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THE GANDHIDHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(ESTD. 1953)

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No. GCCI / 282

Date:20.09.2017

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman,
Honourable Defence Minister,
Raksha Mantralay,
Government of India,
104, South Block,
New Delhi

Sub: Potential of Kandla Port (SEZ) to tap the requirements of defence sector under FDI policy

Respected Madam,

We, 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.

It is a matter of immense pleasure that the able leader like you have assumed the important portfolio of defence and we hope our defence force and system will achieve new heights under your able leadership.

We cordially invite you to visit Kandla Port – Kachchh District which is No. 1 Major Port of India located at western coast in the state of Gujarat. In view of Kandla Port's location, it carries a strategic importance and immense potential for the development of defence weapon / vehicles industries.

Therefore, we wish to bring to your notice the following so that you can get appraised about ground realities from defence aspect and potential of Kandla Port.

- 1) Kandla Port has earmarked land for the development of Special Economic Zone which is under progress to boost Export – Import activities at Kandla Port. Hence, there is immense scope and potential to set-up defence weapon industrial units here.
- 2) Kachchh district has availability of huge vacant land for the industrialisation and hence, particularly, weapon accessory units can be established there as back-up units for weapon manufacturing units established in SEZ near Kandla Port.
- 3) Now, Kachchh District is having facility of Narmada Water for drinking and commercial activities. Similarly, Kachchh District is having many Thermal Power Plants in addition to availability of wind and solar energy.
- 4) There is regular air connectivity to Mumbai from District Head Quarter Bhuj and Kandla. Air – connectivity with Delhi is expected in near future. Kachchh District and particularly Kandla & Mundra Port are well connected with major locations of India by Road and Rail.

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Date: 24/09/2017

- 5) Kandla & Mundra Port are well linked through sea route and catering the needs of export – import cargo of Northern India. Now, costal movement of cargo has been started from Kandla Port and Shipping Ministry has also planned cruise services form Kandla Port.
- 6) Kachchh District has Air – Force station at Bhuj & Naliya which are well backed-up by air –force stations of Jamnagar of Gujarat and Jodhpur (Uttarlie) and Jaisalmer - Rajasthan.
- 7) Central Government has formulated policy for FDI in defence sector. Under new policy, Kandla will be a idle location to attract FDI in defence sector at proposed new SEZ near to Kandla Port.
- 8) Kandla Port is ideally located for Export – Import activities to Gulf and African Ports as well as other countries of the world. India is developing Chabahar Port at Iran to open new avenues for trade from Kandla Port which creates an ideal direct connectivity.
- 9) We strongly believe that if any other country invest as per FDI policy for defence sector at Kandla then Western India Border will be more safe. Keeping in view commercial interest of other leading country, no enemy will dare to attack India on western front.

In light of the above facts and scenario, we suggest to tap and explore Kandla to invite and attract FDI in defence sector.

We hope you would accept our invitation and visit Kandla Port and nearby areas to get apprised and access the potential for the defence sector.

We eagerly await your visit to Kandla.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Babaubhai B Humbal

President

Copy to: Shri Vinodbhai Chavda, Member of Parliament (Kachchh – Morvi Constituency)