

**A CITIZENS REPORT CARD ON SPECIAL ECONOMIC
ZONES**

I. THE CONTEXT	2
II. PROFILE OF SEZs in India - An Overview	3
III. ISSUES OF CONCERN.....	6
1. EXPROPRIATION OF RESOURCES AND LIVELIHOOD ISSUES	6
2. ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS.....	8
3. IMPLICATIONS ON GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES	10
4. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	11
IV. ISSUES RAISED BY CAG	12
V. POINTS RAISED BY PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE.....	15
VI. FINAL WORD	16
VIII MAP OF SEZS APPROVED AFTER THE SEZ ACT.....	18
IX. REFERENCE LIST/ WEB RESOURCES.....	20
X. STRUGGLES AGAINST SEZS ACROSS INDIA AFTER THE SEZ ACT 2005	21

I. THE CONTEXT

We as citizens, members of the academia, people's movements, action groups and representatives of various community based organisations have for the last four years been consistently raising several concerns in the matter of the SEZ legislation passed by the UPA government in 2005 followed by the widespread establishment of SEZs across the country. The provisions of the legislation itself, which promotes the creation of new political and economic territories in the country, made it clear that this is a recipe for disaster and instability. But the actual implementation and creation of these zones have also demonstrated that the stated goals of industrialisation, technological development or even export growth are a mere eye wash. After four years of the SEZ Act - it is out in the open - that these zones are promoting expropriation of public and community resources for profit interests of domestic corporations and the financial market.

The UPA government has been amply aware but has chosen to ignore, resistance against forced land acquisition for creation of Special Economic Zones in various parts of the country - West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana. Despite repeated demands made by farmers and affected communities to stop this forced acquisition and grabbing of resources for these zones, governments across the country instead of having a dialogue have used force of the state machinery, coercion and fraudulent means to subvert and suppress people's protests be it in Nandigram (Salim SEZ), Kakinada (KSEZ and GMR SEZ), Kalinganagar (Jindal SEZ) or Jagatsinghpur (Posco).

As citizens' organisations and people's movements, we are deeply concerned about the SEZ Act and its implications for the Indian polity, society and economy for the following reasons:

:

1. The Un-constitutional nature of the SEZ Act which has overriding effect over other legislations
2. Breakdown of democratic governance systems especially of the Local (both Urban and Rural) Self Governments with the creation of independent private capital enclaves outside the purview of the Indian State
3. Large scale forced acquisition of land and promotion of speculative real estate businesses; resulting in loss of agriculture, fisheries based and other traditional livelihoods
4. Creation of exploitative work environments
5. Increasing burden on natural resources like land, water, forests and uncontrolled environmental destruction
6. Revenue losses and creation of serious economic imbalances

State Governments across the country instead of having a dialogue have used force of the state machinery, coercion and fraudulent means to subvert and suppress people's protests be it in Nandigram (Salim SEZ), Kakinada (KSEZ and GMR SEZ), Kalinganagar (Jindal SEZ) or Jagatsinghpur (Posco)

7. Breaking down multi stakeholder pattern by supporting hegemonic monopolistic business model and centralisation of capital and resources
8. No effort by the government to initiate or open public consultation on the matter

This report card aims to describe some of the ground realities as well as serious apprehensions which need immediate action and attention.

With all the different SEZs taken together at various stages of approval the IT sector still accounts for more than half at 55% of the total.

II. PROFILE OF SEZs in India - An Overview

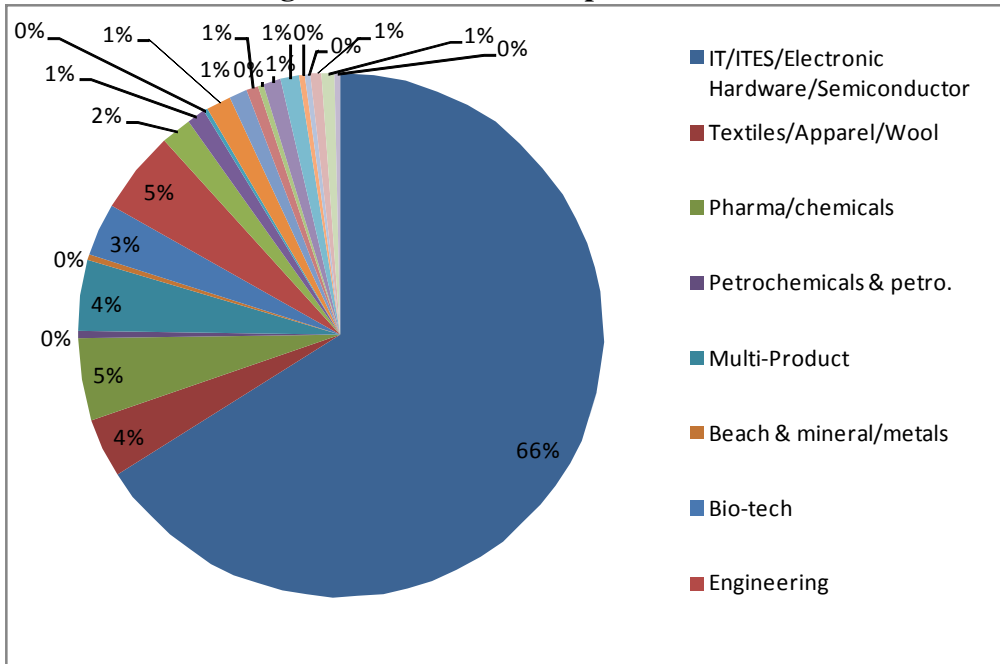
The latest available statistics on Special Economic Zones show that the Board of Approvals at the Ministry of Commerce, the central body authorised to clear SEZ proposals, has approved 578 SEZs of which 315 have been notified.

An analysis of figures up to 8th December 2008 displays a continuation of the pattern which has been evident since SEZ Act in 2005. With the significant economic slow-down towards the end of 2008 for the first time we started to see companies applying to de-register/denotify SEZs and it remains to be seen what the net effect will be. If the recession is a short-lived one SEZs might regain popularity. In the meantime it is expected that we will at least see a lull in the applications for new zones in the coming months. Nevertheless, as of December 2008 the Central government gave formal approvals to a staggering 552 SEZs in 19 states; 272 of these have been notified. (As of April 2009 the total number of Formal approvals was 578 and notified SEZs were 330)

Sector-wise

The overwhelming part of SEZs continues to be in information technology and related industries. 181 notified SEZs exist for IT companies representing 66% of the total number of SEZs. Additionally there are 341 formally approved and 11 in-principle approvals. The share of IT is thus slightly lower among the formally approved compared to the notified SEZs probably since the smaller IT SEZs manage to acquire land quicker than the large multi-product SEZs. With all the different SEZs taken together at various stages of approval the IT sector still accounts for more than half at 55% of the total. The second largest sector will be multi-product with 9% of the all zones.

Figure 1: Notified SEZs per sector



Source: Ministry of Commerce, “SEZs : Sector wise Distribution”, data from 8 December 2008 available on www.sezindia.nic.in

Regionally

Andhra Pradesh tops the list of notified SEZs with 57, followed by Tamil Nadu on 44 and Maharashtra on 43. Maharashtra has the most SEZs waiting to be notified however with 104 formally approved and 34 in principle, compared to AP’s 99 and 2 respectively and Tamil Nadu’s 66 and 18. These three states thus account for almost half of all the SEZs in the country. The share is especially significant among the already notified SEZs with 144 out of the total 274.

Even more imbalanced is the spread of SEZs when one considers the locations within each state. 48 out of the 99 formally approved SEZs in Andhra Pradesh are in or close to Hyderabad, while 34 of 66 formally approved are similarly in or close to Chennai. The main number of SEZs can thus easily be characterised as being in the IT-sector and in one of primarily Western or Southern cities. This said, almost every state has tried to get a couple of SEZs to be established within their territories including tiny Dadra & Haveli’s 4, and Pondicherry’s 1 formally approved zones.

