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Impact of Special Economic Zones on Indian Economy

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Abstract: In our country EPZ/SEZs were started to boost the economic growth of the country by increasing exports and foreign direct investment in the country. First EPZ in the country was established in 1965 in kandla (Gujarat) and India was the first country in Asia where EPZ was started. In the country new economic policy begun in 1991 and major policy shift from EPZ to SEZ was came in 1997-2002 EXIM policy statement. SEZ bill was passed in 2005 by parliament and ministry of commerce notified SEZ law on 9 Feb 2006. Eight EPZs which were operational have been converted in SEZs. After the enactment of new SEZ policy, governments have given great chunk of approvals. Most of the approved SEZ are from IT/ITES/Engineering sector and only few developed states got majority of approvals. Andhra Pradesh is frontrunner in approval of SEZs. SEZ leads to change in socio, economic and environmental conditions in the society. Huge land has been acquired for the establishment of the SEZs, which affect the employment level and food security in the country. SEZs are not need to follow environmental regulations. In the construction stage and later in production process SEZs use huge amount of water resource. Labour laws are also not applicable in these enclaves.

Keywords: EPZs, SEZs, EGOM.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this era of globalization every country is adopting the policy of import substitution and export Promotion. India has also opened-up the economy in past few decades to effectively face the challenges and opportunities of the 21stcentury. "Industrialization" and "development of Infrastructure" are the basic requirements of the country to accelerate the economic growth. These require the vast amount of capital but domestic capitalist can't meet this demand of capital hence in 1991 country has adopted the policy of Privatization, Liberalization and Globalization.

During 1950 all the newly independent countries has follow the policy of Import Substitution Industries (ISI) to protect their infant industries and policy of export promotion. For the export promotion .

Many countries such as USSR, Mexico, and Jordan etc. adopted the policy of export processing zones. It was believed that the EPZS are the instrument of export promotion, earners of foreign exchange, stimulator of employment and foreign investment.

The term SEZ is defined differently in various countries. Approximately 19 terms are used in the world such as Free Trade Zones, Industrial Zones (Singapore), Export Processing Zones etc. Different persons and agencies defined EPZs in different way but almost with similar meaning. Some definitions are as follows:-

Warr (1988) export processing zones are economic enclave within which manufacturing for export occurs under virtual free trade condition

World Bank (1992) describes export processing zones as existing of free trade zones elements and industrial park element. This serves as a fruitful division though there can be other elements as well these are always present and important.

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1.1 Evolution of EPZs and SEZs in India:

Country has started industrialization process in 1948 with industrial policy resolution. Aim of this policy resolution was to stimulate import substitution & export promotion in the country.

India has started the first EPZ in 1965 in Kandla (Gujarat) and India was the first country in Asia where EPZ was started. This EPZ was set-up for the development of Kutch region and optimum utilization of Kandlaport. Generation of extra economic activities in the region was also the objective. Second EPZ was the Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ). That was established in 1974 in Mumbai. SEEPZ was established mainly for the processing of electronics goods. It was expected that the zone will provide the technology transfer. Initially SEEPZ was planned to work as single product zone (only for the processing of electronic goods) but later in 1986 it became the two product zone, electronics as well as gems and jewellary.

1985 to 1991 period is called expansionary phase. in this phase Four zones were established at Noida(NEPZ), Chennai (MEPZ), Cochin(CEPZ) and Falta(FEPZ) and seventh EPZ was set-up in 1994 at Vishakhapatnam(VEPZ). At that time only centre Govt. can establish and run the EPZs.

1991 to 2000 period is called consolidating phase. In 1991 country opened- up the economy and liberalized the trade & industrial policies. Much facilities and incentives were given to the zones and powers are delegated to zonal authorities. In 1992 EPZs were permitted to other sectors also such as agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture. In 1994 amendment was made and gives powers to the state Govt., autonomous agencies and to private sector to establish &run zones. First private SEZ was established in Surat (Gujarat) in 1994. Surat SEZ was promoted for the diamond export.

After that EPZ policy was shifted in SEZ policy and new SEZ policy is very flexible and gives many fiscal &non fiscal incentives to the SEZs. In the country New economic policy begun in 1991." major policy shift was came in SEZ policy in 1997-2002 EXIM policy statement and statement called it a "Qualitative Transformation" of the conventional EPZ policy."

