

**ADDRESS BY THIRU. BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF  
TAMILNADU AT "DEFENCE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT MEET" THE  
VELEDICTORY SESSION, ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 at 03.15 PM**

**Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Dr.SubhashBhamre**

Hon'ble RakshaRajyaMantri

**Thiru. Ajay Kumar**

Secretary, Defence Production

Chairman of Breakout Groups/Panel

Addl. Secretary Defence Production

**Thiru. M.V. Gowtama**

Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Electronics

**CEOs and representatives of Industry from Tamil Nadu**

**Distinguished Invitees,**

**Friends from the Media**

I am pleased to be here at the Valedictory Ceremony of the Defence Industry Development Meet organised by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence. It is indeed an honour for Tamil Nadu to host this two day event, which has tremendous importance for the Indian defence production industry and the nation.

This Meet has not only strengthened existing partnerships but also paved the way for future and bigger collaborations. It witnessed an unique conglomeration of stake holders including Minor, small and medium enterprises, Industrial Associations, the Ministry of Defence, the three wings of our armed forces, Army, Navy and Airforce, senior officials from the Ministries of Home Affairs and Industrial Policy &Promotion, the Defence Research Development Organisaition and a host of other agencies working in the field of defence and defence production.The takeaways for the Government and the various other stakeholders are significant, to say the least.

The trigger for such an event originated from the 'Make in India' initiative announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri NarendraModiji. The 'Make in India' initiative is aimed at placing India on the world map of manufacturing hubs.The Government of India has set an ambitious target to raise the contribution of manufacturing output from 16 to 25 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2025. India's manufacturing sector is estimated to touch 1 trillion US Dollars by 2025.

An exponential leap in the defence manufacturing sector is critical for the pursuance of the above objective. With this in mind, the Government is striving to widen the base of private vendors in the Defence sector including MSME units. The convening of this event, the announcements made by the Ministry of Defence during this event, and the weightage assigned during the event to obviate the challenges faced by the MSMEs, show the special importance

attached to increased indigenization of defence production by the Government of India.

The need for Defence Production need not be over emphasized. It is sufficient if we understand the simple concept that modernization of military weaponry is crucial for protecting the territorial integrity of a nation. We have all been told by our history teachers about the advancement of military weaponry from the level of ordinary weapons of copper and wood developing into weapons made of iron, the use of gun powder thereafter, and the use of mobile artillery such as cannons, etc. Subsequently, in the last two hundred years, particularly, nations of the world have paid great attention to technologies of Defence Production. From the use of ordinary aircraft and tanks, about a 100 years back, in the First World war the World has seen advancement in the form of Nuclear weapons, inter-continental ballistic missiles, missiles equipped to hit specific targets at sea and from ships at sea. The list is endless. In this context the indigenization of military production needs particular focus since that alone helps a nation to be self-reliant in critical times when faced with military attacks. Further India which is the largest importer of military weapons in the world will gain substantially in terms of foreign exchange, and by expansion of employment opportunities if more and more Defence Production takes place within India.

India has the largest scientific manpower in the world. Among the States of India, Tamil Nadu leads in the number of Engineering Colleges and in the number of Engineering Graduates passing out every year. The State has very good infrastructure in the form of power supply, roads, port facilities, land banks, etc. With these advantages it is ideally suited for the setting up of industries. The fact that all through history Tamil Nadu is among the States which has had very few military invasions speaks of the insularity that it enjoys and thus makes it specifically suited for locating industries for Defence Production.

A broad overview of the recent procurement pattern of the Ministry of Defence reflects a conscious effort to encourage placement of orders on Indian vendors. This will obviously push the defence bigwigs located abroad to re-strategise their business approach towards India, and set-up manufacturing bases in the country, and establish development & manufacturing tie ups with domestic companies. This in turn, will usher in greater Foreign Direct Investment.

Considering the vast opportunities available to industry to set up units for defence production and the national cause that it will serve, I request all the participants at this Meet to address themselves to the task of increasing the levels of indigenization of defence production in the country. I am sure that with all your earnest efforts and innovative ideas, the Indian defence production industry will emerge as a rising star in the global firmament.

Nandri

Vanakkam

Jai Hind

Jai Tamil Nadu