Land requirements

53 multiproduct SEZs are at the in principle approval stage meaning they might soon become formally notified. These are the zones which require really large areas of land and have been contentious on the issue of displacement. Recently the rule preventing larger SEZs than 5,000 hectares

Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra thus account for almost half of all the SEZs in the country. Even more imbalanced is the spread of SEZs when one considers the locations within each state. 48 out of the 99 formally approved SEZs in Andhra Pradesh are in or close to Hyderabad, while 34 of 66 formally approved are similarly in or close to Chennai.

was lifted which lead the Adani group to apply for and get granted a merger between the 3 zones of (4498 + 2658 + 2648 hectares) it had created next to each other at Mundra in Gujarat to avoid the land ceiling.

The largest SEZs in the “In principle”-category	Size (ha)
DLF Universal Gurgaon, Haryana multi-product	8,097
Omaxe Limited Alwar District, Rajasthan RJ Multi-Product	6,070
D.S. Constructions Ltd. Palwal, Haryana Multi-product	5,000
Skil Infrastructure Limited Nandagudi Hobli, Karnataka Multi product	5,000
Reliance Haryana SEZ Limited Jhajjar District, Haryana Multi Product	5,000
Mumbai SEZ Limited Gujarat Positra Port Infrastructural Ltd Multi-product	5,000
New Kolkata International Development Medinipur, West Bengal Multi product	5,000
Writers and Publishers Limited, Indore, Madhya Pradesh Multi Product	4,050
Suncity Haryana SEZ Developer Pvt. Ltd. Ambala, Haryana Multi Product	3,237
Skil Infrastructure Limited Himachal Pradesh Airport based Multi Product SEZ	3,230
Rewas Ports Limited Rewas, District Raigarh, Maharashtra Multi product	2,,850
Videocon Realty and Infrastructure Aurangabad, Maharashtra Multi Product	2,763
Indiabulls Infrastructure Development Raigarh, Maharashtra Multi product	2,429

Among the actually operating SEZs the biggest ones apart from the Mundra zone(s) in Gujarat is APIIC 2,206 ha SEZ in Visakhapatnam and the Kakinada SEZ 1,035 ha both in Andhra Pradesh and the Navi Mumbai SEZ 1,223 ha in Maharashtra

So far the notified¹ have officially required 30,122 ha of land. But with the many really large multi-product SEZs in the In Principle category these cover an area of 1.22 lakh hectares, or 869 hectares per SEZ on average. In Andhra Pradesh the 7,400 ha converted into SEZs is less than Gujarat’s almost 10,000 ha (9,997) despite there being 56 SEZs in AP compared to Gujarat’s 21. Gujarat has clearly prioritised large-scale multi-product SEZs when the rest of the country has seen mainly IT zones. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu who also have a large number of SEZs use up far less area, 5,018 and 2,307 ha respectively again indicating mainly IT SEZs being notified (so far).

Recently the rule of preventing SEZs larger than 5,000 hectares was bent for the Adani group to get granted a merger between the 3 zones of (4498 + 2658 + 2648 hectares) it had created next to each other at Mundra in Gujarat to avoid the land ceiling.

¹ The data on notified SEZs is from 30th September 2008 and thus older than the other data used in this report.

III. ISSUES OF CONCERN

1. EXPROPRIATION OF RESOURCES AND LIVELIHOOD ISSUES

Large scale requirement of land and Forced Acquisition of Land

India is almost unique in its concept of creating SEZs *on demand*: i.e. the location, size and nature of the zone is explicitly determined not by state economic policy but by the demands of private capital. Moreover, the only condition for setting up such a zone is the possession or intent to possess a sufficient area of land. This ofcourse as common sense would suggest has led to emergence of agitations by farmers, land owning and land based communities in various locations (please refer to list in Annexure).

Despite issuing of guidelines by the Ministry of Commerce and the EGoM, that no forced acquisition of land will take place for private SEZs on 15th June 2007, nearly all states are using the Land Acquisition Act 1894 to acquire the land for developers of SEZs and that too in the absence of any provision for rehabilitation. In some states like Tamil Nadu and AP the governments are even using the urgency clause – 17/4 of the LAA to acquire land compulsorily. In states like Maharashtra state supported land acquisition was brought to a halt in projects like Karla (Mahindra and Mahindra SEZ), Raigarh (Reliance SEZ), Nasik (India Bulls SEZ), Nagpur (Mihan SEZ) after issuing land acquisition notices under (Section 4 and 6) LA Act or issue of public notice. However, the acquisition notices are yet to be withdrawn. Infact, except for Nandigram in West Bengal and Amritsar in Punjab, there have been no cases of withdrawal of notices. Even after the SC refuse to stay the Land Acquisition in the Reliance SEZ case of Raigad, the MoC is yet to cancel their approval. The MOC continues providing extensions to companies even though they have managed to purchase only a small part of the required land for the SEZ.

It is argued that much of the land being diverted for SEZs is already available with the State Industrial development Corporations (IDCs). While this is a fact, it needs to be specified that in many cases lands which had previously been acquired by IDCs and are now being transferred to SEZ developers also used the Land Acquisition Act. These sales are obviously at much higher rates than their original acquisition price from the farmers, which has spurred a whole new set of issues and there are several court battles being fought for better compensation by original owners. Is the role of the IDCs to be agents for real estate developers or to promote industrialisation?

With the many really large multi-product SEZs in the In Principle category these cover an area of 1.22 lakh hectares, or 869 hectares per SEZ on average

In states like Gujarat a large part of the land being diverted to SEZs is in the category of common or gowcher land (referred to wrongly as 'wasteland'). Much of this land is in the coastal and dryland areas and fishing and grazier communities depend on this land for their day to day

The issue of compensation at market value, even to land owners is meaningless as the scales are heavily weighed in favor of private buyers and Government owned Industrial corporations, who are the informed negotiators in deciding the package.

Further, not all the states had IDCs with readily available lands and given the rate at which the SEZ approvals were being granted, it became clear that the IDCs lands would not suffice. As a result, the IDCs have also started acquiring fresh land to be transferred to SEZs.

Landless and Agricultural labourers displaced without compensation

Almost 80% of the agricultural population in India owns only about 17% of the total agriculture land, making them near-landless workers. Far more families and communities depend on a piece of land (for work, grazing) than those who own it outright. However, compensation is being discussed only for those who hold titles to land. No compensation has been planned for those who do not.

In states like Gujarat a large part of the land being diverted to SEZs is in the category of common or gowcher land (referred to wrongly as 'wasteland'). Much of this land is in the coastal and dryland areas and fishing and grazier communities depend on this land for their day to day livelihoods. Since these lands are 'common lands' with no individual titles, they are transferred without even consulting the local communities and panchayats. Temple or Panchami land in Tamil Nadu and Waqf board lands in Andhra Pradesh are other examples of Public lands that have been expropriated and privatised for SEZs.

The most outrageous acquisitions are taking place in Andhra Pradesh which has the highest number of SEZ approvals, in the form of acquiring assigned lands (allotted to Dalits and Scheduled Tribes) for SEZs. . This has been seen clearly in places like Polepally, Kakinada, Chittoor and Anantapur where SEZs are proposed. These are acts against the letter and spirit of Indian Constitution, which guarantees right to life and livelihoods to citizens through the Constitution Article 21.

Destruction of Agro-based and rural economies

Loss of local agriculture, fisheries based and other traditional livelihoods leading to large scale displacement and food and livelihood insecurity are matters of grave worry. The bulk of land being acquired for SEZs is fertile, agricultural land, especially in case of the multi-product zones. Agriculture Scientists have estimated that close to 1.14 lakh farming households (each household on an average comprising five members) and an additional 82,000 farm worker families who are dependent upon these farms for their livelihoods, will be displaced. The total loss of income to the farming and the farm worker families, then, is an astounding Rs.212-crore a year. These were the estimates in 2006 after the initial SEZ approvals which are now

The most outrageous acquisitions are taking place in Andhra Pradesh which has the highest number of SEZ approvals, in the form of acquiring assigned lands (allotted to Dalits and Scheduled Tribes) for SEZs.

In Maharashtra the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health cannot carry out inspections in SEZs without the permission of the Development Commissioner. Andhra Pradesh is offering concessions in minimum wages and is allowing work for 365 days per year, even for 24 hours a day (if overtime is paid).

multiplied three-fold. Further, there is hardly any assessment of destruction of other allied livelihoods of artisans and craft-dependent households or others surviving on small businesses in the SEZ affected villages

The coastal SEZs in states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have led to serious opposition by fisher people who are losing their access to the sea, especially as a result of the post based SEZs. Saltpan workers are the other affected community in case of coastal SEZs.

