to Central and State Govts./Deptts./Agencies for implementation of flagship schemes. We request you to kindly eliminate this criteria.	**Kindly refer to Corrigendum 1.**
10	Kindly confirm whether extension shall be at the same Service Charge and terms without fresh competition.	**Kindly refer to Clause 2 (Term of Engagement) of Appendix-I Part C.** Any extension of the contract shall be governed by the provisions of the RFP, Agency Agreement and applicable procurement requirements.
11	Kindly clarify whether the contract extension for subsequent years will require fresh approval from GeM or shall continue through contract amendment.	**Kindly refer to Clause 2 (Term of Engagement) of Appendix-I Part C.** Any extension shall be subject to applicable GeM provisions and procurement requirements prevailing at the relevant time.
12	Honorarium is stated as inclusive of all statutory liabilities. Kindly clarify whether GST on Agency Service Charge will be reimbursed separately over and above the honorarium amount.	**Kindly refer to Clauses 13.2 and 13.6 of the Agency Agreement.** Applicable taxes shall be dealt with in accordance with Applicable Law against submission of a valid tax invoice.

13	If experts are deployed outside their home state, does NHB intend to provide any relocation allowance, settling-in allowance, or accommodation support for experts posted in distant locations?	**Kindly refer to Annexure 2 of the Agency Agreement.** No such allowance is provided under the RFP.
14	Will experts deployed in remote, tribal, hilly, North-Eastern, or difficult areas be eligible for additional compensation beyond the prescribed honorarium and TA/DA?	**Kindly refer to Annexure 2 of the Agency Agreement.** No additional compensation beyond the prescribed Honorarium and admissible TA/DA is envisaged under the RFP.
15	The TA/DA limit is capped at ₹10,000 per month. In case actual field travel expenditure exceeds this limit due to project requirements, whether additional reimbursement shall be admissible?	**Kindly refer to Annexure 2 of the Agency Agreement.** TA/DA is reimbursable on actuals subject to a maximum ceiling of ₹10,000 per month.
16	Will lodging and boarding expenses during official field visits be reimbursed separately or be included within the ₹10,000 monthly ceiling?	**Kindly refer to Annexure 2 of the Agency Agreement.** Reimbursement shall be restricted to TA/DA entitlement prescribed therein and shall remain subject to the overall monthly ceiling.
17	Will this also include overtime allowance?	**Kindly refer to Annexure 2 and Clause 13.5 of the Agency Agreement.** No overtime allowance is provided under the RFP.
18	In addition, we also request for Bid submission date extension by atleast two weeks post issue of corrigendum	**Kindly refer to Clauses 2.8, 2.9 and 2.10 of the RFP.** The request has been noted. Any extension of the Bid Due Date, if considered necessary, shall be notified by NHB in accordance with the RFP.