1.2 NEW SEZ POLICY:

Due to the failure of the EPZ policy in the country, Govt. introduced the New SEZ Policy in Exim policy of 2000 to boost country export and foreign direct investment after the China visit of the former finance minister Murasoli Maran. SEZ bill was passed in 2005 by parliament and ministry of commerce notified SEZ law on 9 Feb 2006. Eight EPZs which was operational have been converted in SEZs. New SEZ policy is much liberal than old EPZ policy. This policy gives many facilities, exemption and concessions to the entrepreneurs and started single window clearance for the projects.

Meaning of the SEZ

"A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is a specially delineated duty-free enclave and shall be deemed to be foreign territory for the purpose of trade operations and duties & tariffs. Goods and services going in to the SEZ area from domestic tariff area (DTA) shall be treated as exports and goods & services coming from the SEZ area in to DTA shall be treated as imports" ⁴

1.3 Total approved SEZs in the country:

In EPZ policy approval procedure was complex but in new policy procedure was simplified and get started single window clearances. After the introduction of new SEZ policy in EXIM policy of 2000,govt started to giving approval to the SEZs. Most of the SEZs approved after the 2000 are private SEZ or joint venture of govt and private developers .in 2006 when new SEZrule come in to exitences got has given many approvals. Table shows the total approved SEZs as on March 2015. There are three different stages of approvals namely formal approval, notified SEZ and in-principal approval.

Table: 1 Number of SEZs in the country as on March 2015

Types	No.
Formal approval	436
Notified SEZ	347
In-Principal approval	32
Operational SEZs as on Dec 2014	199
Units approved in SEZs as on dec 2014	3937

Source:-sezindia.nic.in

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1.4 Objectives of the New SEZ policy:

EPZ policy of the country was not very much successful in terms of exports, FDI, and employment generation. New SEZ policy was the improvement over the EPZ policy. New SEZ policy in the country was started to give hassle free environment to the foregion as well as Indian investors in specific area instead of whole economy. Following are the main objectives of the policy;

- To attract foreign direct investment in the country.
- Earn foreign and contribute to exchange rate stability.
- Boost the export sector, particularly nontraditional exports
- Create jobs and raise standard of living.
- Transfer new skills and expertise to local human resources.
- Create backward and forward linkages to increase the output and to uplift the standard of local enterprise that supply
 goods and services to the zone
- Introduce new technology.
- Develop backward regions by locating such zones in these areas and attract industries.
- Provide a stimulus to the economy.
- Test key policy reforms in these pilot areas.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Secondary data has been used for the study. Data have been collected from official website of department of Commerce & Industry, RBI reports and other published & non-published sources.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1. To analyze the economic impact of SEZs.
- 2. To examine the socio, political & environmental issues related to the SEZs.

4. VARIOUS IMPACT OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES

Many social, economic, political, legal and environmental issues are being involved with the SEZs. All of these issues are concerned with the positive & negative impact of SEZs. Some of these are following;

4.1. Economic impact:

4.1.1 Impact on Investment:

For the development of the country investment has great importance, but in developing countries, in the initial stage public investment constraints are there. So to increase private investment in the country SEZ act was formulated and various incentives are given to these SEZs to boost private investment as well as foreign direct investment. As table shows that up to 2006 total investment in SEZs was Rs.4035.51Cr and this increased to Rs. 3, 76,494Cr as on March 2016.

Table: 2 Investment Made in SEZs as on 31st March 2016

Investment	Central govt. SEZs	State/private notified SEZs	SEZs notified after	Total
		before SEZ ct 2005	SEZ act 2005	
Investment (as on	Rs. 2,279.20 Cr	Rs. 1,756.31Cr.	=	Rs. 4035.51 Cr.
Feb,2006				
Incremental	Rs. 12,898.80cr	Rs. 8,412.69 Cr	Rs. 3,51,147 Cr.	Rs.3,72,458.49 Cr.
Investment				
Total	Rs. 15,178 Cr.	Rs. 10,169 Cr.	Rs. 3,51,147 Cr.	Rs. 3,76,494 Cr.

