Indian Alkali Industry thanks the Government for support that will boost
domestic manufacturing

A delegation of industry chlor-alkali representatives led by Shri Anil Kumar, President of
Alkali Manufacturers Association of India met Shri Ananth Kumar, Hon'ble Union Minister for
Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India and requested for government regulation on
making superior quality caustic soda mandatory. The Minister assured the industry of the
government's support and announced that a regulation making revised quality standard for
caucustic soda mandatory for domestic production as well as imports is being introduced.

The entire Indian industry produces caustic soda using the superior membrane cell
technology which is energy efficient and eco-friendly, making us the second country in the
world (after Japan) to achieve complete conversion. However, there is no restriction on the
quality of caustic soda imported into the country with the result that caustic soda produced
by mercury cell and diaphragm technology which are inferior continue to enter the country.

The Indian alkali industry welcomes the government’s decision to make the revised
caucustic soda standard (produced from membrane cell technology) mandatory and
thanks the Hon’ble Minister for extending wholehearted support to the domestic
industry.

Imports of caustic soda constitute about 15% of demand which is affecting the capacity
utilisation of domestic manufacturers. The Indian industry has been pressing for stopping
inferior caustic soda imports that is adversely affecting health and environment.

The government's decision will also give a fillip to the “Make in India” programme by
encouraging the domestic industry to invest in superior manufacturing technology and
augmenting capacity to meet the growing local demand as well as harnessing export
potential.

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New Delhi
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