



Preparing for a **Giant Leap**
50th Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, 26th September, 2023

Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited
(An ISO Certified Company) (Promoted by Govt. of Gujarat)
CIN : L24110GJ1973PLC002247

CORPORATE PARTICIPANTS:

Dr. Hasmukh Adhia, IAS (Retd.)

Chairman

Shri Swaroop P. IAS

Managing Director

Shri Rajiv Lochan Jain

Independent Director

Shri S. B. Dangayach

Independent Director

Shri Nitin Shukla

Independent Director

Smt. Shridevi Shukla

Independent Director

Shri Sanjay Bhatt

Company Secretary & Chief General Manager (Legal, CC & CSR)

M/s. K C Mehta & Co.

Chartered Accountants, Auditors

Shri Niraj Trivedi,

Practicing Company Secretary, Scrutinizer

M/s. Samdani Shah & Kabra

Practicing Company Secretary, Secretarial Auditors

Other key executives and senior management team, Promoters and Shareholders.

Welcome Address:

Shri Swaroop P. IAS Managing Director

Good morning, Everyone,

With the permission of Chairman of GACL, we start this 50th Annual General Meeting. I warmly welcome all the Members to this 50th AGM of Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited on behalf of the Company.

At present 46 members have joined AGM through video conference facility. Thus, there is sufficient quorum for this 50th AGM.

Now, I request Dr. Hasmukh Adhia, IAS (Retd.), Chairman of the Company to start the proceedings of this AGM.

Dr. Hasmukh Adhia, IAS (Retd.) (Chairman)

Dear Shareholders. I welcome you all to this 50th Annual General Meeting. This is a historic Meeting and this 50th Meeting of the Company and this is being held through video conference in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the provisions of SEBI Regulations. I have joined this Meeting from Ahmedabad and now like to introduce the Directors of the Company who are present in this online Meeting.

To my right is:

Mr. Swaroop P. IAS, is Managing Director of the Company at present. He is an IAS Officer of 2003 batch. Presently, he is also holding the charge of Commissioner of Land Reforms & Ex-officio Secretary, Revenue Dept., Government of Gujarat.

Also present today is Mr. Rajiv Lochan Jain is an Independent Director of the Company. He served as CEO and Managing Director in AkzoNobel India Limited. He is attending this AGM from London through video conference facility.

Also present is Mr. S. B. Dangayach. He was Managing Director of Sintex Industries Limited and he is attending this AGM from Ahmedabad through video conference facility.

Shri Nitin Shukla is an Independent Director of our Company. He has wide range of experience in Industries. He is also an Independent Director on the Boards of GMDC, GIPCL and ACC Limited. He is attending this AGM from Ahmedabad through video conference facility.

Present today also Smt. Shridevi Shukla. She is an Independent Director of the Company. She has also worked earlier in many positions in Government and now she is also on the Board of some other Companies including GSPL (Gujarat State Petronet Limited). She is attending this Meeting from Ahmedabad through video conference facility.

The Statutory Auditors of the Company M/s. K. C. Mehta & Co. LLP, Chartered Accountants as well as Secretarial Auditors M/s. Samdani Shah & Kabra, Practicing Company Secretary and Shri Neeraj Trivedi, Practicing Company Secretary appointed as scrutinizer for E-voting monitoring are also present at this 50th Annual General Meeting through video conference facility from Vadodara.

We have the requisite quorum present through video conference for this AGM and therefore, I call this meeting to order. Notice of Annual General Meeting was already sent in advance to the Members through electronic mode to those members whose email addresses are registered with Company and Depositories. Notices of AGM, E-voting Information and Book Closure were also published in newspapers on

22nd August, 2023 and again on 2nd September, 2023. As the Notice for the AGM is already circulated, I shall take the Notice convening the meeting as read. Now, I request the Company Secretary to read the Auditors' Report.

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal, CC & CSR)

Thank you, Sir. I would like to inform that the Audit Reports on Financial Statements of the Company audited by M/s. K C Mehta & Co. LLP, Chartered Accountants as per Indian Accounting Standard (IND AS) for the Financial Year 2022-23 dated May 22, 2023 are available on page numbers 119 to 127 and on page numbers 186 to 191 of the 50th Annual Report. The Secretarial Audit Report of the Secretarial Auditors is available on page numbers 31 and 32 of 50th Annual Report. The Auditors have not given any Qualification or Modified Opinion i.e., they have not given any adverse remark in their reports. Therefore, as per the provisions of the Secretarial Standards and provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, the said Audit Reports may be taken as read.