Source: compiled from-sezindia.nic.in & Economic Survey of India

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One of the most important objective to introduce the SEZ policy in the country was to increase foreign direct investment in the country. Foreign direct investment is a good source for transmission of technology from developed countries to developing countries. Both countries are benefited in this process because developed countries get economic advantage & developing countries get benefits from best utilization of resource base, low technique of production to high- tech value added production etc.

FDI inflow in India is growing very rapidly since 2004, because of excellent infrastructure & special operating laws in SEZs are attracting foreign investment in the country. In 2007-08, India has received FDI amount US\$ 24.57 billion as compare to US\$ 15.7 billion during 2006-07 a growth of 56 percent. The growth of foreign investment in the country is steadily increasing but it is less than china. In our country cumulative inflow of FDI since 1991 to 2006 were US\$ 43.29 billion at the same time china received more than US\$ 200 billion (Das Geeta). In the country many reasons are there for slow FDI such as low developed infrastructure base, lack of political will in implementation of new reforms, complexities of centre & state laws etc

4.1.2 Employment and export promotion by the SEZs:

Employment generation was the objective of old EPZ regime & new SEZ policy in the country. New SEZ policy claims that SEZs will generate employment directly & indirectly in the country. Empirically it was found that in some SEZs in the country, employment generation for low skilled workers is very high due to assembly work and basis manual work.

New SEZs are likely to play a significant role in the country where 50 percent of population is still directly / indirectly dependent on agriculture activities and level of education attainment is low. Employment generating potential of SEZs, as reflected in the employment elasticity of exports, is directly linked with their expansion. Since the employment elasticity is large in the initial stage of SEZs. The average Employment elasticity in Kandla during 1966-71 was estimated at 1.09 however after economic liberalization policy initiated and SEZ investment expanded during the Period 1991-2000, it was reported to be around 0.62.

Employment Central govt. SEZs State/private notified SEZs notified after **Total** SEZs before SEZ act 2005 **SEZ act 2005** 1,34,704 Persons **Employment** (as 1,22,236 Persons 12,468 Persons on Feb,2006) Incremental 1,16,146 Persons 71,536 Persons 12,68,995Persons 14,56,677 Persons **Employment** 2.38.382 Persons 84.004 Persons 12,68,995 Persons 15,91,381 Persons Total

Table: 3 Employment in SEZs as on 31st March 2016

Source: compiled from sezindia.nic.in

Table shows that up to March 2016 total 15, 91,381 peoples got direct employment in SEZs in the country. SEZs also provide indirect employment to the peoples. SEZs are also a medium of transfer of advance technology, managerial technique, skill up-gradation and export diversification. Moreover these enclaves are bringing economic transformation in the country. SEZs in our country are of three types namely first, second and third generation SEZs. First generation SEZs are increasing employment & foreign exchange in the country. Second & third generation SEZs are creating diversification in economic activities & exports. SEZs are generating employment and reducing land-men ratio in agriculture and industrial sector in the country.

Table: 4 Exports of SEZs

Year	SEZ Exports(Rs. In Crore)	Growth over pre. year
2005-06	22,840	-
2006-07	34,615	52%
2007-08	66,638	93%
2008-09	99,689	50%
2009-10	2,20,711	12%
2010-11	3,15,868	43%
2011-12	3,64,478	15%
2012-13	4,76,159	31%
2013-14	4,94,077	4%
2014-15	4,63,770	
2015-16	3,41,685	

Source: data compiled from sezindia.nic.in & Economic Survey of India

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Success of SEZs in the country is evaluated by its exports promotion. In 2005-06 total exports from SEZs was Rs 22,840Cr which was around 5 percent of country total exports and in 2015-16 exports from SEZs increased to 3,41,685Cr. SEZs share in India's total exports is modest. (Dept. of Commerce, GOI)

4. 1.5 Loss of Revenue:

In our country SEZ policy offers many fiscal & non fiscal incentives to the SEZs such as duty free imports, exemption from custom duty, excise duty, 100% income tax exemption on export income for first five years & 50% for next five years, exemption from central sales & service tax, exemption from dividend distribution tax, exemption from state sales tax & other duties imposed by state Govt..Due to these exemptions & concessions, loss of revenue is occurring in Govt. exchequer.