Creation of exploitative employment opportunities and working conditions resulting from nullification of labour protection laws

The harsh condition of workers in existing SEZs in India and China is already well known. The power in the hands of the development Commissioner to declare SEZs as “public utility services” under the Industrial Disputes Act would mean that in SEZ areas workers will have no rights to strike or even to form unions and organize collectively to bargain for better wages or working conditions. The SEZ policy of the government transfers all the powers of the state Labor Commissioner to the Development Commissioners of the SEZs. In Maharashtra the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health cannot carry out inspections in SEZs without the permission of the Development Commissioner. Andhra Pradesh is offering concessions in minimum wages and is allowing work for 365 days per year; even for 24 hours a day (if overtime is paid). In the Noida EPZ workers have been sacked for demanding the implementation of labor laws.¹

2. ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Revenue Losses due to unnecessary tax concessions:

The Ministry of Finance conducted a study, and came up with the figures that the cumulative revenue loss from tax holidays to SEZs over the period 2004-05 to 2009-10 is estimated to be 1,75,487 Cr. Annually, this is equivalent to about 6-7% of the central government’s receipts during 2005-06. The foregone tax revenue is four times the annual allocation for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and can feed each year 50 million hungry people every day. The SEZs approved are too small, and it is close to declaring that every large factory in the country is an SEZ. If this happens, it would be a tax scam of monumental proportions. The finance ministry, which has collated the tax filings of 4,10,451 companies (including SEZs) have found that there have been a sharp rise in revenue forgone by the government on account of certain exemptions — including accelerated depreciation, which shot up from Rs. 73,96 crore in 2006-07 to Rs 12,946 crore in 2007-08 and further to Rs 14,344 crore in 2008-09.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/News/business/39-tax-exemptions-cost-govt-Rs-68-914-crore-in-revenue-forgone/Article1-446258.aspx>

The Ministry of Finance conducted a study, and came up with the figures that the cumulative revenue loss from tax holidays to SEZs over the period 2004-05 to 2009-10 is estimated to be 1,75,487 Cr. Annually, this is equivalent to about 6-7% of the central government’s receipts during 2005-06.

The CAG review brought out systemic as well as compliance weaknesses that caused lost revenues to the tune of Rs.246.72 crores. Furthermore, the CAG threw light on the absence of enabling provisions which resulted in Rs.1724.67 crores of revenues forgone, or irrecoverable.

In its performance audit-report on indirect taxes for Union Government tabled in parliament on 11 March 2008, the CAG brought 370 SEZ units under scanner with a limited objective to verify if they had complied with existing Customs Act, Rules, notifications etc. The review brought out systemic as well as compliance weaknesses that caused lost revenues to the tune of Rs.246.72 crores. Furthermore, the CAG threw light on the absence of enabling provisions which resulted in Rs.1724.67 crores of revenues forgone, or irrecoverable. (See details in Section IV).

Additional losses come from state-level incentives. The secretive nature of these deals means that these are not taken into account even when CAG and others make their estimates of revenue losses. The implication is that the central government itself does not know the full implications of the SEZ scheme it is promoting.

Regional and sectoral imbalances

If we look at the distribution of the lands within SEZs approved we find that 70% of the land is concentrated in the hands of the 25 to 30% of medium and large sized multi product zone developers. The rest of the smaller SEZs are mostly in the IT sector. Most of the SEZs are also concentrated around urban areas and their peripheries and other infrastructurally developed centres in the top 5 states, already considered as industrially progressive. This contradicts the Government's stated interest in bringing SEZ to 'backward areas'.

Further if we look at the IT sector approvals we find that it is real estate companies like Rahejas, Unitech, DLF, Parsavnath, Emaar and many others who are dominant. These companies have found their own methods of subverting the ceiling laws by floating subsidiaries. According to a news report, DLF (a major SEZ developer) has floated 68 subsidiaries, each of which has subsidiaries. EMAAR, another infrastructure developing company has 350. The Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 83rd Report on 'functioning of SEZs' has also shown concern about real estate speculation in areas where SEZs are coming up. With only 35 to 50% processing area the rest remains open for housing and entertainment, due to which real estate firms are dominating SEZs. This point has been emphasized by the Parliamentary Standing Committee report as well (Refer to Section V). Also, the advantages an SEZ has over units outside (in the Domestic Tariff Area) violates the basic norms of a competitive economy and creates more imbalances.

Stated objectives remain unfulfilled?

The Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce has admitted that 40% of the SEZs approved may never really "take off the ground" (Panos-Kalpavriksh media dialogue on SEZs -December 2008). Additionally the figures of 3.5 lakhs employment and 90,000 crores investment generated by SEZs are being questioned on their authenticity and efficacy since these

The Ministry of Commerce figures of 3.5 lakhs employment and 90,000 crores investment generated by SEZs are being questioned on their authenticity and efficacy since these have to be established through a detailed and independent evaluation.

It needs to be mentioned further that a great recession in the world economy is not a good omen for promoting SEZs, which will produce for an increasingly shrinking and protected export market. Also, it's not specified what happens to a developer whose SEZ does not meet the export requirement.

have to be established through a detailed and independent evaluation. Now with the economic recession being faced across the globe and country the IT, real estate and export sectors have been the most hit. The MoC itself admits that 50000 jobs have been lost in SEZs alone in the last six months. And many developers are lining up to 'denotify' their SEZs or cancel the received approvals.

Further the conditions of contract labour in SEZs are the most pathetic. Wages in existing SEZs are often below minimum. Sen and Dasgupta in a May 2007 survey found that in the NOIDA SEZ workers were getting Rs.80 a day for 9 hours of work. Likewise in Falta in West Bengal. (See: <http://www.mainstreamweekly.net/article8.html>)

Indian policy has very little regulation on the activity within a zone. Notwithstanding claims of export-orientation, the only requirement imposed on SEZ units is a vague need for them to have a 'positive net foreign exchange balance.' Even that only applies to industrial units in the zone. If the goal of SEZs is indeed exports surely a more stringent clause than merely "positive net foreign exchange" for the SEZ as a whole ought to be applied. EOUs had much stiffer requirements and thus performed much better when measured against stated purpose. It needs to be mentioned further that a great recession in the world economy is not a good omen for promoting SEZs, which will produce for an increasingly shrinking and protected export market. Also, it's not specified what happens to a developer whose SEZ does not meet the export requirement. Just like it's not specified what the procedure for denotification is. The recession - and the accompanying demand for denotification by developers like DLF (SEZs) is exposing this loophole. In such cases what happens to the land? Will it be returned to farmers? If so, how?

3. IMPLICATIONS ON GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Breakdown of governance systems especially of the local self governments with the creation of foreign enclaves

The SEZ Act (Section 9, 11, 12 and 31) takes power back to the center and bureaucracy (by creating 'Board of Approvals' and 'Development Commissioner' and 'SEZ Authority', whose accountability is not certain. The fact that the SEZs would have their own regulations, the rights for environmental and labour related clearances, security arrangements, means that they would be 'self contained privatized autonomous entities', where existing constitutional rights would be difficult to exercise. The creation of separate courts for SEZs ridicules the existing judicial system. There is no clarity about how elections will be conducted, and what happens to the governing authority of the Gram Sabha/ Municipality, under the 73rd/74th amendments.

The SEZ Act (Section 9, 11, 12 and 31) takes power back to the center and bureaucracy (by creating 'Board of Approvals' and 'Development Commissioner' and 'SEZ Authority', whose accountability is not certain.

There is no transparency in the guidelines formulated for selection, modification and rejection of SEZ proposals by the BoA. The representation and role of key ministries like Agriculture, Labour, and Environment was undermined. The Chairman of the Administrative reforms committee, M Veerappa Moily's report on SEZs states that 'We need to restructure the Board of Approval by putting in people who are objective and can take a balanced view.'

The Commerce Ministry had made public announcements of various studies/ comparison of SEZ with other countries. Mr. Kirit Somaya filed an RTI regarding this, and in the answer that was given stated - "study of export of nearby countries of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka was done. No other studies or scientific analysis available."

