

## Rajasthan's ease of doing business ranking falls to 9th, still in top achiever's group

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JAIPUR: Rajasthan has slipped by one spot in the ease of doing business rankings to 9th position even as it manages to remain in the group of top achiever states in the country by securing 95.68% out of 100.

### RAJ VS TOP 5 RANKING STATES

| States    | Reform Scorecard | Feedback Scorecard |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------|
| Andhra    | 99.73%           | 86.50%             |
| Telangana | 100%             | 83.95%             |
| Haryana   | 99.73%           | 83.90%             |
| Jharkhand | 100%             | 81.67%             |
| Gujarat   | 99.73%           | 83.64%             |
| Rajasthan | 99.40%           | 64.44%             |

While Rajasthan has done well in the implementation of reforms, on the user feedback front the performance has been less aggressive as in the top ranking states. In 2015 and 2016, the state ranked 6th and 8th respectively in the country and made a lot of policy changes to climb up the ladder.

Speaking to TOI, top government officials said what pulled down the ranking, even though marginally, is the single window clearance system (SWCS).

The single window clearance system offers 87 services but some of the key departments have also their own mechanism for providing approvals. For example, most of the industrialists go directly to the revenue department or the pollution control board for getting approvals. He said this is the main reason why complaints take more time to address.

Last month, commissioner of industries and BIP Krishna Kunal held an inter-departmental review meeting to strengthen the effectiveness of SWCS and requested the officers from various departments to study the existing mechanism and identify areas in the approval process where improvements can be made.

He had also urged them to undertake a benchmarking exercise against the states like Andhra, Telangana, and Gujarat for adopting best practices and making the system more effective.

For 2017 rankings, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) the World Bank, which prepare the index, carried

out a business-to-government (B2G) feedback exercise, whereby feedback will be taken from businesses on the quality of implementation of the reforms claimed by states and Union Territories. Out of the 372 reforms, 78 action points were selected for which feedback will be solicited from the actual users or businesses.

Senior members of industry bodies in the state said that the business climate has certainly improved in many areas but the administration need to plug all the loop-holes that delay approvals and clearances.

“We are not so much concerned about the rankings. The mindset needs to change and this is happening but will take time for an overall shift in attitude, especially among the lower-rung of the government machinery,” said the industry body leader.

Apart from the SWCS, reforms in the ‘availability land’ and environment enablers have not been as effective as in other areas. But the state has done well in areas like access to information and transparency, construction permits, etc.