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# THE GANDHIDHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(ESTD. 1953)

"CHAMBER BHAVAN", Plot No. 71, Sector 8, Post Box No. 58,

GANDHIDHAM - Kachchh - 370 201.

Phone : +91-02836-220977, 220735 • Mobile : 99250 37814 • Fax : 220888

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No. GCCI / 288

Date: 23.09.2017

Shri Narendrabhai Modi, Honourable Prime Minister of India, South Block, Raisina Hill, New Delhi-110001	Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Room No. 45, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 107	Shri Ramesh Abhishek Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Room No. 45, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 107
Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family, Department of Health & Family, Room No. 348 - A, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi	Shri C K Mishra, Secretary, Department of Health & Family, Room No. 156 - A, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi	

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 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.

Please refer to our letter No. GCCI/78 dt. 15.06.2017 [public grievance reg. no. PMOPG/D/2017/0306147] and your reply vide letter no. P-34029/17/2017-salt, Government of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, New Delhi dated 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2107. We understand that the Government is initiating steps to close down the Salt Department which has been functioning under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion for several decades. Therefore, we would like to place the following objections as it has been stated in your letter that the duties / responsibilities of Salt Commission Organisation will be transferred to appropriate Ministers / Department before closure of SCO and there will not be any adverse impact on salt industry.

- 1) There is immense importance of salt offices across India which caters services to nation and billion people. Salt Production has increased by leaps and bounds after independence due to the close monitoring and guidance of Salt Department. India is self sufficient and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest salt producing country.

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- 2) The Salt Department is the nodal agency for the Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD) programme. Hence India still needs close monitoring of this programme. The Salt Department has made immense efforts in providing access of iodised salt to poor masses and helped India to achieve millennium development goals like reduction in child mortality and improvement in maternal health.
- 3) Gujarat is the main salt producing state contributing more than 75% production in the country followed by Rajasthan (13%) and Tamil Nadu (10%). The state of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu has surplus salt production to their requirement and cater to the needs of the deficient salt producing states in the country both for domestic requirements and also fulfill the country's export commitments.
- 4) Gujarat has produced 236.22 lakh MT common salt during the year 2016-17, iodised salt 14 lakh MT, refined iodised salt 34.93 lakh MT and dispatched industrial grade salt 90.09 lakh MT. The export has touched a new height and during the 2016-17 record 82.18 lakh MT salt has been exported.
- 5) The Salt Department monitors and managed production / dispatch of various types of salt through rail and road. In absence of such nodal agency, there will be chaos and negative impacts in salt sector which will further create impacts in distribution of salt in each and every corner of India.
- 6) The iodised salt is prime product under the public distribution system in India where in Salt Department plays proactive and significant role to cater the needs of poor masses.
- 7) The double fortified salt has recently been introduced and various state Governments are providing the DFS through public distribution system. The Salt Department has facilitated in industry in the production of DFS and its supply to poor masses through public distribution system.
- 8) The efforts of the Salt Department have been appreciated in making such efforts and make the industry equipped with modern techniques.

It has been observed that in Gujarat Salt Region, the Regional Head post (Deputy Salt Commissioner, Ahmedabad) is vacant since 2010. The other key post of lower order officers, i.e. Superintendent of Salt, Gandhidham / Dhrangadhra / Jamnagar / Ahmedabad is vacant. So many Factory Offices / STL have been closed / merged and staff has been drastically reduced. Now days this is the position that there is no responsible officer with whom we may discuss

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**

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our issues in favour of this industry. At least two Class – I Gazetted Officers and two Class – II Gazetted Officers should be posted to look after this upbringing industry. The Salt Department is running in crises like situation as all key posts of Deputy Salt Commissioner / Superintendent of Salt are vacant. The Gujarat Salt Industry requires strengthening the salt department. The key posts should be filled up immediately. At the present circumstances, salt department lacking in strength and we find it difficult as there is always necessary to have officers to solve the industry issues with railway and local state government.

It is to apprise that there is only one Group - A Officer working in entire Gujarat Salt Region. Being a major Salt Manufacturing area of country, it is necessary to post at least one Group – A Gazetted Officer in Gujarat Salt Region on regular basis so the problems of this area if any, may be sorted out by that officer as we have come to know that the staff is reducing day by day and there is acute shortage of Group – A officer in the department along with other officers. Therefore, we request you to kindly ensure that one Group – A Officer must be there in Gujarat Salt Region on regular basis along with Group – B Gazetted Officer.

Therefore, in view of the reasons mentioned above, our Chamber request the Government of India to facilitate the proceedings and strengthen the Salt Department by taking note of its positive role in the larger interest of the nation till it survive. Please refer to the letter received from Ministry of Commerce & Industry it is clear that steps has been taken to close / merge the Salt Commissioner Organization.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,



Babubhai B Humbal  
President

Yours Faithfully



(Arun Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Govt of India

Encl: A copy of letter received from Ministry of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi.  
[Ref. No. P-34029/17/2017/salt dated 13.07.2017]

Copy for information to:

1. Sh. Samir Kumar, Section Officer, PMO, South Block, New Delhi (w.ct.

Copy to: Shri Vinodbhai Chavda,  
M.P. – Morvi – Kachchh Constituency  
Bhuj

17/0306147 dt. 28.07.2017)

Chamber Bhavan, w.ct. PG Reg. No.

17/0306147 dt. 29.06.2017.

23/8

No. P-34029/17/2017-Salt  
Government of India  
Ministry of Commerce & Industry  
Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion  
(Salt Section)

Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi  
Date: 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2017

✓ Sh. Dinesh Gupta,  
The Gandhidham Chamber of Commerce & Industry,  
Chamber Bhawan, Plot No. 71,  
Sector-8, Gandhidham, Kachchh,  
Gujarat - 370201.

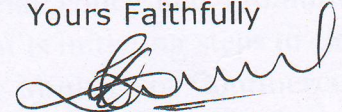
Subject: Public Grievance from Sh. Dinesh Gupta (Reg. No. PMOPG/D/2017/0306147) - regarding.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to refer to your public grievance (Reg. No. PMOPG/D/2017/0306147) dated 29.06.2017 for re-consideration of closure of Salt Commissioner's Office. It is stated that based upon the recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) in September, 2001 and subsequent evaluation study on 'Manpower Assessment and Rationalization of SCO' by National Productivity Council (NPC) in December, 2015; a conscious decision has been taken for re-structuring/closure of Salt Commissioner's Organization (SCO).

2. It is also stated that the duties/responsibilities of SCO will be transferred to appropriate Ministries/Departments before closure of SCO and there shall not be any adverse impact on salt manufactures/salt industry and salt workers.

Yours Faithfully



(Arun Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Govt of India

Ph: 011-23063096

E-mail:

[a.kumar64@nic.in](mailto:a.kumar64@nic.in)

Copy for information to:

1. Sh. Samir Kumar, Section Officer, PMO, South Block, New Delhi (w.r.t. PMO ID no. PMOPG/D/2017/0306147 dt. 28.07.2017)

2. PR&C Section, DIPP, Udyog Bhawan, w.r.t. PG Reg. No. PMOPG/D/2017/0306147 dt. 29.06.2017.