No space for popular concerns or public consultation:

The SEZ Act was passed in haste without much public debate. There was no public consultation; participation and debate on the SEZ Act facilitated by the Ministry. In both houses of Indian Democracy has passed this bill was passed within a day (10th and 11th May 2005) with virtually no discussion, undermining many of the objections that were raised.

Further, information that has been demanded from the Ministry of Commerce on the approved projects under the RTI Act, 2005 has been denied on the clause of maintaining "trade secrets". This has been done despite the fact that many of these projects have initiated acquisition procedures displacing livelihoods of a large number of people and therefore the information about them should be provided in Public Interest. In Tamil Nadu, a researcher-activist was indicted by the Tamil Nadu Industry Department for asking too many questions and this case is still ongoing in the Madras High Court (Case number WP33936 of 2007). Once the above information request had been made in 2006 the appeal process was a lengthy one with several hearings at the Tamil Nadu Information Commission towards the end of 2007. In the end the commissioner chose to allow the request and also made some strong remarks on the lack of transparency of the industry department.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Land, water, air are natural resources that SEZs are likely to exploit and gain control over, and the use of which is directly linked to the environmental impacts of SEZs. The change of land use of an area for industrial purpose is bound to change the ecosystem and ecological health of any area. Ironically, SEZs are being granted environmental clearances like any ordinary projects, with no obvious mention of studies related to environment impacts of upcoming developments. Examples from Chinese SEZs indicate the extent of the environmental losses involved.

Both houses of Indian Democracy passed this bill within a day (10th and 11th May 2005) with virtually no discussion, undermining many of the objections that were raised.

SEZs are being granted environmental clearances like any ordinary projects, with no obvious mention of studies related to environment impacts of upcoming developments. In many cases they are being exempted from the mandatory Environment Clearance Public Hearings -The Mundra SEZ is one such example

India is already going through a crisis in terms of water scarcity as well as loss of forests and biodiversity. The point is that in the current framework for economic development costs of loss of forest and other common lands; large scale exploitation of water resources; coastal lands and lines; pollution - air and water; generation of e-waste etc; are not even being computed.

There is great deal of ambiguity and contradictions when one compares how environment clearances are dealt with in the EIA notification and the SEZ legislations. In this regard, it is important to consider the following points. While it is units with the SEZs which are exempt from Environment Clearance public hearings, the SEZs itself are required to under go public hearing. However, there are cases like the Mundra SEZ where the Ministry of Environment has recommended that Public Hearing be exempted for the creation of the Multi Product SEZ.

The issues of compliance monitoring to clearance conditions becomes of serious concern with all powers centred in the hands of the Development Commissioner. With provisions like the one restricting entry into the SEZs, which are open to authorised persons only, it is difficult for independent researchers to enter the area to carry out any environmental impact assessments or studies.

IV. ISSUES RAISED BY CAG

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India's (CAG) Union Audit Report 2007 outlined that some existing SEZs are operating within a system that enables the government to forego tax revenue. Tabled in parliament on 11 March 2008, the CAG report brought 370 SEZ units under scanner with a limited objective to verify if they had complied with existing Customs Act, Rules, notifications etc. The review brought out systemic as well as compliance weaknesses that caused lost revenues to the tune of Rs. 246.72 crores. Furthermore, the CAG threw light on the absence of enabling provisions, which resulted in Rs.1724.67 crores of revenues forgone, or irrecoverable. Duty foregone by the Government on the SEZ scheme during the period 2000-01 to 2005-06 was Rs. 8,842 crores. The budget estimates of the duty foregone for the year 2006-07 was Rs. 2,146 crores.

It was observed during the audit, that 22 SEZ units had been achieving the prescribed "positive" Net Foreign Exchange mainly through domestic sales and this defeats one of the sub-objectives of the scheme, which was to augment real exports. While an overall export of Rs.7, 149.23 crores was made by these 22 units, the actual export content was only Rs.1, 999.27

With provisions like the one restricting entry into the SEZs, which are open to authorised persons only, it is difficult for independent researchers to enter the area to carry out any environmental impact assessments or studies.

CAG Audit Report on Madhya Pradesh for the year ending March 31, 2005 has indicted MPSIDC for allotting a tract of land that was acquired 22 years back and was lying vacant, to Indore SEZ at cheaper rates, resulting in loss of revenues worth Rs 22.58 crore.

crores (28 per cent) and the remaining Rs.5, 149.96 crores (72 per cent) related to Domestic Tariff Area earnings. The range of the domestic earnings as a percentage of total export earning in these units was 59 to 100. Customs duty of Rs. 1,043.29 crores was foregone on import of goods by these units.

The report further indicated that credits received by SEZs place them at an unfair advantage over non-SEZ units that do not receive the tax credit. The CAG reported, “no provision had been made to recover duty foregone on inputs procured by the SEZ units and used in the manufacture of products which were cleared at ‘nil’ rate in DTA. The government needs to address this disparity to ensure a level playing field for units in DTA as well as in the SEZ” (ibid).

The government was denied Rs. 285.81 crore because duty was not levied/ short levied at seven SEZs in cases where imports were being made in violation of the SEZ conditions. Through the audit, the CAG confirmed that irregular DTA sales led to a non levy/ short levy of Rs. 84.37 crore in Central Excise duty. The report further outlines specific cases where the CAG determined that individual SEZs were: not achieving minimum net foreign exchange performance (NFEP). “Duty free irregular imports made by EOUs are a huge drain on the Government Revenue. There is an urgent need to put in place a workable co-ordinate mechanism between Commerce and Finance Ministries, to detect such lapses and recover duty in time” (ibid).

CAG Audit Report on Madhya Pradesh for the year ending March 31, 2005 has indicted MPSIDC for allotting a tract of land that was acquired 22 years back and was lying vacant, to Indore SEZ at cheaper rates, resulting in loss of revenues worth Rs 22.58 crore.

Goa Irregularities

Similarly CAG Audit Report on Goa for the year ending March 31, 2008 probed into land allotments by Goa Industrial Development Corporation for seven SEZs and found out that tracts of land that were specially procured in August 1992, August 2001 and March 2007 were lying unutilized and were handed to SEZ developers at cheaper rates. The audit scrutiny pointed out the loss of revenue worth Rs 102.64 crores.

Reviewed by the Goa Legislative Assembly in early 2009, the CAG report on Goa acknowledged major discrepancies in land transfers related to SEZs in the state. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India’s review of the Goa Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) reveals that the actions of the corporation lacked transparency, occurred in some instances without mandate, had major irregularities, and cost the state significant losses in revenue.(CAG, Goa State Report, Chapter VII Government Commercial and Trading Activities). Among others, the

CAG Audit Report on Goa for the year ending March 31, 2008 probed into land allotments by Goa Industrial Development Corporation for seven SEZs and found out that tracts of land that were specially procured were lying unutilized and were handed to SEZ developers at cheaper rates with loss of revenue worth Rs 102.64 crores.

The most critical recommendation made by the Parliamentary standing committee on Commerce in its 83rd report included the need to 'pause and ponder'. The report clearly expressed concern about the fast pace at which approvals have been granted by the BoA despite apprehensions raised from all quarters.

Report highlighted inconsistencies in the land allotment to SEZs in the Verna Industrial Estate. The report says, “Allotments of land at Verna Phase IV to SEZs were irregular as the land was acquired for an industrial growth centre with financial assistance from the government of India” (ibid). The Goa government received 10 crore of financial assistance from the Industrial Growth Centre (IGC) Scheme of the Government of India to establish and promote the Verna Industrial Estate with small and medium units. In turn, the GIDC allotted land acquired within the estate to SEZs, which is in contradiction to the mandate of the scheme. The CAG concluded that the state is required to Refund the contribution of Rs 10 crore received from GOI.

The report further explains that the GIDC, which technically was not assigned any role under the SEZ policy, allotted 38.41 lakh sq m of land to seven SEZs. “Allotment to SEZs was made without publicizing, that too before the State government formulated its SEZ policy”, says the CAG (ibid). The GIDC also provided four SEZ developers with more land than what was officially approved by the SEZ Board of Approvals, and the land was allocated at a lesser rate costing the state over Rs. 36.89 crore.

