

FICCI

National Executive Committee Meeting

SPECIAL ADDRESS

By

DR. KALAINAR M.KARUNANIDHI
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Date: 2nd November, 2006
Time: 12.30 P.M.

Venue : Hotel Park Sheraton & Towers,
TTK Road, Alwarpet, Chennai.

I am very happy to be with FICCI today on the occasion of FICCI's Executive Committee meeting in Chennai. FICCI is one of the top industry associations. It has been regularly in touch with the State Government at various levels. We value FICCI's contribution to policy making.

As economists say, it is boom time. Indian economy is experiencing a boom mainly due to the progressive policies of the Government of India in the last two years. Foreign investors are shifting their focus from China to India. We need to work together as one team.

We are in an era of global markets without boundaries. Competition is an unwritten law in all walks of life. While FICCI members compete for business, State Governments are competing for investments and creation of jobs. Tamil Nadu has been and will continue to be a front-runner in attracting large number of domestic and foreign investors. The manufacturing sector is a significant employment provider in Tamil Nadu. However, the service sector has emerged as the major player in providing employment. Hence, Government of Tamil Nadu wants a healthy growth of both manufacturing and

service sectors. Support and contribution of FICCI to this process is vital.

Investment proposals are pouring into Tamil Nadu every day. Proactive initiatives of the State Government and investor confidence in Tamil Nadu are the key reasons. This needs to be sustained. I have therefore announced setting up of an *Industrial Task Force* under my Chairmanship.

Tamil Nadu Government is investor-friendly and transparent in decision-making. Further, State Government has been quick in responding to investment proposals. Most importantly, we honour commitments

made to investors. It is no wonder that Tamil Nadu is one of the major recipients of industrial investments, particularly, foreign direct investment. *Within five months of forming the new Government, State Government has entered into MoUs with Motorola, Appollo Tyres, Tessolve and DELL of USA and Feng Tay of Taiwan. These 5 projects involve investments totaling Rupees Two Thousand and Three Hundred Crores. These five projects will create direct and indirect employment for about 50,000 persons.*

While we are keen on attracting investments, we are equally focused on

development of infrastructure in Tamil Nadu. Our commitment is evident by the fact that the historical Sethusamudram project was launched on 2.7.2005 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at a cost of Rupees Two Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Eight crores. Tuticorin Port Trust has initiated ambitious plans to develop the inner harbour. Ennore Port Limited has announced plans to develop coal, chemical, LNG, iron-ore and a container terminal. Chennai Port is likely to establish a second container terminal. All this is possible because of our coordination with Government of India.

We intend to enhance quality of technical education to make students industry-ready. We need to raise them to cutting edge of technology. This has to be done in partnership with the industry. The need for skilled manpower is growing. I therefore request member-industries of FICCI to work closely with polytechnics or Industrial Training Institutes. Students in these institutions can be given access to regular training in the industry. I look forward to receiving active support from industries for this initiative.

You will all agree with me that development has to necessarily have a

human face. Growth in the economy must also mean growth in job opportunities. It must also mean greater opportunities for the under-privileged sections of society. The thrust of Government has always been to create employment opportunities for people of Tamil Nadu. Development of local communities through skill training, sharing business opportunities and widening choices available to them is our common goal.

Announcement of the Industrial Policy later this year will only renew our Government's commitment to economic development. I look forward to working very

**closely with FICCI in the coming months
and years. I wish the Executive Committee
Meeting all success.**

Thank You !

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