

PRESS RELEASE

Her Excellency Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Secretary of State met Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu today (20.7.2011) at the Secretariat, Fort St. George, Chennai, and discussed various social, political and economic issues of common interest.

At the outset, the US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton congratulated the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on her impressive electoral victory which would be the envy of any politician in the world. She also congratulated her on the many path-breaking achievements during her earlier stints as Chief Minister. She said that Selvi J Jayalalithaa's achievements were great success stories and she was eager to interact with such a great personality.

During this interaction, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu recalled the strong bilateral trade relationship between India and the United States and stated that US is India's third largest trading partner, the second most important export market, and the third most important source of imports. India exported 30 billion US \$ worth of services to the US in 2009-2010. India imported 10 billion US \$ worth of US services in 2009. Selvi J Jayalalithaa foresaw that Indian imports of US services would see a sharp increase in coming years as India's middle class market would grow larger.

Inviting more US investment in the Automobile Sector in Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu stated that Tamil Nadu enjoys pre-eminence in automotive / auto components. She said that Tamil Nadu is aspiring to become a global hub in these industries and the opportunities are enormous for the Tamil Nadu and the US Governments to work together and formulate a policy to engage CEOs from mid-size companies in each country, to work towards facilitating an enabling environment for small and medium enterprises, leveraging technology, and sourcing, and strengthening the global supply chain management system in the Automotive Sector. The US Secretary of State expressed the view that there was great potential for American investments in Tamil Nadu.

Touching upon the Solar Energy Sector, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa said that Solar energy and related technology is also a sector in which Tamil Nadu can provide vast opportunities on a long term basis. She stated that the Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed to establish 10 Solar Energy Parks of 300 MW each and this would require an investment of 9 billion US \$. The Government of Tamil Nadu and the US Government could work together to facilitate investment from US Companies in Tamil Nadu in this Sector.

Regarding Skill Development Initiatives, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu stated that Human Capital has always been a great asset of

Tamil Nadu and Education has a crucial role to play in its development. She stated that the employment potential of the State is 10-12 Million jobs between 2011 and 2020. The number of institutions for higher education and vocational training should increase by 4 times each to ensure this. Development of Vocational Training Institutes and upgradation of existing Industrial Training Institutes are possible if both the Government of Tamil Nadu and the US Government can join hands in promoting skill development. The US Secretary of State evinced keen interest in collaborative exchange programmes between training institutions in Tamil Nadu and the United States. The US Secretary of State expressed her desire that American students should come for internship with the American Companies and NGOs in Tamil Nadu.

As far as Road Infrastructure Connectivity is concerned, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu pointed out that roadways are the single most important component which account for over 60% of Cargo movement in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, roadways are a major concern for industry. She said that it is projected that the capacity required is 2.1 lakh Kms. with a spending of 15-20 billion US \$ by 2020. Selvi J Jayalalithaa pointed out that of particular importance is the development of road infrastructure at locations of economic activity and in particular, ports and industrial clusters have high need for road infrastructure. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been aggressively promoting industrial clusters throughout the State, especially in the interior and southern districts. In this development of road infrastructure there is great opportunity for collaboration between US Government and the Government of Tamil Nadu. The US Secretary of State informed the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister that Overseas Private Investment Corporation in the US has many opportunities for investments in Tamil Nadu and the US would look forward to many large investments in the State of Tamil Nadu under the dynamic leadership of Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

During the course of the discussions, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa expressed her concern over reduction in issuance of H1B visas even though in terms of number of Visas issued, the Chennai US Consulate is the second largest in the world. Since the current quota for H1B is very low at 65,000 and since the number of applications far exceeds this quota, there is a very high rejection rate and requested the US Secretary of State to increase the quota of H1B Visas to the original levels of 195,000.

During the discussion on the issues concerning Sri Lankan Tamils, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa stated that even though the war in Sri Lanka was over two years ago, the Sri Lankan Tamils in the Jaffna area are still in camps and unable to go back to the original places where they used to live. The US Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton shared the concern of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and said that the U.S. Government is looking at some

innovative and creative ideas in breaking this impasse and enabling the Sri Lankan Tamils in camps to get back to their own homes. While discussing the Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu, the Hon'ble Chief Minister explained that they have been provided with all the facilities that are available to the local citizens by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The US Secretary of State and her delegation expressed a keen desire to know about the pioneering schemes of Selvi J Jayalalithaa for women and children like the Cradle Baby Scheme, Girl Child Protection Scheme, All Women Police Stations, Women Self-Help Groups, initiated by Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The delegation also deeply appreciated the Free Mid-day Nutritious Meal Scheme pioneered by Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. The US Secretary of State requested that the details of all these schemes may be sent to the US Consul General at Chennai for use in various fora. The US Secretary of State also expressed her desire for a State to State programme between Tamil Nadu and the States in US for various industrial and economic programmes.

The meeting between Selvi J Jayalalithaa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Her Excellency Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Secretary of State, was marked by cordiality, genuine goodwill and great warmth and mutual respect. The US Secretary of State expressed the hope that there would be many more opportunities for such interactions in the future. She invited the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Selvi J Jayalalithaa to visit the US which would enable the Americans to know about the great achievements of the State of Tamil Nadu. The meeting lasted for an hour.

The US Delegation comprised Mr. Bob Blake, Assistant Secretary of State, Ms. Melanne Verveer, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Mr. Peter Burleigh, US Ambassador to India, Mr. Andrew T. Simkin, US Consul General at Chennai and Ms. Huma Abidin, Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the Secretary of State, United States of America.

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