

In an imposing function organised by the Port on 04.08.2017 at Dakshin Bharat Gateway Container Terminal, Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose, Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, inaugurated the special storage facility for handling raw cotton at Dakshin Bharat Gateway Container Terminal in the presence of Shri K.V.V.G Diwakar, Commissioner of Customs, Tuticorin, Shri S. Natarajan, Deputy Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust and Shri M. Senthil Kumar, Chairman, the Southern India Mills' Association (SIMA).

Adding a feather to the cap of 'Ease of Doing Business' initiative, raw cotton storage facility to accommodate around 500 TEUs of 40 foot container has been planned in the custom bonded area of Dakshin Bharat Gateway Container Terminal. The raw cotton can be stocked for a period of 30 days at free of cost. The Customs has also issued the necessary guidelines for handling imported raw cotton and storage in the facility.

The prime objective is to facilitate international cotton traders to bring the cotton and store it in the Port yards and sell the cotton either to the mills in India and to have the leverage of selling the cotton to other countries as well. It is pertinent to note that the above facility will aid textile mills to get cotton at the international price within short span of one week, thereby increasing the yarn production in Tamilnadu. The facility would have a rippling effect by strengthening the textile value chain particularly Knitting, weaving, garmenting, textile processing, apparel sector etc., and through providing employment opportunity for more than one lakh people of Tamilnadu. In addition, it will also lead to parity in the cotton price at the Indian market.

In order to give impetus to the import of containerized raw cotton, V.O. Chidambaranar Port has also agreed to levy nominal rent on the containers carrying raw cotton handled at the Port by the traders.

In the second phase, a Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) will be established in the Port estate with creation of world-class infrastructure for warehousing of raw cotton, state-of-the-art equipment, transportation and handling facilities, commercial office-space, water, power, communications and connectivity, with one-stop

clearance of import and export formality, to support the integrated Zones as ‘international trading hubs’. V.O. Chidambaranar Port has already identified 52.40 Hectares of land in the Port area for establishing FTWZ and the Port is in the process of finalizing the detailed project report for the same.

In the function organised today, Senior Officers from V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust and Tuticorin Customs, officials from Shipping Lines, Tuticorin Customs Brokers’ Association (TCBA), Tuticorin Steamer Agents Association (TSAA), Southern India Mills’ Association (SIMA), Tirupur Exporters Association (TEA), Tuticorin Container Freight Station Association (TCFSA), Feeder vessel operators and other stakeholders graced the occasion.

