

Punjab government suspends all toll plazas till lockdown: PWD minister

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**Suspension of toll operations will save crucial time of emergency services: Vijay Inder Singla**

**Cabinet minister also allows health dept to use PWD rest houses as isolation centres**

Chandigarh, March 27:

Public Works Minister Punjab Mr. Vijay Inder Singla, on Friday, announced that the state government has decided to suspend tolling operations at all State Toll Plazas of Punjab till the period of lockdown to control the spread of coronavirus. Singla said that as many as 23 toll plazas were operational under state government in Punjab.

The cabinet minister said that the curfew has been announced in the state and only emergency vehicles are plying on the roads which required to move rapidly. He added that it has been decided that the situation arising out of the said epidemic shall be construed as a Non-Political Force Majeure event in terms of the Concession Agreement.

Mr. Vijay Inder Singla also puts PWD rests houses across Punjab at the disposal of health department by allowing them to use these as isolation centres in any crucial situation. He added that education and public works department has extended its full support to the health department and even the school buildings could also be evacuated immediately after the requisition of administration.

Mr. Singla said that Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has pressed all the required services to curb the contamination of Covid-19 in the state and problems of the residents are being addressed on priority basis. He added that for the timely distribution of essential items, the state government has directed the districts to use all possible options available including zomato, swiggy etc. He added that to bring back stranded residents from various locations, the district magistrates have also been asked to issue special passes for their safer movement to their homes.