

Regarding hardship being faced by IT professionals in metro cities of the country

SHRI TANGELLA UDAY SRINIVAS (KAKINADA): Sir, India today is an undisputed leader in global IT exports. From about 23 billion US dollars in 2005, our exports have grown to nearly 200 billion US dollars in 2025. It directly employs 50 lakh Indians and supports millions in ancillary services.

A significant part of this success is rooted in Special Economic Zone. Out of 351 Special Economic Zones, nearly 226 SEZs are dedicated to IT and IT-enabled services. Cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Gurugram, Pune and Chennai owe much of their global stature to these thriving IT clusters. While we have built world-class office spaces inside these SEZs, we have left behind the very people who power them. Across India's tech corridors, lakhs of young professionals, many of them first-generation white-collar workers, migrate in search of opportunity. But what they encounter is a harsh reality: sky-high housing costs, long hours of commute, and daily struggles to balance work and life. In Bengaluru, for example, housing near major IT corridors can consume 40 to 60 per cent of an average tech worker's salary. In Gurugram and Pune, it is a one and a half to two-hour daily commute. For women professionals, these challenges are not just about convenience, they raise safety, equity, and workforce retention concerns. The SEZ Act permits residential and social infrastructure in non-processing areas, yet there is no additional clarity, consistency, or urgency in implementation. As a result, developers remain hesitant and state approvals are patchy.

In China, Shenzhen, a small fishing village, has transformed into a 400- billion tech economy through integrated SEZ planning. The GIFT City in Gujarat has demonstrated integrated living and working spaces and has led to higher productivity, better retention, and improved quality of life.

I urge the Government of India and the Ministry of Commerce to issue clear national guidelines to enable residential housing within or adjacent to IT SEZs with uniform approval timelines, sustainability standards, and affordability norms. This is not merely a policy tweak, it is a structural reform that will ease urban congestion and lower carbon emissions through walk-to-work models, improve retention and safety, especially for women, strengthen India's competitiveness in attracting

global investment and talent. If SEZs are to remain centres of economic excellence, they must become centres of dignity, inclusivity, and liveability. Let us not allow the people behind India's digital success to be left behind in the very cities they are building.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: जिन माननीय सदस्यों ने लोक महत्व के अविलम्बनीय विषय पर बोलने के लिए आज नाम दिए हैं, उन्हीं को कल बोलने का अवसर मिलेगा । जिन्होंने आज नाम दिए हैं, उनको ही कल अवसर मिलेगा । कल नाम देने वालों को अवसर नहीं मिलेगा । लॉटरी वालों पर भी विचार करेंगे कि उन्हें समय देना है या नहीं । आज सभी को बोलने का अवसर दिया है, कल भी देंगे ।