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fo Mamata wants benefits for companies with SEZ status

KOLKATA, 27 APRIL: In a bid to resolve the deadlock over giving Special Economic Zone (SEZ) status to IT giants, chief minister Mamata Banerjee today said that she would urge the Centre to create a new segment under the IT sector, where all facilities are provided to companies with SEZ status.

Miss Banerjee iterated her government's policy of not granting SEZ status to Infosys. She said the government wants Infosys to set shop in Bengal but pointed out that the government's policy cannot be changed for just one company.

The CM said land acquisition by force and SEZ are not the government's policy. "This was part of our election manifesto and we will not deviate from it," she said.

Miss Banerjee said she wanted all major companies from Infosys to Wipro to invest in the state. Infosys had procured 50 acres of land at Rajarhat to set up a development centre.

It may be mentioned here that there is no provision for the Centre to provide benefits given to companies with SEZ status to those without the status.

Earlier, Infosys had sought a clarification from Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (Hidco) on SEZ status. The company officials had held a meeting with state industry minister and had later sought an appointment with the chief minister to request for an alternative arrangement. **sns**