The CAG report on the Goa Industrial Development Corporation, referred to the Government of India in June 2008, concluded (direct quotes):

- Corporation deviated from its established role, of acquiring and allotting land directly to the entrepreneur, by allotting land to developers for further allotments by them
- Allotments were made without any transparent selection procedures
- Allotments to SEZs were made without publicising, that too before the State Government formulated its SEZ policy
- Land acquired for small and medium scale industries under IGC (Industrial Growth Centre) Scheme was allotted to SEZ violating GOI guidelines
- Revision of premium rate of Verna Phase IV (industrial estate proposed to house SEZs) only after major chunk was allotted at lower rate, tentatively fixed, resulted in loss of Rs. 36.89 crore
- Allotment of land contiguous to the land allotted to four SEZs at lesser rate resulted in loss of Rs. 39.47 crore
- Allotment of 14.36 lakh square metre land to two SEZ developers without adopting approved formula resulted in loss of Rs 17.76 crore

(Source: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Goa State Report, Chapter VII Government Commercial and Trading Activities)

Tax concessions in SEZs are similar to STPs and EoUs - then why is there are a need for SEZs? : Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in its 83rd report

The Parliamentary Standing committee slammed the Ministry of Commerce on the ground that at the time of the release of the 83rd report there were 152 formal approvals and by the time the ATR was presented in the Rajya Sabha the total number of approved SEZs had crossed 500.

V. POINTS RAISED BY PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce of the previous government under the Chairmanship of Murli Manohar Joshi submitted its 83rd report on the 'Functioning of SEZs' to the parliament on 20th June 2007. The report raised some very pertinent points on the SEZ policy and its implications. The most critical recommendation made by the committee included the need to 'pause and ponder'. The report clearly expressed concern about the fast pace at which approvals have been granted by the BoA despite apprehensions raised from all quarters.

The report also stated that in the process of enquiry being carried out by the Standing Committee members, the local administration was not forthcoming, the state governments were not supportive and in some places the sub-committee was prevented from meeting people.

Most importantly the report criticised the escalation of displacement as a result of the large SEZs leading to displacement and speculation in many situations. In the action taken report (87th report) submitted to the Rajya Sabha on 24th October 2008, the Ministry of Commerce has absolved itself of the responsibility of the land issues stating three points:

- that the MoC had issued guidelines stating that no land would be acquired by force after 5th April 2007 using the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 in case of private SEZs
- that the government had come out with two bills on amendment to the Land Acquisition Act and the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill 2007 in order to deal with the issue of displacement
- that ultimately land was a state subject and hence it's the prerogative of the state to follow the guidelines issued by the centre and avoid conflict of interest

All the three arguments are inadequate because they do not deal with the ground realities in the establishment of SEZs. While private SEZs are expected to carry out direct purchase of land, in many cases it is the IDCs which are being used to first acquire the land and then hand it over to the private companies. That the two bills introduced in the Parliament in the last session of the previous government, leave much to be desired, in terms of their redressal of the problem of displacement and alienation of farmers and rural communities from their lands has been well argued.

Some of the other recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee which were brushed aside by the Ministry of Commerce in the ATR include:

- Region wise cap on the SEZ approvals to allow for balanced regional development of SEZs.

**Citizens Groups
Demand: A
moratorium on
further approvals
of SEZs till
an independent
review of the
functioning of
existing SEZs as
recommended by
the Parliamentary
Standing
Committee in its
83rd Report. Public
audit of SEZs
should be
conducted through
public consultations
and hearings as a
part of this. The
ultimate move
should be a repeal
of this legislation
because of its un-
constitutional
nature**

- Imposition of restrictions on unnecessary social infrastructure
- Linking of fiscal incentives to exports
- Tax concessions in SEZs are similar to STPs and EoUs - then why is there a need for SEZs?
- Re-look at delegation of Labour Commissioner's powers to the Development Commissioner

Most importantly the Parliamentary Standing committee slammed the Ministry of Commerce on the ground that at the time of the release of the 83rd report there were 152 formal approvals and 82 notifications by the Board of Approvals and there was no effort to put a halt on the approvals despite the committee's recommendation to hold approvals till amendments were put in place. By the time the ATR was presented in the Rajya Sabha the total number of approved SEZs had crossed 500. The MoC has merely stated that it was in the process of getting a 'scientific evaluation' done on the performance and impacts of SEZs.

VI. FINAL WORD

The above mentioned issues were raised at meetings with the Union Minister of Commerce, the Special Secretary MoC, Minister of State (MoC) in September 2006, Chairperson of the Empowered group of Ministers in April 2007 and with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in May 2007 by delegations of civil society members, activists and representatives of affected communities. Each time assurances of consultations were given but no such initiatives were taken and the demands put forth have been completely overlooked till date. In the time that has lapsed more than 550 projects have received approvals and land grab continues.

We believe that the current SEZ Act and Policy provides legislative and judicial support to privatization of the country's resources and has the potential to destabilize the democratic governance system. In addition to this, it threatens and over rides the existing rights of workers, farmers and other communities to be affected by SEZs. We are also concerned about the huge costs to the state exchequer as well as the economy of this country as a result of concessions provided to Private Corporations under the SEZ legislation and policy.

Therefore, we once again firmly demand that to ensure industrial and economic development which is sustainable, equitable and democratic the SEZ Act be thoroughly reviewed. We demand:

- A moratorium on further approvals of SEZ
- An independent review of the functioning of existing SEZs vis a vis stated objectives as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 83rd Report. Public audit of SEZs

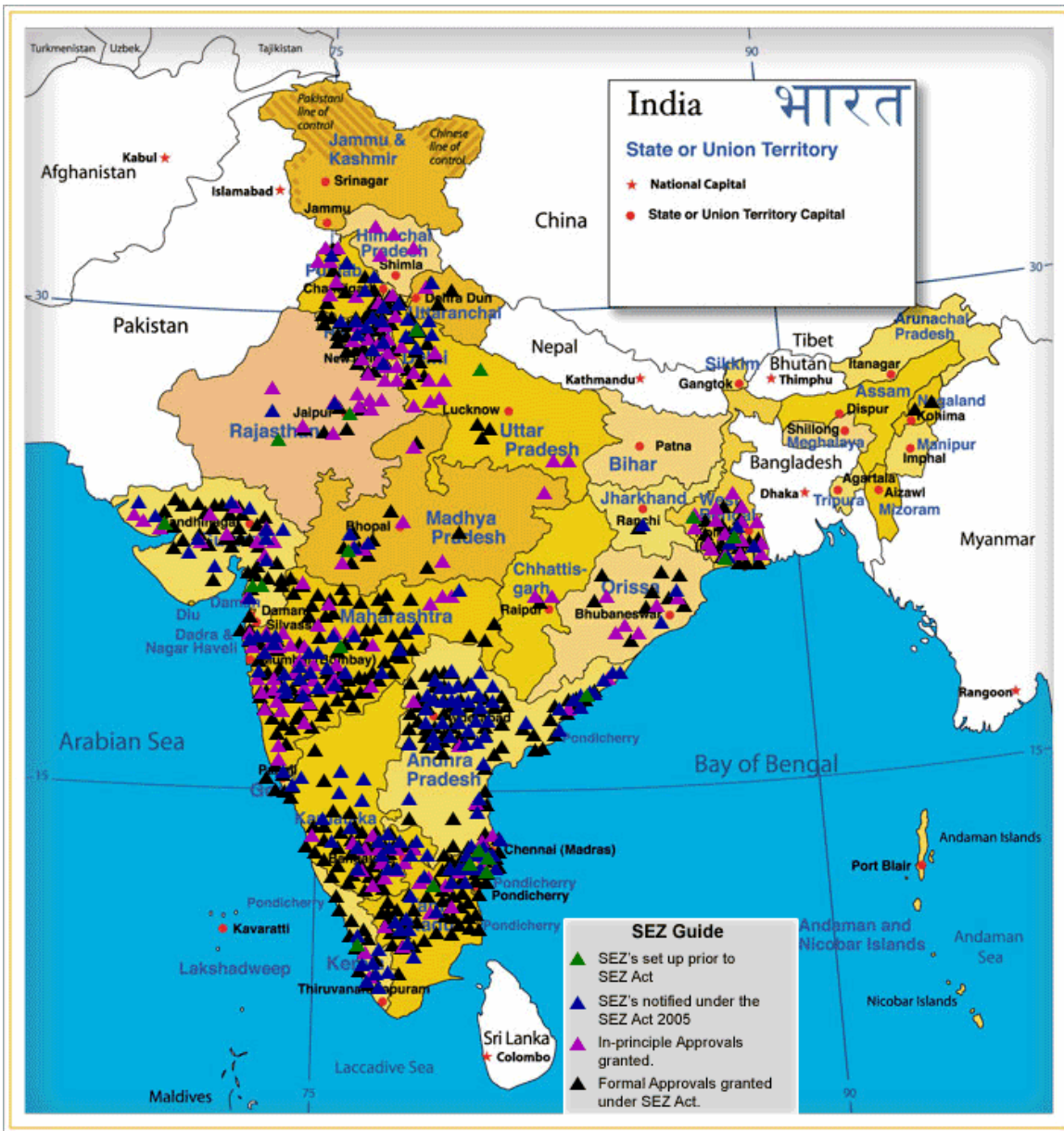
should be conducted through public consultations and hearings as a part of this

