

## **Decision to make industrial plots Freehold under consideration in U.P.**

***Improved doing business practices to be in place by January 2015 in U.P.:***

**Principal Secretary, Industrial Development**

- ***UPSIDC planning to develop new industrial areas in Meerut and Saharanpur***

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*“Decision to make industrial plots freehold is under serious consideration of the State government. It has been a long standing demand of industries, however, various factors have to be taken into account for assessing long-term impact of this step before a final decision”,* said **Principal Secretary, Infrastructure & Industrial Development, Mr Sanjiv Saran**. He was speaking as a chief guest at a **Business to Government (B2G) dialogue programme** organized by **Western Chambers of Commerce & Industry, U.P.** at Meerut today.

**Mr Saran said**, *“Government of Uttar Pradesh is continuously striving to improve environment for industrial development through various fresh initiatives. State government’s objective is to remove all kinds of impediments and resolve issues of industries, for which weekly ‘Industrial Samadhaan Divas’ is held along with mechanisms of online U.P. Industrial Grievance Redressal System and telephone helpline for easier access and communication for entrepreneurs”.*

On the issue of improving doing business environment in the State, the **Principal Secretary said** that principal secretaries of all concerned departments had been asked to consult industrial associations about simplification and efficient measures required to mitigate the hindrances faced in running and setting up industries regarding issues relating to electricity, Labour, VAT, Mandee, Pollution, etc. Moreover, working group is already working on labour reforms. The departments will submit their proposals to improve the system by last week of November before the Chief Secretary. **He said that in all probability the new investor-friendly system with best-practices would be in place by January 2015.**

Earlier, in his welcome address, **Dr. Brij Bhushan, Senior Vice President** of Western Chambers of Commerce & Industry, U.P. commended the industry friendly policies and approach of the State government. He listed some of the major issues which need urgent attention of the government, including pollution clearance, exemption from electricity duty to MSMEs and a robust monitoring system for preventing harassment of entrepreneurs.

**Mr Ram Kumar Gupta, Chairman of Industrial Development Council** of chamber raised the issues of freeholding the industrial plots, wood availability for sports goods, good quality

leather for leather industry to remain in competition and subsidy for participation in international trade fairs.

**Managing Director, U.P. State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC), Mr Manoj Singh** informed that subject to the availability of land, development of new industrial areas were being planned in Meerut and Saharanpur. He said the issue of land transfer levy would be resolved soon.

It was informed **goods worth more than Rs 600 crores were being exported** from this region annually including **sports goods export of around Rs 300 crores**. Apart from cricket bats, sports equipment related to athletics and tennis manufactured here have also earned international repute.

The programme was attended by over 200 industrialists and entrepreneurs from western U.P. It was **co-sponsored by** Federation of U.P. Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Indian Industries Association, Partapur Industrial Estate Manufacturers' Association, All India Sports Goods Manufacturers' Association and Industrial Area Manufacturers' Association Ghaziabad.

Among other, senior State government officials who participated in this dialogue, included Commissioner & Director, Industries – Mr L Venkateshwar Lu, Special Secretary, Industrial Development – Ms Kanchan Verma, District Magistrates of Meerut and Muzaffarnagar – Mr Pankaj Yadav and Mr Kaushal Raj Sharma along with other officials from various departments.