Now, I request Chairman Sir to address the members for today's Annual General Meeting.

Chairman Speech:

Dr. Hasmukh Adhia, IAS (Retd.) (Chairman)

My dear Shareholders, the Speech of the Chairman has already been put on the Website I believe and it is also available to all the Members. So, I may not read the whole of the speech. I will just cover some aspects of the speech today. Once again, welcome to all of you at the 50th Annual General Meeting of your Company. The Board's Report, the Standalone and the Consolidated Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the Financial Year 2022-23 are already with you, and with your permission, I shall take them as read.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

India has become the fifth largest economy in the world. India's GDP reached the \$3.75 trillion mark in 2023, showcasing substantial growth from \$2 trillion in 2014. IMF estimates that India is among the fastest-growing economies of the world. The economic growth rates have been pegged at 5.9 percent in 2023 and 6.3 percent in 2024.

India maintains a strong position in the chemical sector at a global level. Our country is ranked 14th in chemical exports and 8th in chemical imports at the global level. IBEF estimates the Indian chemicals industry to reach US\$ 304 billion by 2025, growing at a CAGR of 9.3%. The chemical industry is expected to contribute US\$ 383 billion to India's GDP by 2030. The Indian Chemical industry is estimated to become a US\$ 1 Trillion sector by 2040.

Owing to the historical investor interest, manufacturing ecosystem developed through the PCPIRs, proximity with Middle-East and the PLI scheme under consideration, an investment of Rs. 8 lakh crore (US\$ 107.38 billion) is estimated in the Indian chemicals and petrochemicals sector by 2025.

GUJARAT – A ROLE MODEL FOR OTHERS

Over the years the Gujarat model of all round development, success, growth and inclusive development has been appreciated all over the Country. Investors' confidence for investment in Gujarat has grown manifold. Gujarat houses an impressive industrial belt including a hub of chemical and petrochemical industries. The manufacturing ecosystem and contribution in industrial output have positioned Gujarat as a key contributor to the country's economy. Gujarat's policy ecosystem is geared towards catalyzing robust, sustainable and inclusive growth. I am sure, with all these efforts, Gujarat will be a

frontrunner state in supporting & realizing the “Atma Nirbhar Bharat” vision of our Hon’ble Prime Minister.

GACL’S PERFORMANCE

Right from its inception in 1973, Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited has been a progressive, forward looking and socially responsible Company. As a result, in its 50th year since inception, the Company is proud to look back at its trajectory of last 50 years. GACL had a modest start with caustic soda manufacturing capacity of 37,425 Metric Tons per year. The Company today enjoys 20% share in the market with a manufacturing capacity of 5,85,750 Metric Tons per year. This phenomenal growth journey also demonstrates company's commitment towards diversification, inclusive growth, environment protection, conservation of natural resources and increasing use of renewable energy.

The Company has, from time to time, expanded its operations in the Chlor-Alkali Sector and diversified into several higher end products through forward & backward integration. GACL was the first Indian Company to replace the Mercury Cell Technology with environment friendly & energy efficient Membrane Technology way back in the year 1989. Your Company's product basket comprises of more than 35 products. The Company's products are used by a diverse set of industries in India and abroad.

Your Company has always ensured upgrading and adapting to eco-friendly and green technologies. This approach has enabled us in ensuring optimum capacity utilization during the Financial Year 2022-23 at Vadodara and Dahej Complexes. In select products, viz. Hydrogen Peroxide, Phosphoric Acid and Sodium Chlorate Granules, your Company has achieved capacity utilization of more than 100%. The total production (excluding power generation) has increased by 5.46% to 18,12,758 Metric Tons during Financial Year 2022-23. The leading products contributing to the growth in your company's production during the Financial Year 2022-23 are Caustic Soda Lye, Caustic Soda Flakes and Chloromethane.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

During the Financial Year 2022-23, your Company has achieved External Sales Turnover of Rs.4,402 Crores, as against Rs.3,683 Crores during the Financial Year 2021-22.

Your Company earned Gross Profit of Rs.1,157 Crores, as against Rs.1,033 Crores in the previous year. The increase in sales is mainly on account of the increase in Sales Realization of the Caustic Soda group, Caustic Potash Group and Phosphoric Acid.