- In areas where there have been protests against approved and notified SEZs the projects must be cancelled or de-notified and land acquisitions already made be annulled.
- The ultimate move should be a repeal of this legislation because of its un-constitutional nature

We demand that the democratically elected government starts responding to the interests of its citizens and people than to those of companies and developers.

VII. SIGNATORIES

VIII MAP OF SEZS APPROVED AFTER THE SEZ ACT



Source: Aseem Srivastava and Kashif Ali

IX. REFERENCE LIST/ WEB RESOURCES

1. SEZs: One More Anti-Bharat Act by India Arun Kumar, Mainstream April, 27-May 3, 2007. Pp. 11 – 18
2. SEZs: A catalogue of questions, Aseem Srivastava,
<http://infochangeindia.org/200702036051/Trade-Development/Analysis/SEZs-A-catalogue-of-questions.html>
3. Seminar, February 2008, Special Economic Zones Cul-de-sac <http://www.india-seminar.com/>
4. 83rd report of the parliamentary standing committee on commerce 'on the functioning of Special Economic Zones'
<http://164.100.47.5:8080/newcommittee/reports/EnglishCommittees/Committee%20on%20Commerce/Report%20SEZ1.htm>
5. 87th report of the parliamentary standing committee on commerce on Action taken by Government on the recommendations/observations of the committee contained in its 83rd report
<http://164.100.47.5:8080/newcommittee/reports/EnglishCommittees/Committee%20on%20Commerce/87th%20report.htm>
6. Comptroller Auditor General's reports on SEZs
7. In the Name of Growth: The Politics and Economic of SEZs in India, Shankar Gopalakrishnan, Council for Social Development, <http://sanhati.com/articles/228/>
8. Ministry of Commerce's Official Website on SEZs <http://www.sezindia.nic.in/>
9. Special Economic Zones: Profits At Any Cost By C.R. Bijoy, 22 October, 2007, Countercurrents.org
10. People's Memorandum Against Special SEZs, 2006
11. Letter to the Empowered Group of Ministers, 2007
12. People's Delegation Meets Ministry of Commerce on SEZs
http://www.ncasindia.org/public/whatnew/sez/press_release.pdf
13. Public Price of Success: Nokia SEZ,
<http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/content/nokia-sez-public-price-success>
14. Citizens Research Collective against SEZs sez.icrindia.org/
15. The Special Economic Zones Act 2005

X. STRUGGLES AGAINST SEZS ACROSS INDIA AFTER THE SEZ ACT 2005

State	District	Location - Villages	Developer	Date and status Approval	Land Area involved	Community Affected	Key issues of concern/demands	Status on the ground
Andhra Pradesh								
	Mahbubnagar	Polepally	APIIC	Approved in Mid 2007	300 Acres (Total of 1000 Acres acquired)	All the affected farmers belong to ST, SC, BC & Minorities	1) Land acquired on a wrong pretext. 2) Farmers were paid approximately Rs. 16000, while the APIIC is reselling at Rs. 12,00,000 Per Acre	Construction of SEZ has begun, Farmers are intensifying the struggle, the government is trying to bribe the farmers in an effort to pacify them.
	East Godavari	Kakinada	GMR	May 16th 2006	10,000 Acres (15 Villages will be totally displaced)	Farmers, landless labour, fisherfolk, SC, ST, BC	1) Fertile land being acquired by a private promoter called K V Rao. 2) Government officials coercing the locals. 3) Several activists and farmers are implicated in cases. 4) Approximate compensation received is a mere Rs. 3,00,000	Some attempts to fence the land are being made. Farmers are severely resisting this.

	Vishakhapatnam	Achuttapuram and Pampilli Mandals	APIIC	Formal Approval	2200 hectares	Kaapu, Chettipaliya, Velammas and SC and STs.	<p>1. The APIIC developing a textile SEZ in two phases in two Mandals Achuttapuram and Pampilli of Vishkhapatnam comprising 32 villages inhabited by farming communities of which 5 villages also comprise of fishing communities</p> <p>3. Fertile Land under multiple crops acquired by force - The farmers were paid Rs 2.95 lakhs/acre as compensation for the 1st phase</p> <p>4. Inadequate rehabilitation measure, measly compensation and as a result all land has yet to be vacated</p>	Land Acquisition for Phase 1 was initiated in July 2006 when LAA notices were issued for 8000 acres of land. This has been completed without complete rehabilitation. The Phase II land acquisition is being opposed - a case has been filed by the affected in the AP High Court
--	----------------	-----------------------------------	-------	-----------------	---------------	-----------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	Nellore	Tada Mandal: N.M. Kandrika, China Mambattu and Peda Mambattu hamlets of Chinna Mambattu Gram Panchayat	Apache Footwear (Taiwan)	08.08.2006	340 acres village common land, 70 acres temple land from the endowments department ; 500 acres from the local gram Panchayat — China Mambattu. Private industrialists have purchased another 100 acres of agricultural land in the vicinity and 400 acres	weavers, shepherds, barbers, washermen and women and Yanadi tribals	1) Yanadis, who depend on natural and community property resources, are ineligible to receive any compensation for the displacement caused by the SEZ because they do not own any land. 2) Locals have not been given jobs and educational opportunities as pro	
	RangaReddy		APIIC for Georgia Tech	Not yet approved	250 acres		SEZ approved in the guise of a University where as the original purpose is for commercial use	University slated to begin operations late this year. Waiting for amendment of law on private universities
Punjab								
	Amritsar		DLF	Formal Approval	1200 acres	Jat Sikh Farmers, Landless labourers	On 16 th August 2006 the Section 4 notice for 1218 acres of land to be acquired was issued for 7 villages – Cheetey, Raipur, Pandori, Mahima, Pakhuvala, Cheetey Khurd, Rakcheetey. All the land for which the notice was issued was fertile and irrigated land and would affect a population of 26000 people. The market	Huge protest/agitations led by Bharat Kisan Union Ekta till the notification for Land Acquisition was withdrawn 9 th February 2007

							rate of the land varied from 40 lakh to even a crore where as the government was offering only 8 to 13 lakhs. 80% of the land losers were small farmers	
Goa								
	Kerim	Taluka-Ponda	Meditab Specialties Pvt Ltd	Notified-541(E) 10th April'07	123.2 ha		Land Acquisition by GIDC and transferred to SEZ was in done haste without proper procedural formalities, land was earlier declared for university purpose	Land Acquired by GIDC but project is on hold by the state government, notification might cancelled
	Verna	Verna Industrial Estate	K Rahejas Corp Pvt. Ltd	Notified- 10th July, 07	105.91 ha		Industrial estate where in 4th phase land was acquired for industrial purpose but without auction it was handed over to SEZ, land transferred to SEZ in much lower price then the real price, even less then the price GIDC had purchased	Land Acquired by GIDC but project is on hold by the state government, notification might cancelled
	Sancoale	Tal-Mormugao	Peninsula Research Centre Pvt Ltd	Formal Approval	20.365 ha		Company was not even registered at the time of its application, government itself allotted land for SEZ though company had not applied for SEZ, land allotted was more then company's demand, land allotment was done in haste without proper procedure	Land Acquired by GIDC but project is on hold by the state government, notification might cancelled
	Verna	Verna Industrial Estate	Planet view Mercantile Company Limited	Formal Approval	13.28 ha		Incomplete application form but still land is allotted, issues in type of SEZ in project proposal two different purposes are mentioned, no valid disclosure about company details	Land Acquired by GIDC but project is on hold
	Verna	Verna Industrial Estate	Inox Mercantile Company Private Limited	Formal Approval	48.48 ha		Incomplete application form but still land is allotted, land allotted more then required	Land Acquired by GIDC but project is on hold

