

October 4, 2011

Attention:

Requesting cooperation for better living of expatriates people who are working in Japanese companies in Tamil Nadu state (especially Chennai)

Dear Sir/Madam

While the Japanese companies consider entering into India, Tamil Nadu has become a potential destination and there are remarkable benefits in terms of the company location and economic growth. Also, it is an indisputable fact that Tamil Nadu state government is proactively attracting Japanese companies and many of the Japanese companies are getting the support of the state government.

However it is not easy for Japanese expatriates to live in Tamil Nadu state in India, away from Japan. They experience difficulties in many aspects such as child education, difference in food culture apart from being affected by difference in weather.

JCCIC also plans to continue its effort for the improvement in living of the Japanese expatriates.

On the other hand, to go beyond the scope of self help by JCCIC and Japanese association, we need help from state government.

Going forward, for Tamil Nadu to achieve an economic growth similar to that of South-east Asia by attracting Japanese and other foreign companies into the state, it is essential that the expatriates from these overseas companies have a comfortable living and continue to spur the corporate activity.

In this context we would be grateful if we can get cooperation from Tamil Nadu state government on the following points, which can improve the lives of expatriates.

1) Encourage of sports and recreation facilities in surrounding of Chennai

In recent years as the number of expatriate has increased there seems a lack of leisure and recreation facilities such as golf course etc which the business man and their families can use. In future, the demand for such leisure and recreation facilities will further increase not only due to the attraction of foreign companies but also due to economic growth driven increase in the income of middle class residing in and around Chennai. For development of such facilities it may take long time and from a medium term to long-term view, we would be obliged if the Tamil Nadu state government can also encourage development of sports facilities such as golf course, sports gym, tennis court, baseball ground (cricket ground), soccer ground etc which the expatriates and their families can utilize.

2) Simplification of customs formalities while importing Japanese food items and other groceries

Dietary habits are an important aspect of culture and thus it is natural that expatriates feel like having Japanese food. Recently, post great Japan earthquake, while importing Japanese food and other grocery there are obstacles in customs. As a result it has become difficult to buy Japanese food items on the streets. For long staying expatriates scarcity in food is not in the best interest from the perspective of attracting Japanese companies in future.

Customs may not be a purview of Go TN, but we would be obliged if you could cooperate to have a dialogue with central government to improve the situation.

3) Consideration of alcohol license

For the reticent Japanese people, drinking alcohol is a tool for communication and for us it is a common practice to build smooth personal relationship over a drinking during the dinner.

Currently alcohol selling license in Tamil Nadu is strictly controlled and it is not allowed in normal restaurants excluding the hotels.

Keeping in view of the cultural and customs of Tamil Nadu, it may be difficult to relax alcohol norms all over. Thus we would be grateful if you could permit license of selling alcohol to the restaurants wherein the main customers are expatriates including Japanese people.

4) To allow licensed medical doctor of Japan to examine and dispense drugs in India

A person gets diseases when the endemic and climate differs. Naturally the climate and endemic of Tamil Nadu differ from Japan. If the fall ill, for many Japanese expatriates it is very difficult to explain their health conditions to an Indian doctor in a language other than Japanese.

Generally, doctor license is limited to the country where it is acquired and a Japanese doctor who has acquired license in Japan cannot practice in India. However, it may be possible to consider if a Japanese doctor can examine in the presence of an Indian doctor and to consider having Japanese speaking nurse in the hospitals of Tamil Nadu.

We would be grateful if you could take some measures, understanding our sentiments of having disease in a different country.

Lastly we sincerely thank the Go TN its continuous warm support and we would be obliged if you could also extend your kind courtesies regarding the above mentioned points.

JCCIC Township Committee.