Your Company has achieved a Profit Before Tax of Rs.861 Crores and Profit After Tax of Rs.576 Crores. The Earnings per Share stands at Rs.78.39. The Book Value of share stands increased to Rs.683 per share as on 31st March 2023, registering a growth of Rs.59 per Share against Rs.624 per share at the end of previous year

DIVIDEND

As you may be aware, the Government of Gujarat has issued "Guidelines on Dividend Distribution and Capital Restructuring of State Public Sector Undertakings (SPSUs)." In compliance with these guidelines, this year your Company has recommended a Dividend on the basis of 30% of Net Profit.

I am happy to inform you that this year the Board of Directors of the Company has recommended a Dividend of Rs.23.55 per equity share of Rs. 10 for the Financial Year ended on 31st March 2023. This is highest ever dividend in history of the Company.

COST CONTROL MEASURES:

During 2022-23, your Company undertook several innovative measures for timely & cost- effective procurement of raw materials and other inputs to improve company's profitability. I am not going to go into details because these are available in Chairman Speech.

EXPANSION AND NEW PROJECTS

As a part of its ambitious growth plan, the Company had taken up various projects. These include adding a new, import substitute product in the product portfolio and expanding the current product lines by putting up additional capacities through new plants.

I am glad to inform that a 10,000 Tons Per Year (80%) Hydrazine Hydrate Project, with forward integration to Hydrogen Peroxide, for the manufacturing of an import substitute at Dahej Complex, has been successfully commissioned on 26th September 2022. Commercial production commenced on 22nd June, 2023.

Further, a Purified Phosphoric Acid Plant with a capacity of 33870 Tons Per Year (85% H₃PO₄) (equivalent to 21000 Tons Per Year - 100% P₂O₅) has been successfully commissioned on 27th April, 2023 at Dahej. Commercial production commenced on 22nd June, 2023.

The Company has also successfully commissioned a 105,000 Tons per annum Chloromethanes Plant on 15th August, 2022. Your Company expanded the Caustic Soda Plant at Dahej Complex and started production of Caustic Soda on 20th September, 2022. Further, as a part of the Caustic Soda expansion, a new 700 Metric Tons per day Caustic Evaporation Unit (CEU) was also established and commissioned successfully to cater to the requirement of Caustic Soda Lye production (48% w/w).

Your Company had its proud moment on 10th October, 2022 when four of our plants viz. Chloromethanes Plant, Hydrazine Hydrate Plant, Caustic Soda expansion plant and the Caustic Soda Plant, in Joint Venture with NALCO, were dedicated to the Nation by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Company also celebrated the dispatch of 1 consignment of commercial products viz. Hydrazine Hydrate and Purified Phosphoric Acid, an import substitute product, on 8th July 2023 in the presence of Company stakeholders and Director, CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad.

Your Company has planned to establish a 30,000 Tons Per Annum Chlorotoluene Project at Dahej to produce benzyl chloride, benzaldehyde and benzyl alcohol. This is a long-term strategic measure, undertaken to enhance in-house chlorine consumption. The project is planned to be made operational during the Financial Year 2024-25.

Your Company is working with GAIL India Ltd. for setting up a 500 KLD Bioethanol plant in Gujarat. This initiative is envisaged to contribute towards clean energy and the mission launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for achieving 20% ethanol blending in petrol. The techno - economic feasibility study has been completed. The same is being

reviewed prior to going for investment decision. In the meantime, the steps for identifying and acquiring suitable land are initiated.

As a preparation for taking up the next quantum leap, the Company has envisioned several actions for taking up new initiatives in the next five years. These initiatives are along the themes of value addition to current products, expansions, forward integration, backward integration, diversification etc. These plans are currently at various stages of conception and evaluation. Based on their suitability with the overall strategy for growth, these initiatives would be taken up progressively over the next 3 to 4 years.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Your Company has continued reaping benefits from the green energy sourced from its 171.45 MW wind power capacity and 35 MW solar power capacity with an aggregate renewable energy capacity of 206.45 MW. To these, the Company had later added roof-top solar installations at Dahej and Vadodara complex of 220 KW and 560 KW capacities respectively. In addition, a 640 KW floating solar plant was also installed at Dahej. With all these, the Company's aggregate renewable power capacity installation for captive use stands at 207.87 MW. The captive use of power from these installations has resulted in lower energy costs for the Company's power intensive operations.