	Verna	Verna Industrial Estate	Paradigm Logistics & Distribution Pvt Ltd	Formal Approval	40.25 ha		Allotted land and its development has issues	Land Acquired by GIDC but project is on hold
Gujarat								
	Kutch	Mundra Village and Taluka	Adani Group (MPSEZL)	Notified dt. 23rd June'06 and	2648-19-00. ha	Wagher Muslims	14 villages - Waghers (fishing community and grazing communities like Rabaris etc affected Fishing harbours blocked as a result of construction of jetties and other activities over the past six to eight years; Unprecedented destruction of Mangroves on revenue land affecting camel graziers and fish production; Old Mundra Port activities disturbed as a result of dredging and heavy shipping vessel movements	Most of the land - revenue waste land transferred by the Government to the company; Port operational - SEZ area under construction
		Mundra Village and Taluka	Mundra Port and SEZ limited	Notified 2nd May, 2008	1074-17-55 ha	Wagher Muslims		Case filed in the High Court on blocking of creeks as a result of the construction and mangrove destruction; Complaint to the MoEF and Forest Advisory Committee on mangrove destruction; Company still awaiting diversion of 1572 hectares of forest land; Coastal Regulation Zone Clearances pending
		Villages Tunda and Siracha, Taluka Mundra,	Adani Power Private Ltd	Notified 10th May 2007	293-88-10 ha	Rabaris and others	Grazing grounds of the rabari community dependent on cattle rearing diverted	Project Construction Completed
	Jamnagar		Reliance Infrastructure Ltd	Notified dt. 19th April 06 & 4th June, 07	1764.137 ha	Farmers and agricultural labour	Disputes on compensation in the land acquisition; pollution in peripheral lands; denotified Marine National Park - coral reef destruction	Project is functional; farmers mobilising - supreme court rejected review of compensation amounts

	Bhavnagar	Dholera, Dhanduka	Adani Group	In principle Approval	1000 ha	Jaths and Bharwads	Tidal flat area; grazing grounds for camels and cattle; private purchase by middle men and speculation is high	Environment Clearance being questioned by Environment groups as a result of proximity to Black Buck Sanctuary (Velavadar)
	Bharuch	Village Dahej, Ambheta, Luvara, Suva Lakhigam and Jageshwar in Taluke Vagra,	Dahej SEZ Limited (GIDC)	Notified dt. 20th Dec'06	1718-93-87 ha	Agariya (salt Pan workers) and farmers	Pollution from existing industries; ground water extraction has reduced water level 16 villages - 4000 households fall in the 12 km radius of the SEZ area. More than 50% of the land in the area is under cultivation. The main crops in the area are wheat, cotton and lentils. mango and chikoo groves. Mangroves are spread over an area of 245 hectares and existing industries over 1264 hectares. Salt pans are spread over a large area	Some farmers are attempting to raise issues esp. with sardar sarovar canal coming into the area to provide water for industries and SEZ
	Surat	Ichhapor	Gujarat Hira Bourse (Gems and Jewellery)	Notified- dt. 20th July 07	73-87-97 ha		Land allotted at much lower price than the market, project was not SEZ before, in 2007 it got SEZ status, land was acquired 25 years before under compulsory acquisition and kept unused by GIDC, loss of local employment in all these years, social impacts	Land allotted
	Surat	Hazira	Essar Steel	Notified 28th Sept.'06	247.5222 ha	Khalasis, Halpatis (dalits)	Loss of lands used for vegetable farming and agriculture; loss of grazing grounds; access to the sea lost; pollution; inundation due to construction; salinity; problem of migrant labour - women facing the brunt of rising criminal activities; Further displacement likely as a result of expansion	Steel Plant established being expanded - No movement as the company has total control over Panchayats
Haryana								

	Gurgaon	Jhajjar+Gurgaon	Reliance	Formal Approval Gurgaon (440 hectares), In principle Approval Jhajjar (5000 hectares)	25000 acres	Rajputs, Dalits, Agricultural labour (migrants)	<p>The joint venture agreement between Reliance Ventures Ltd and the HSIIDC was signed on June 19, 2006, for setting up a multi-product mega special economic zone over 25,000 acres in Gurgaon-Jhajjar in Haryana (that was later bi-furcated into two SEZs — 12,500 acres at Gurgaon and 12,500 acres at Jhajjar). The HSIIDC contributed 1,086 acres from its own land bank. Since most of the land is agricultural and fertile the company and HSIIDC have faced severe agitations by farmers for the last two years. Reliance claims that it has purchased an additional 8000 acres. Near the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal expressway in Gurgaon, a large number of families are against the transfer of 1,395 acres of land which was acquired by the HSIIDC. The farmers' points of opposition remain the acquisition of fertile land coupled with insufficient compensation of about 15 to 20 lakh an acre for land which is now worth crores. The farmers are also not satisfied with the state government's assurance to each family about giving them jobs in these SEZs.</p>	<p>While the HSIIDC had paid compensation rates varying from 15 to 20 lakh an acre initially, the company is now offering about 38 lakhs an acre. Property prices have increased over the past two-and-a-half-years and farmers are not satisfied with the rates given by Reliance. The land owners who have not sold the land yet are demanding around one crore rupees per acre. In July 2008 a Mahapanchayat was called by Haryana Kisan Mazdoor Bhoomi Bachao Sangharsh Samiti to protest against the police barricading in the area which had come up as a result of the agitations over the last few months. The heavy police presence has created a general sense of fear among the villagers.</p>
Himachal Pradesh								

	Una	Gagret	SKIL Infrastructure (Airport and Multi product SEZ)	In principle Approval	3320 ha.	General Caste Farmers	Loss of agriculture lands (fertile and double cropped); Misinformation Campaign by the government - no clarity on the exact area and status of land to be acquired	Matru Bhoomi Sangarsh Samiti - local people's movement is opposing the project; Survey conducted by the government has incorrect information about the area and affected households; Fresh Survey announced; In principle approval renewed first granted in 2006 - now renewed
Karnataka								
	Mangalore , Dakshina Kannada	Kudubi Pavadu, Moodbidri taluka and others	KIADB (26%), KCCI (2%), MRPL-ONGC (23%), ILFS (Infrastructure Leasing and Finance Services) (49%)	6.11.2007	Total 3756 acres of land required; 1800 acquired, 2035 being sought; 15.34 acres at Kudubi Padavu; land from Moodbidri taluk	Farmers; agricultural labor including Christians, dalits, and Kudubi tribals;	1) Lands which had been notified for the project should be immediately de-notified; 2) the SEZ promoter should buy land from only those willing to sell it; 3) the farmers demand special packages to preserve the region's agriculture and environment; 4) Environmental issues	Strong agitation on the ground including postcard campaign, street protests, memorandums, awareness programs for panchayats, televised debates, articles in television and mass media. 1800 acres have already been acquired.

