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THE GANDHIDHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(ESTD. 1953)

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No. GCCI / 255

Date: 12.07.2018

Shri C R Chaudhary
Minister of State for Commerce & Industry
Dept. of Industrial Policy and Promotion,
Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi

Sub: Various issues related to salt industries.

Dear Sir,

The Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce & Industry is a pioneer organisation of Kandla – Gandhidham complex in Kachchh-Gujarat since 1953 with the main objective to serve as a bridge between local trade and industry fraternity and State / Central Govt. for the resolution of problems and also to endeavour for the welfare of citizens and township in public interest.

A) Closer of Salt Office

We may invite your attention on the Constitution of India according to which Salt is the Central subject vide item no 58, seventh schedule of the Constitution and Union Government is responsible for controlling production, distribution and supply of salt throughout India. Ministry of Industry, department of Industrial Policy and promotion is answerable to the Parliament on all issues related to Salt. It may be noted that it is not in the concurrent list hence unless Constitution is amended Union Govt. will be responsible on all issues related to salt.

Ministry of railways, at the instance of the Ministry of Industry has made special provision relating to the dispatch of salt in railways Good Act. Salt is the only commodity which command three freight structure namely for industrial salt, edible refined salt and edible non refined salt attracting different freight when transported by rail. It also attract two different priority for transportation. Namely C and D. While Salt Commissioner releases program for the supply of wagon under Priority C but category D no program is released. Salt Officer posted at the salt loading station countersign indents for supply of wagons and Railways is charging freight based on the indents signed by the Salt Officer.

Having said so, it is stated that so far all issues related to salt were dealt by the Salt Commissioner and industry was running smoothly. In absence of salt Commissioner or his responsible representative in Gujarat, the program for the release of wagon under Priority C is either not issued or there is delay.

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For instance our members wanted to dispatch non refined iodised salt to Nagaland in the month of April, 2018. They approached Salt Commissioner Office but program has not been released so far. We tried to contact Salt Commissioner at Delhi office but he is not available. He does not attended call on his mobile phone nor call back afterward. Our member do not know whom to approach. It may be noted that nominees system in all North east state except in Assam, Tripura and West Bengal has been abolished long back. Railways would accept indents if program is released by the Salt Commissioner.

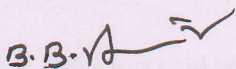
Further it is a matter of concern that Indian Government proposes to close Salt Offices across India as a part of reorganization of various government departments without making an alternative arrangement. We feel Industry should be taken into confidence. We do agree that re-organisation is a welcome exercise, however closing of salt offices certainly deserved re-consideration as submitted earlier vide our letter no. GCCI/383 dated 20.11.2017 [copy of the same is enclosed herewith for your ready reference].

While we have been promised that the concern department would look issues related to the Salt industry. Does Government expect us to approach many department, is policy of single window system has been changed?

We therefore request you to look in to matter and arrange a single window system where issue like supply of wagon particularly when shortage of salt is reported by the whole-seller from the consuming area, issues related to the closure of railways line for placement of wagon against the pending indents etc., registration of salt units including salt iodisation units, salt refineries for the purpose of arranging allotment of wagon for transporting salt, environmental issues related to salt etc. are resolved.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



Babubhai B. Humbal
President

Encl: As above.