

OUT TODAY
THROUGH FAX

F.No. A-35017/94/2015-Ad.II

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Central Board of Excise and Customs
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North Block, New Delhi
Dated, the 17th November, 2015

To

1. Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise, Cochin Zone.
2. Chief Commissioner of Customs, Chennai Zone.
3. Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise, Visakhapatnam Zone.
4. Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata Zone.
5. Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise, Ahmedabad Zone.
6. Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise, Bhopal Zone.
7. Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise, Meerut Zone.

**Subject: Filling of Customs posts in various Special Economic Zone under
Department of Commerce – Regarding.**

Sir/Madam,

It has been brought to our notice by Department of Commerce that a large number of Customs posts in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are lying vacant for a long period. It is expected that simplification of procedures in the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 will trigger a large flow of foreign and domestic investment in SEZs. The work of Customs Wings in the SEZs is of vital importance. It acts as a catalyst in the activities of the SEZs as timely clearance of export consignments is an important part of the process. The Customs set up in SEZs includes a hierarchy of posts from Deputy Commissioner [Customs], Superintendents of Customs, Appraisers and Preventive Officers.

2. It has further been brought to notice that while posting of officials against the posts viz. Superintendents, Appraisers and Preventive Officers/Examiners etc. in Multi Product and Sector Specific private SEZs, the Chief Commissioners do not consult with the Development Commissioners of SEZs. It is stated that absence of these consultations results in posting of unsuitable officers and resultant performance related problems. Besides this, the fact that many of these posts may not be required to be filled keeping in mind the operational status of the Zone and the possible inability of the Zone to meet the expenses of the deputed officials, also needs to be taken into account while filling up the posts.

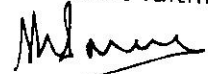
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3. In addition, there are a few Zones, like Surat Special Economic Zone etc., which were formed prior to 2006. The posts of Superintendents, Appraisers, Preventive Officers etc. in these Zones are not encadred Customs posts. However, it is noticed that officials are being posted in these Zones by the concerned Chief Commissioners as if these are encadred posts. The Department of Commerce has, therefore, requested CBEC to discontinue posting of their officials in these Zones, where posts are not encadred, so that the selection of officials can be done on deputation through open advertisement. The officials posted directly against deputation posts need to be withdrawn so that concerned Development Commissioner may proceed further for selecting officers on deputation as per provisions.

4. In view of the above, the concerned Chief Commissioners are directed to fill all the vacant posts of Superintendents, Appraisers, Preventive Officers etc. in Government SEZs on priority basis and through consultation as indicated above. A compliance/action taken report in this regard may be furnished to the Board by **30.11.2015** positively.

5. This may kindly be accorded **Top Priority**.

Yours faithfully,



(VANAJA N. SARMA)
Member (P&V)

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Copy to: Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatara, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110011- for information with reference to his DO letter No. A-1/4/2011-SEZ dated 11.08.2015 and DOC's subsequent reminder dated 27.10.2015.