	Nandagudi	Bengaluru Rural	SKIL Infrastructure	12.07.2007	12,350 acres required: the state government has only 4,745 acres of its own and the remaining 7,605 acres will have to be acquired from the farmers in those villages; 36 villages	Farmers; dairy farmers; Horticulturists; sericulturists; agricultural labour. Includes many dalit families	1) Fertile, productive land, rich villages, 2) active cultivation, supplies 30% of Blr's vegetables & dairy; 3) Land should not be taken away from farmers; 4) Cash compensation will not help farmers as they do not know how to save it or reinvest the money	Farmers not yet approached by developer. Still in planning stage. Protests have been ongoing including petitions to the Chief Minister.
	Bidadi	Bandikodigehalli, Kanchugra nahalli, Bairamangala, B. K. Palya, Singahalli, Gollahalli and other villages	Bidadi Integrated Township	2006		Farmers, agricultural labour	1) No mention by the government re: the purpose of the acquisition in its preliminary notification order, which had been issued to farmers of the villages. 2) Farmers want a fair package for the land acquired; 3) Farmers demand that the government allow	
Maharashtra								
	Raigad	Pen, Uran, Panvel	MahaMumbai SEZ Ltd - (reliance)	in-principle approval	5000 ha	Agris, Katkaris	1.Total 45 villages, 22 villages of Pen fall in the catchments area of the Hetwane irrigation dam and the land is fertile, 2. Proximity to creek permits rice and fish cultivation	10% land is acquired by company in private transaction, state LA is on hold, referendum is taken in 22 villages on 21 st of September, report yet to be disclosed

	Pune	Vill Mann, Tal Mulshi,	Infosys Technologies Limited (Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park, Ph. II)	670(E) dt. 26th April'07	31.49 ha		Higher compensation	LA is done with compromise on compensation in 2005
	Pune	Lonavala	M/s. Mahindra Realty Developers Ltd.	In -principle Approval	1000 ha		Partly private purchased, rest is under LA, process is on halt	LA is on hold
	Pune	Village Gulani, District Pune	M/s. Bharat Forge Ltd.	In -principle Approval	2000 ha		1.out of 14 villages in 4 villages project is on. 2. LA opposition-fertile, irrigated, self irrigated agriculture land-potato, tomato cash crops	LA is on hold
	Pune	Wagholi and Loni Khurd Near Pune	Videcon Realty and Infrastructure Limited	In -principle Approval	1000 ha		1.Land Acquisition by MIDC which has already acquired much land from the area for very low compensation' 2. close to pune-cash crops cultivation, dairy	LA is on hold, project is cancelled/relocated under political pressure
	Nashik	Sinner block, Nashik	Indiabulls Industrial Infrastructure Limited	Formal Approval	1023.43 ha		Land Acquisition by MIDC which has already acquired much land from the area for very low compensation	LA is on hold
	Mumbai	Gorai-Manori Region, Mumbai	M/s. Pan India Paryatan Ltd	In -principle Approval	1000 ha		1.Land Acquisition, 2. Environmental Issues-creek ecology, 3.livelihood loss-fish, coconutetc,paddy are main source	LA is on hold

	Nagpur	Mihan	Maharashtra Airport Development Company Limited (MADC)	Formal Approval	1511.51 ha		1. LA-fully irrigated land, 2. Second time displacement 3. Livelihood loss- due to close proximity to the city and industries, people are involved in the business of dairy, orange farming and other small enterprprising, 4. women are opposing, 5. environmental implications of such a huge airport cargo hub within close proximity of human habitation	Partly LA is done
ORISS A								

	Jagatsinghpur	Ersamma	POSCO	In-principle Approval	4000 acres	Fishing Communities, Farmers, Adivasis (Paudi Bhuiyans)	<p>1. Three panchayats (villages) with 3,350 households, which adds up to 22,000 people who will be displaced by the steel plant and port alone</p> <p>2. Government records recognize only 438 acres out of 4000 acres as being privately owned, whilst in reality, most of the land has been under betel, cashew and other cultivation by adivasi (indigenous) communities for several generations. This is fertile land used for cashew and betel vine cultivation</p> <p>3. In addition, there are many landless families that depend on ancillary employment like making baskets for packaging Paan leaves grown in the area.</p> <p>4. The huge water requirement of the steel plant is going to affect irrigation and drinking water supply (from the Mahanadi river) of Cuttack and other districts</p> <p>5. Apart from the plant and port the mines in Sudargarh district over 6000 hectares are going to affect the livelihoods of the Paudi Bhuiyan Adivasis dependent on the Khandadhar Forests</p>	Consistent Opposition has continued at the proposed plant and port site at Jagatsinghpur under the banner of POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti. The project has received an environment clearance. However, the resistance to land acquisition is still strong. Forest Clearance is still pending and communities have passed resolutions for regularisation of their land rights under the Forest Rights Act 2006. The leader of the movement Abhay Sahoo was arrested by the Orissa Police in Oct 2008 under false criminal charges
Tamil Nadu								

	Bairamangalam	Bairamangalam, Sanamau and Kundamaranapalli panchayats, near Hosur	SIPCO T		3,000 acres	Farmers, horticulturalists, agricultural labour including dalits and tribals	1) More than 5,000 families are dependent on the land for livelihood; 2) Fertile land under cultivation; 450 households have electricity 3) Instead of agricultural land, the government can acquire 7,500 acres of poromboke land	
	Thiruvanamalai District	Cheyyar taluk,	SIPCO T	April (2007)	2200 Acres	Farmers, agricultural labour including dalits and tribals	1) Loss of livelihood; 2) loss of productive asset; 3) no job creation for locals	Ten village panchayats passed a resolution against land acquisition for a Special Economic Zone in Cheyyar taluk in Thiruvanamalai District on October 2, 2008. .
	Salem	Salem	SIPCO T		3500 acres	farmers, agricultural labour including dalits and tribals	1) Loss of land under banana and rain-fed paddy cultivation; 2) disregard for environmental concerns; 3) loss of livelihood; 4) people demand transparency and information; 4) those who do not want to sell should not be forced to do so	People have begun to agitate on the ground using techniques like gherao; 530 RTI applications have been filed demanding more information
	Villupuram	Velloor, Panapakkam	SIPCO T		1600 acres	Farmers, weavers, agricultural labour including dalits and tribals	1) Loss of livelihood for people cultivating coconut, palm, and rain-fed crops including 1-yield paddy crop; 2) Low cost of land purchase and inadequate compensation	Land already acquired; people protesting against SEZ and loss of livelihood;
	Kanjipuram	Cheyyar	SIPCO T		650 acres	Farmers, agricultural labour including dalits and tribals	1) 250 acres on Cheyyar SEZ transferred to Lotus Nike factory at Rs. 90,000 per acre of land that was acquired at Rs. 35,000 per acre; 2) Compensated at 1-yield crop rate because of government mis-recording of this area which is really a 2-yield crop; 3)	

		Mamondru , Cheyyar	SIPCO T		2000 acres	Farmers, agricultural labour including dalits and tribals	1) Land being acquired to extend SEZ will enclose a village; 2) Land will also be around Mamondru Lake, contravening government ordinance that no factory should be located within 1 km radius of lake; 3) No guarantee of employment for displaced	
		Naguneri	SIPCO T	2001	2500 acres	Landless agricultural labor including dalits	1) Temple land belonging to G.R. Mutt where farmers are allowed to cultivate; 2) Farmers will not receive compensation, and are claiming compensation as tenants; 3) Problem of speculative real estate is driving prices up in the area	
W Bengal								
	East Midnapore	Nandigram	Salim Group		14000acres	Peasants	The special economic zone would be spread over 29 mouzas (villages) of which 27 are in Nandigram. Most of the land to be acquired was multi crop land. over 40,000 people were to be affected. The villagers, who had been predominantly supporters of the party in power, CPI(M), turned against it and organized a resistance movement under the banner of the newly formed Bhumi Uchhed Pratirodh Committee or BUPC Clashes over the issue turned violent as police and the CPI(M) party cadres unleashed repression of the movement in March 2007.	The project has been relocated to Nayachar

	West Midnapore	Jhargham	Jindal Steel	NA	5000 acres	adivasis	<p>Around 5000 acres of land have been acquired for this project, of which 4500 acres have been handed over by the government and 500 acres have been purchased directly by Jindal from landowners. A large portion of this land was vested with the government for distribution amongst landless tribals as part of the land reforms program and also included tracts of forests. Moreover, although the land was originally acquired for a steel plant, last September Jindal got SEZ status for the project.</p> <p>The polluting steel plant is being set up in the middle of a forested area, dispossessing tribals from their land and endangering their means of survival. Understandably, there were major grievances amongst the tribals against this, although the mainstream media had constantly portrayed a very rosy picture of the entire project.</p>	<p>A popular movement has emerged intensifying in November 2008 and spreading over a larger area. Now the adivasis are demanding that the dispossession of tribals from their land, forests and water in the name of development and industrialization has to stop.</p> <p>The state has been helpless in front of this upsurge and has been trying to "negotiate" with the tribals. But what has been frustrating their efforts is the essentially democratic nature of this upsurge.</p>
--	-------------------	----------	-----------------	----	---------------	----------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