The prospect of revenue loss due to SEZs in the country is alarming. It is going to severely constrain the state Govt. in their expenditure. Especially on public programs and adversely affect the poor in the light of fiscal responsibility and budget management act. The incentives given to the SEZs could adversely impact the rest of the economy and the net investment is likely to remain low. Low employment intensity in the capital- intensive activities in SEZs implies an adverse impact on the aggregate employment.

In Tamil Nadu, when Nokia sells their phone within Tamil Nadu, Govt. receive VAT from vendors of the phone and reimburse this amount to Nokia and when company sells phone in other states, Tamil Nadu Govt. collect CST from vendors and reimburse it to company. In both cases Govt. is getting loss because reimbursement is a cost for Tamil Nadu Govt. to be paid in competition of other welfare expenditure. Nokia SEZ indicates that its investment is almost entirely paid by public subsidy. This clearly reveals that there are fundamental flaw in the SEZ policy.

Benefits & tax incentives to SEZs are criticized by ministry of finance & RBI and stated that the exemptions provided to the SEZs are excessive & inequitable. Dept. of revenue, GOI estimated the revenue loss of 1, 75,847Cr in the period of 2005-10 due to various tax exemptions (Pardeep S.Mehta & Pahariya 2009). Reserve Bank of India stated that revenue loss by SEZs can only justified when these enclaves create forward & backward linkages in the country.

ItemsFinance dept.Commerce dept.Revenue foregone on raw material used for export77792NilDirect tax loss on export profits from SEZs5553122913Indirect tax loss on investment in SEZs4016410512Total17348733425

Table No: 5 Estimates of Revenue forgone in SEZs, 2005 -2010

Source: sezindia.nic.in

Table shows the estimates of revenue loss by ministry of finance & ministry of commerce. Estimates of both ministries are different. Ministry of commerce stated that ministry of finance overestimated the loss, because assumption taken in calculation of revenue loss were wrong. Ministry of commerce (MOC) stated that SEZs leads to increase in investment & employment opportunities by MNCs to the youth of the country. Ministry also stated that this revenue loss is notional because there will be no revenue loss if the SEZs are not come to in the existence. Moreover most of the investments in the SEZs are private & no extra burden on Govt. exchequer is accruing for doing investment. Additionally sales made by SEZs to DTA provide custom duty to the Govt. exchequer.

4.2. Social political & environmental issues:

4.2.1 Infrastructure development and SEZs:

In the SEZs, 50 percent area is used for production purposes and remaining 50 percent for infrastructural development. As per definition contained in the SEZ rules 2006, "infrastructure" means facilities needs for development, operation and maintenance of a special economic zone and also includes industrial, business and social amenities like land, roads, buildings, sewerage & influent treatment facilities, solid waste management facilities, warehouses, education institutes, entertainment facilities, residential & business complex, water supply, sanitation facilities etc.

Old EPZs were only industrial enclaves but new SEZs are integrated townships with well infrastructure base. New SEZs are mostly private SEZs and have world class infrastructure base, good facilities for employees such as library,

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lunchroom, gymnasium hall, crèche and separate accommodation for male & female employees. These facilities increase the work efficiency of employees. All new SEZs have established their own captive power plant except Noida SEZ. In converted SEZs (EPZ to SEZ) infrastructural facilities are not much good but improved after the new SEZ policy came in to existence.

4.2.2 Regional disparity and SEZ:

SEZs are started in the country to achieve balanced growth by locating SEZs in less developed regions of the country. In the country distribution of SEZs approval is not equal. Some states have very much approval of SEZs and another state have negligible approvals. In china SEZs are established along with the coastal areas of the country to enhance the growth of the relatively underdeveloped regions. Chinese policy was designed to fill gap between industrial developed & under developed regions of the country but In contrast most of the Indian SEZs are located near the cities. Fiscal & non fiscal incentives given to the SEZs are not designed as a mechanism to increase investment in backward regions of the country. States are doing efforts for attracting SEZs promoters in their areas. The states which have good infrastructure base, gets maximum approvals for SEZs for example Andhra Pradesh gets maximum approvals.

