

Inauguration of TIFERT by Shri Srikant K. Jena, Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers – 12 July, 2013



Shri Srikant K. Jena, Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers, visited Tunisia for the inaugural ceremony of TIFERT in Tunis on 12th July, 2013. TIFERT, the leading bilateral joint venture between India and Tunisia, is a fertilizer plant manufacturing phosphoric acid. Built with an investment of US\$ 450 million, the plant, located at Skhira on the south-eastern coast of Tunisia, is producing 360,000 tons of phosphoric acid per year for export to India, where it is further processed to become di-ammonium phosphate, a powerful fertilizer. HE Mr. Mehdi Jomaa, Minister of Industry of the Republic of Tunisia, performed the inauguration by handing over shipping documents related to the first few shiploads of phosphoric acid that had been despatched by the plant to India to Shri Srikant K. Jena, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Minister Jomaa, in his welcome speech spoke in glowing terms of the excellent cooperation between India and Tunisia that was symbolized by the coming into operation of the TIFERT plant. He spoke of the link of democracy that tied the two countries together and expressed the hope that this cooperation would continue in the future. Shri Jena, in his speech, also emphasized the excellent cooperation in the phosphate sector that the two countries enjoyed; he praised the Tunisian engineers and management personnel as being highly educated and skilled as was evidenced by their design and management of the TIFERT plant; he also referred to the links of democracy between the two countries and expressed the hope that new avenues of cooperation within the phosphate sector would soon be identified.

Mrs. Nagma M. Mallick, Ambassador of India, Mr. Sudhir Mital, Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, and other officials from the Indian side were present at the inauguration ceremony. In the audience were also present senior officials of the two Tunisian partner companies, GCT and CPG, senior officials of the two Indian partner companies, Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited and Coromandel International Limited and a large cross-section of Tunisian electronic and print media.

The plant will provide employment to more than 500 Tunisian managerial, skilled and unskilled individuals. The company officials informed the audience that a large proportion of the investment in the plant had gone into making the plant ecologically sustainable and environment-friendly according to the latest scientific parameters. The event was well covered in Tunisian media.