Pursuant to its commitment to promote green technologies, your Company has collaborated with NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL). This collaboration is focused at synthesizing Green Methanol and Green Ammonia, in addition to sourcing upto 100 MW Renewable Energy on round the clock basis from NTPC REL. These initiatives are at the stage of techno-economic feasibility studies.

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

The Policy, Principles and Safety & Environment Management Systems are consistently implemented in practice with continuous monitoring. The Company's principles of Occupational Health, Safety and Environment are intertwined in our corporate culture. The company undertakes various measures including special housekeeping drive and Plant Healthiness Check-up. For the safe transportation of finished products, your Company has arranged refresher training for drivers at regular intervals.

Your Company also has its Emergency Response Plan (ERP) system to minimize effect of any Emergency situation. The ERP is also frequently reviewed and updated by considering various Maximum Credible Scenarios. Preparedness and effectiveness of ERP is evaluated periodically by conducting various mock drills. Your Company regularly conducts safety audit through third parties. Water conservation is a part of our culture.

Water conservation is being achieved through various reuse and recycle measures. Water sprinkler system is implemented for watering in garden areas. Your Company also recycles water as a part of water saving drive.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Sound and efficient Corporate Governance practices provide the bedrock for stimulating the performance of the Company, maximizing operational efficiency and achieving sustained productivity. It also ensures protection of stakeholders' interests. GACL ensures compliance with Good Corporate Governance practices, essential to ensure inclusive growth and pass-on benefits of corporate growth to the society.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In line with your company's overall growth objective and strengthening of our IT infrastructure, the Company continues to focus and invest in information technology tools and applications. Processes are regularly reviewed and digitized. Digital enablement has resulted in enhanced speed, accuracy, management of data, controls, and effectiveness. Implementation of a robust IT system has allowed for seamless working at office premises at all sites and also from remote locations. IT Processes are continuously strengthened for enhanced effectiveness.

To mitigate cyber risks, we have implemented measures for cyber security including remote access to applications through encrypted VPN, Online and offline employee trainings for awareness on cyber security, Digital Signature and Dual authentication to access applications.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Shri Pankaj Kumar, IAS (Retd.) and Shri Raj Kumar, IAS, who served as Chairpersons of the Company during the Financial Year 2022-23, whose rich experience benefited the Company in its development and growth.

I extend my sincere gratitude to my fellow Board members for their valuable guidance and contributions to Company's management.

I also thank all the Shareholders of the Company for the confidence reposed in us. I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of the employees of the Company through their dedication and commitment.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and on my personal behalf, I extend sincere thanks to the Central Government and the Government of Gujarat, in particular the Department of Energy & Petrochemicals, Promoters, Bankers, Auditors, Customers, Agents, Dealers, Suppliers and other Stakeholders who have continued to extend their precious support and co-operation to the Company at all times.

Jai Hind.

Thank you.

Now, I will request the Company Secretary to inform the Members about the Resolutions of Annual General Meeting and process of E-voting.

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal, CC & CSR)

Thank you, Sir.

The Company had provided facility of remote E-voting from 22.09.2023 to 25.09.2023. The Members who have not cast their votes through remote E-voting and who are participating in this meeting are eligible to cast their votes during this AGM through the E-voting system provided by CDSL. All the members who have joined this AGM through video conference may take note that the E-voting process will continue

for 20 minutes after the completion of the meeting. All members present are requested to complete E-voting within stipulated time.

Now, I would like to give the details of Resolutions, which are put-up for the approval of the Shareholders.

RESOLUTION NO: 1

“Is an ORDINARY RESOLUTION to consider and adopt the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 2023 together with the Reports of the Board of Directors and Auditors thereon and to consider and adopt the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 2023 and the Report of Auditors thereon.”

RESOLUTION NO: 2

“Is an ORDINARY RESOLUTION to declare a dividend at the rate of Rs.23.55 per Equity Share of Rs.10/- each fully paid-up Equity Share (@235.50%) for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 2023.

RESOLUTION NO: 3

“Is an ORDINARY RESOLUTION to re-appoint Shri J P Gupta, IAS as Director who retires by rotation and eligible for re-appointment.”

RESOLUTION NO: 4

“Is a SPECIAL RESOLUTION to consider Reclassification of Share Capital of the Company, increase in Authorised Share Capital of the Company and amendment in Memorandum of Association of the Company in this regard.”

RESOLUTION NO: 5

“Is a SPECIAL RESOLUTION to consider amendment of Authorised Share Capital clause of the Articles of Association of the Company.”

