

Name of Paper : THE HINDU BUSINESS LINE

Published at : NEW DELHI

Dated : 25 MAY 2012

(Delhi Edition)

Mamata Govt scraps SEZ policy

Our Bureau

Kolkata, May 24

West Bengal has scrapped the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) policy of the erstwhile Left Front Government.

According to Mr Partha Chatterjee, State Commerce and Industries Minister, the incumbent Government was against the setting up of special economic zones. Hence, the policy was scrapped.

Asked if this meant that the State Government was unwilling to give land to IT major Infosys, he reiterated the Government's 'no SEZ' stand but said that the State was willing to help Infosys in all possible ways.

"Although we are against SEZs, we are willing to help Infosys in all possible ways. We too want Infosys to set up their campus here," he said. Infosys has reportedly kept its decision to set up a campus in the State on hold after the State Government refused to grant it SEZ status.

According to Mr Chatterjee, the State Government has given a proposal to the Union Commerce Minister, Mr Anand Sharma. The proposal is supposed to help Infosys get financial benefits without the SEZ tag.

"If the proposal is rejected there are other ways to help them out," he added.

Mr Chatterjee further added that a decision to re-open five closed tea gardens has also been taken. The State Government would look to dilute its stake in these tea gardens and re-open them on a public-private-partnership basis.

A proposal in this regard was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Industry, Infrastructure and Employment recently, he added.

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