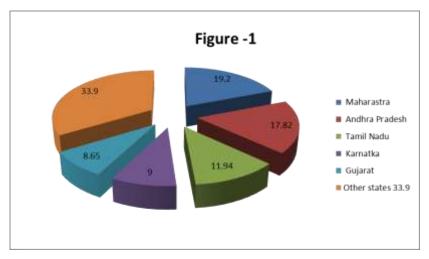


Figure-1 show that five developed states have 77 percent approvals and in these states also SEZs are set-up in few districts hence inter-state & intra-state disparities will increases.

In the country up to March 2016, 409 formal approvals have been granted. In which 31 are in–principal approval, 347 are notified SEZs and 204 are exporting SEZs. Southern states have maximum approvals of the SEZs but Some Eastern states have no approval & some got few approvals. In northern states Haryana got maximum approvals. Developed states have more SEZ approval hence problem of urban planning and inter- state disparities will increases. Congestion of SEZs in few areas exploits the resources in surrounding areas and Problem of diseconomies of scale will also arise.

4.2.3 Land Acquisition and compensation:

For the establishment of the SEZs huge quantum of land has been acquired in the country. As table 2.1 shows that total 48997.531Ha of land has been acquired for the SEZs. In which some land is cultivable land. In many places agitations are taking place against the acquisition of Agri. land in the country. In 2007 people were agitating against the land acquisition in Nandi gram, West Bengal in which 14 peoples were killed in police firing. Many other examples are in the country where people are protesting against the forced land acquisition.

Table :6 Land allocated to the SEZs as on March 31st 2016(land in Ha)

7central+11state/private SEZs	Notified SEZs under	Formally	Total
notified before SEZ act 2005	the SEZ act 2005	approved	
2657.53На	41813.42Ha	4526.58Ha	48997.53Ha

Source: sezindia .nic.in

Ministry of Rural Development has objected to the huge diversion of agriculture land. The land acquisition act of 1894 has been used to acquire land for SEZs. This act allows the Govt. to acquire land for a "public use" which was originally

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devised to create public utilities like canals, railways track sand roads. The law comes in handy in recent years to purchase land from farmers for commercial purposes at price far below market price.

Amendments has been made in the SEZ policy in 2007 by issuing guidelines by EGOM (Empowered Group of Ministers), Ministry of Commerce and Govt. of India on some issues. First is size of multi product SEZ has been capped at 5000 Ha. Prior to this amendment there was a absence of maximum limit for these enclaves hence large tracts of land has been acquired and used for real estate speculations.

4.2.4 Displacement and Rehabilitation & Resettlement of the affected Peoples:

Land acquisition caused the problem of livelihood due to displacement & dislocation. People may get cash compensation but may not get immediate livelihood after the land acquisition. Livelihood depends upon the direction of national & local development and also related with local production relations. SEZs are causing radical change in the local economy & creating demographic & ecological changes. Cultivable land, forest areas, grazing land, water resources all are transformed due to SEZs & create the problem of accessibility to these anymore. These losses cause material, economic & social deprivations for the affected people.

Govt. introduces the Rehabilitation & Resettlement bill 2009 after the very much agitation by civil society members, opponents of land acquisition and after the incidence of Nandigram. This bill contains some good measures for displaced persons. For instance, for the first time, tenants and dependents on the land were considered eligible for compensation. The bill called for compensation to be cash- based where possible and rehabilitation be provided only if the affected households are more than 400 in the plain and more than 200 in the hills. The R & R bill was passed by the Lok Sabha in early 2009, but stalled in the Rajya Sabha later in the year. Critics of the bill states that its dilute provisions would have proven unhelpful to communities in the long run and a stronger bill should be drafted in its place.

4.2.5 Impact on Food Security:

According to john Stuart Mill "Land differ from other elements of production, labour *and* capital is not being susceptible to infinite increases. Its extent is limited and the extent of the more productive kinds of it more limited still". It is also evident that the quantity of produce capable of being raised on any given piece of land is not indefinite. This limited quantity of land and limited productiveness of it, are the real limits to the increase of production.

