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35 SEZs get green signal

Economy Bureau

New Delhi, Nov 25 The board of approval for special economic zones (SEZs) has given the green signal to 35 projects including a formal approval to Reliance's Rs 16,000 crore petrochemicals SEZ at Jamnagar and a number of IT-based special zones of companies like Tata Consultancy Services, HCL, Dalmia and Syntel International. A total of 60 proposals were considered by the board.

Three 1,000-acre multi-product zones have also been cleared which include Rajasthan Explosives' proposal for an SEZ at Dhaulpur, Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation's proposal for a special economic zone at Krishnagiri and SRM Infrastructure's SEZ in Mewat, Haryana.

Syntel International's proposals for two IT-based SEZs, one each in Pune and Bangalore, have been approved while TCS has received the go-ahead to set up a project in Chennai. The board of approval meeting was chaired by commerce additional secretary GK Pillai.

Other IT-based SEZs which have got the approval include HCL in Noida, Unitech and Dalmia SEZ in West Bengal. The Dalmia SEZ will be spread over 3.5 million sq ft. The IT SEZs are expected to result in investments worth Rs 4,000 crore.

Other important clearances include Adidas' proposal for a footwear SEZ at an investment of Rs 300 crore over 100 hectare in Tamil Nadu and Divi Lab's Rs 300 crore pharma SEZ.

The RIL SEZ, which would be spread over 14,000 acres, will house the company's own facility besides those of other companies in the petrochemical sector. The board had cleared 17 proposals last month.