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Ref.No.MAIT/PY/2269

March 05, 2021

Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney
Secretary
Ministry of Electronics & IT

Subject: Urgent intervention for issue of Visa for PLI

Respected Sir,

Greetings from MAIT!

Congratulations on the excellent consultative session on PLI led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister today. The PLI-led manufacturing thrust is a bold step that our nation has taken and the need for speed in action has been reemphasized by speakers from both the Govt. and the Industry.

In the context of the PLIs for the Electronics H/w sector, be it Mobiles, IT Hardware, Telecom, Wearables, Components, this sector is dominated by China. The building of capability and capacity for electronic manufacturing involves working with companies in the PRC, bringing in capital equipment, plant and machinery and process expertise from China to India.

We bring to your kind attention that applicants to the PLI have/are importing specialized equipment to set up their production lines. These equipment require specialized engineers / experts for the installation, commissioning, calibration & system integration. These experts cannot be brought under Employment Visa, as they are not employees of companies who have applied for the PLI. Currently, PRC nationals are only being permitted to apply under Employment Visa which is not workable for the industry.

Hence, we the Industry need the help of the Gol to allow Business Visa for this category of foreigners for installation, integration, calibration and system integration of the equipment.

The Industry Member companies of ours, who are PLI applicants are ready to register these individuals under FRRO for proper tracking and provide the necessary undertaking that they are not employees and these experts will conclude their assignments and return back to China – during which time they are guests of the applicant company and the applicant company will be responsible for their good conduct and obeying security rules, etc.

We request your support in clearing all such applications on priority, as each day is critical in the schedule to ramp up to full production and be in a position to take benefit of the PLI Incentive.

Look forward to your prompt response and advice. If required, we will come over to your office to provide any clarifications required. Kindly advise with whom we should coordinate in your Ministry on this matter.

With regards,

George Paul
Chief Executive Officer