

Gujarat tops in PCPIR investments

Ashwin Rajput

Pips Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andhra

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ICC Gujarat chairman Ravi Kapoor speaks during the meet on Thursday

Vadodara: Of the four Petroleum Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIR) that were initiated in the country, Gujarat is the only state where the actual investments have surpassed the proposed investments. Investments in the other three states have been far less than the proposed figures. Indrajit Pal, secretary, department of chemicals and petrochemicals, who was in Vadodara to attend India Chem 2014 meet on Thursday, said investment at all the four PCPIRs is an ongoing process.

Pal said that the government decided to set up the PCPIRs in other states to attract more investments and provide infrastructure to the firms. "In 2009, the proposed investment in PCPIR in Gujarat was 50,000 crore but the actual investment is Rs 70,000 crore. In Andhra Pradesh the proposed

investment was 3.43 lakh crore but the actual investment is 36,000 crore. In Orissa PCPIR, the proposed investment was Rs 2.78 lakh crore but the actual amount is 34,700 crore. In Tamil Nadu PCPIR the proposed investment was Rs 92,000 crore but in actuality it is Rs 7,000 crore," Pal said.

He also said that the chemical industries in India should invest in research and development (R&D) and innovation. He disclosed that Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is being urged to reconsider deep sea discharge norms in a region in Gujarat and the board is considering it. Chairman of FICCI's national chemical committee Deepak Mehta pointed out that environmental clear-

ances for chemical companies shouldn't cause gross delays and companies that have adopted responsible care shouldn't be made to go through a number of environment clearances. "Also, we need more central effluent treatment plants in Gujarat," Mehta said.

Indian Chemical Council (ICC), Gujarat chairman Ravi Kapoor said that chemical industries face several issues related to water, roads land acquisition and power. Gujarat additional industries commissioner, Vipra Bhal heard the demands of the captains of the chemical industry and said, "The state government is drafting a new industrial policy. We will consider demands of the industries."

ICC: Responsible care must in chemical cos

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Vadodara: Having implemented Responsible Care (RC) initiative successfully, Gujarat chapter of Indian Chemical Council (ICC) is keen that the initiative is replicated in chemical industries across the country. ICC, Gujarat chairman, Ravi Kapoor said on Thursday that they are already in talks with Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the issue. ICC Gujarat had launched RC in the state in 2006 and it was the first to do so.

RC is a global voluntary initiative for chemical companies and the signatories to the initiative commit themselves to improve their performances in the field of environmental protection, occupational safety and health protection. "If MPCB agrees then it will help in improving the quality of chemical companies there. We have also approached the CPCB and urged them to en-

courage RC in the states having chemical firms," Kapoor said on the sidelines of an industry meet on India Chem 2014 in the city.

The India Chem 2014 will be organized in Mumbai between October 9 and October 11. Over 34 chemical companies in India including nine from Gujarat have already signed up for RC. "Gujarat Pollution Control Board was positive about RC which helped us in taking the lead. We constantly strive to get more companies under RC," Kapoor told TOI.

Talking about benefits of RC, Kapoor said that the firms get extended term of consent from five to seven years and that several processes are expedited. "The Gujarat government has recently issued a notification to this effect," he added. The industry captains present at the meet also said that there should be a mechanism wherein RC recognized chemical companies should be exempted from certain government procedures.