The committee on state agrarian relations and unfinished task in land reforms highlighted in its 2009 report that the total area of land under SEZs is expected to be over 200,000Ha and this land is capable of producing around 1 million tons of food grains. It is estimated that farming families will have to face losses of around Rs 212 cr each year in total income. Availability of food grains depend on output of food grains on some extent and if there is change in the food grains output, the nutrition level of the poor farmers &Agri. Labourers will also affected.

Acquisition of Agri. Land for SEZs will create the problem of food security. Food security has economic as well as political dimensions (food sovereignty). Food security not only depends upon the food grains output but in actual, it depends upon the access & ability to purchase food and this depend upon the purchasing power of the peoples. So, when Agri. land is acquired, not only landlords but other classes such as Agri. Labourers, tenants, share croppers also lose their current livelihood and may or may not be get alternative livelihood. Hence problem of food security will occurs.

4.2.6 Labour Laws and SEZs:

SEZs in our country are comes in the category of public utility & in public utility industries many labour laws become irrelevant automatically. "S.2(n) of industrial dispute act,1947(ID act)defines the meaning of "Public Utility Services" is the service that are very important and are of great value to the masses and if not available can affect the life of every one."

Powers of the labourers are curtailed in such industries. Following labour laws are not applicable in SEZ units:-

- 1. Under S.22 of industrial dispute act, it is mandatory to give a notice TO THE employers before 14 days if the employees can undertake a strike or lockout. In addition state Govt. can also ban this.
- 2. At the same time in SEZs employees do not have any protection against retrenchment. They will not be provided with any notice or compensation in this regard.

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- 3. Another troublesome issue is the amendment in the industrial dispute act 4: Which says that employers in the SEZ no longer have to give workmen (likely to be affected by a change in the conditions of service) any notice before making such a change. This implies that employer will have the power to affect immediate, unilateral changes in the conditions of service and workmen shall have no right over it.
- 4. Workers of any SEZ unit can constitute a union, but they can't take help of any person which is not a employee of that unit. So, union of SEZ unit can't take the benefit of experienced trade union leaders.

Above regulations shows that labourers in SEZ unit are doing work in the condition of job fear. They can't raise voice even for justified reasons. In the SEZs powers of labour commissioner has been delegated to the development commissioner. Development commissioner is deputed by the centre Govt. in different states. Development commissioner is a body who is empowered to give all the concessions and relaxations to the industrialist in SEZ. Primary objective of the labour commissioner is to make ensure the welfare of labourers but objective of D.C. is to make sure that SEZ attract sufficient investment, exports and other economic activities.

4.2.7 Environmental degradation:

SEZ act 2005 not mentions any regulation regarding environment, but SEZs are affecting environment. These enclaves are using huge natural resources in different stages of production. SEZs during the time of construction and later during the time of production pollute the environment. In case of IT related SEZs there may not be such pollution. SEZs pollute the environment in different ways such as leaving the effluents in to river, streams, sea etc. In Gujarat for the establishment of the large scale SEZ, 3000 Ha of mangrove has been destroyed and 14 villages have been lost their grazing land due to the SEZ.

Govt. had banned the ecologically destructive activities along with coastal areas & ecological sensitive areas since 1991, but states have allotted land for SEZ projects. Further there is no regulation in the SEZ act regarding coastal areas & other environment issues. SEZs use huge water resources in construction & other uses. People in surrounding areas faces problems such as in case of Maha Mumbai SEZ huge water demand was fulfill by Hetwan & Morba dams in Raigarh district and farmer's faces much difficulties to get irrigation water. Another example in Mangalore city where Mangalore SEZ Ltd needs 136 million liters water daily.

Every state is ignoring the effects of SEZs on environment. Only Goa state govt. takes foot back and cancelled seven SEZs which have been approved due to the massive resistance in the state against the establishment of SEZs.

5. CONCLUSION & SUGGESTIONS

In the country location diverse SEZs should be promoted by the authorities that can ensure balanced industrialization. It should also be ensured that zones do not absorb too much scares govt. resources but to the contrary they should function as a breeding ground for developing new skills and generate revenue for the Govt. for development programs. To attract more FDI, Country needs to improve the investment climate of the country because SEZs are also a part of a economy and these enclaves can't operate efficiently if there exist the supply bottlenecks. Govt. have to introduce environment regulations for SEZs and also integrate the local Govt./Bodies in governance of SEZ.

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