

# Videocon gets Bengal nod to set up IT, biotech SEZs

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THE Videocon group has finalised its proposed IT and bio-tech special economic zones (SEZs) with the West Bengal government. The consumer electronics and home appliances major is also keen to set up three more SEZs in the state.

Videocon group chairman VN Dhoot met West Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on Friday evening to discuss the proposed SEZs. After the meeting, Mr Dhoot said: "The state government has given a green signal to our proposed IT and biotech SEZs which will come up at Siliguri. The CM has assured me that the government will shortly arrange land for the other

three SEZs which will be either multi-product or single product."

The state government has allotted 100 acres in Siliguri for the proposed biotech and IT SEZs. "The government will assist Videocon to identify land. I have asked the commerce and industry department to look for land," the CM said.

The Videocon chairman arrived in the city on Friday morning and went around visiting the sites of the SEZs. Braving the rains, Mr Dhoot travelled to three such sites in around Kolkata. "We have already applied to the central government for our proposed SEZs. We are hoping to get clearance soon," added Mr Dhoot.

Apart from the two SEZs proposed to come up at Siliguri, Videocon wants to set up a multi-product

SEZ at Kharagpur. For this, the company will require 2,500 acres. The other two would be single-product SEZs, one of which may come up in Uluberia-Sankrail area. One of the two SEZs may only deal with electronic goods.

At the 45-minute meeting, Mr Dhoot also discussed about his proposal to takeover state-owned Webel. The company is keen to set up a finishing school for IT engineers and picture tube manufacturing unit there.

SA Ahmed, special secretary to the CM, said: "We have told Mr Dhoot that the matter is now lying with the state IT ministry. It is under active consideration of the government and we are hoping to come out with a workable formula for Webel takeover."