

Press Statement of Shri Shaktisinhji Gohil, President, Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee

GIDC scam

A huge scam is being committed by the GIDC in land allotment in Dahej and Saykha.

Instead of auctioning of land plots that can fetch Rs 10000 per sq meter price, GIDC is allotting land plots at mere Rs 2845 per sq metre, causing massive revenue loss to the state treasury.

GIDC has already made allotment of more than five lakh square metres plots at Rs 2845 per square metre.

GIDC is planning to allot nearly two million or 20 lakh square meters lands in Dahej and Saykha at the same rate.

If the auction is conducted, it can fetch Rs 10000 per square metre.

It's a scam of more than Rs 2000 crore. It's a direct loss of more than Rs 2000 crore to the state exchequer. Why CM is not visiting the GIDC office in Gandhinagar?

Why CM Bhupendra Patel did not object when GIDC board flip flopped and first declared Dahej and Saykha as saturated zones and then reversed the decision. Besides the GIDC management, industries department, who else are involved in the scam?

By not auctioning the land plots, the GIDC officials are causing massive loss of revenues to the state treasury. The GIDC officials and entire industries department are committing money laundering.

I demand that the CM must order a probe by the ED for money laundering.

Gujarat Government has become synonymous with escalating corruption and incompetence. Perhaps, this is the most corrupt and incompetent government in the entire country today. In this corrupt regime, every department, every PSU, every board or corporation of the state is neck deep in corruption, irregularities and malpractices.

I have repeatedly highlighted with help from media persons/journalists about corruption in GSPC, GUVNL and other departments and PSUs. This regime has not spared any government entity while turning the entire state and its vast resources into money making machines for its ruling party leaders, ministers, its functionaries and handpicked bureaucrats.

Today, I am exposing the mind boggling corruption in one very important corporation of the state. This corporation ever since it was created during the past Congress government played a vital role in industrial development of the state.

Gujarat Industrial development Corporation (GIDC) is known for aiding process of industrialisation in Gujarat. In the past during the successive Congress governments, GIDC was a key part of the government to make the state an industrial hub. It was during the Congress governments that GIDC successfully helped develop industrial belt from Vapi to Vatva, from Dahej in Bharuch to Kalol and Chhatral in Mehsana to Halol in Panchmahal.

Thanks to the progressive policies during those governments and proactive approach, the state became an anathema for industrial development.

Unfortunately in last more than two decades, corruption has become the main industry during the BJP government.

What is happening in GIDC is not only shocking for the government, it's shocking for the business and entrepreneurs community and people of Gujarat, who are known for their business acumen and entrepreneurial abilities and spirit.

A handful of people, ministers, bureaucrats and BJP leaders are exploiting GIDC at the cost of public exchequer and extorting the businessmen and corporates.

I'm disclosing explosive details about the workings and happenings in the GIDC, a nodal agency for development of industrial estates in the state.

In April 2023, GIDC had invited applications for plots ranging from 20000 to 60000 square metre for Sykha GIDC, which is a chemical zone where land is highly sought after.

The GIDC received many applications in response to the advertisement. In June 2023, the GIDC management decided to reject all applications and decided to declare Sykha and Dahej GIDCs as saturated GIDC. And a GR was issued for the same.

When you declare any area or GIDC as saturated; that means there were only few plot available and all the remaining plots in the possession of GIDC would be sold via auction, which would bring in more revenue for the state.

In 2023 in the same area, a leading paint maker Asian Paints bought a plot there at Rs 7000 per square metre, plus stamp duty, transfer charges, lease deed and GST. Another company Meghmani also bought the plot at Rs 8500 per square metre plus other charges.

It may be noted that demand for plots in Saykha and Dahej is massive due to their locations, infrastructure and also due to shortage of land there.

Suddenly before the Lok Sabha polls, in a highly suspicious and mysterious manner, the GIDC management and the industries department in February 2024, reverted its earlier decision of declaring Saykha and Dahej as saturated estates. This was for the first time, the GIDC reverted such a decision.

Both Dahej and Saykha estates were overnight declared unsaturated, which means plots can be allotted at Jantri rate, which is Rs 2845 per square metre for Dahej and Rs 3075 per square metre for Saykha estate.

In the year 2022, GIDC had conducted auctions of plots in chemical zone in Jhagadia and Panoli GIDC estates where base prices were fixed at Rs 6000 and Rs 7500 per square metre respectively. The auction was successful and all plots were sold immediately. At that time, allotment rate of Jhagadia GIDC was at Rs 1660 per square metre and for Panoli, it was Rs 2180 per square metre while in auction, the plots were sold at above Rs 6000 and for Panoli above Rs 7500.

I demand the state government to explain why it had to revert its decision with regard to Dahej and Saykha GIDC estates?

At whose behest the board took that decision?

Why the government does not want to hold public auctions of the plots available in GIDC estates in Dahej and Saykha.

As per the settled law, auction of natural resources should be the most effective method as per the Supreme Court order in the case of coal block allotments and telecom spectrum. Why the same is not being done for land plots in GIDC. This entire saga smacks of corruption and irregularities.