RESOLUTION NO: 6

“Is an ORDINARY RESOLUTION to approve the remuneration payable to M/s. Y S Thakar & Co., Cost Accountants, as Cost Auditors of the Company for the Financial Year 2023-2024 at a total fee of Rs.3,19,000/- plus applicable GST.”

Now, I request Chairman Sir to kindly takeover further proceedings of this AGM.

Questions:

Dr. Hasmukh Adhia, IAS (Retd.) (Chairman)

The Members who have registered themselves as speakers can now ask questions regarding operations of the Company. The Members who have not registered themselves as speakers and have any question, they may submit the same to the Company Secretary. We shall send suitable replies to the questions in due course. I would like to request the members that questions relating to financial statements and operations of the Company or proposed resolutions may only be asked. Please do not repeat any question which has already been asked by some other member. After getting questions from the members, we will answer the questions. I request Managing Director to answer those questions.

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal, CC & CSR)

I request now moderator to allow registered speaker Shareholders for their questions one by one. The First speaker Shareholder is Shri Jagdishbhai Thakkar. Moderator, please unmute him.

Shri Jagdishbhai Thakkar

Am I audible?

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal, CC & CSR)

Yes sir, you are audible.

Shri Jagdishbhai Thakkar

Ok. Thank you very much.

Respected Chairman Sir, Good Morning to you. Respected Members of the Board, good morning to you all. At the outset my name is Jagdish Thakkar. I am a chartered Accountant and my DP ID CDSL number is IN30133020560842 and I am the shareholder of the Company. Sir at the outset I would like to congratulate you for the result that has been announced for the 22-23 financial year and especially the shareholder you know always look forward the dividend part of the entire balance sheet and fortunately this time it has been record dividend of Rs.23.55 being paid to the shareholders and I am grateful to you and on behalf all the shareholders I would like to say big thanks to you. Sir I have gone through the Audited accounts of this thing and also, I have been hearing to your learned speech also. Sir, I have few questions on this particular thing which I would like to ask in case you can answer to me. The first question is that Global chlor alkalies market size was about 63.2 billion dollars in about 2021. It's expected to reach about 77.4 billion by 2026, which shows a compounded annual growth rate of

about 4.1%. Now, considering this, Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd. and the kind of the presentation sir your have made it, my first question to you sir, what is the overall market scenario of caustic chlorine especially we look from the global point of view and all the indigenous point of view and where does Gujarat Alkalies stand in the whole scenario. There has been reported news in the various forums on medias and also some of the magazines that there is a glut in the market of the Caustic soda and some of the peer companies have drastically reduce the prices of the Caustic soda also in the recent past and the realisation person has been substantially reduced. Sir, I would like to have that what is the overall market scenario of caustic Chlorine and in view of that there is a glut, there appears to be glut Sir. What is the scenario of the chlorine derivatives because that is the outcome of the main product. Sir, my third question is that is there any threat of the imports of Indian chlor alkalies because the China and the Asian countries have been investing very heavily in to this particular industries and if yes then what are the actions been taken to mitigate by the Indian chlor alkalies industries and sir, my last question is that what are the long term plans for the growth of the Company especially as on today because what we have seen is during the covid time it was but obvious but recently we have been observing that there is kind of heavy inventory pileup by most of the manufacturers and what is going to be long term plan for the growth of the Company. The Current market price is today when I am talking to you sir is about 696 and the book value is about 835. It has corrected from its all-time high 949 which was 52 week high to present level of 696 and it is little lower than the book value which according to our analysis study it is about Rs. 835.

Sir I shall be obliged if you can kindly answer my questions. Thank you so much for inviting and permitting me to ask the question to you sir.

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal & CC)

Thank you Jagdishbhai. Moderator, please allow second shareholder. Moderator, please allow Shri Deveshbhai A. Pathak second shareholder.

Shri Deveshbhai Pathak

By the way I am Devesh Pathak shareholder of the company. My DP ID number is 1301670000001391. I have gone through financial statement and I have observed that there are many ups for the year 2022-2023 in the company. Be it revenue from operations or be it profit before tax, profit after tax, net worth, book value of shares and especially fulltime high dividend of Rs.23.55 per shares. So, I would like to greet chairman of the Company on 50 years' young Company. I have also observed that this time there is phenomenal growth in the export of about 46.08%. So, I am curious to ask few things relating to export. One thing that which are our long-term plans for increasing in export sales and do we see any possibilities of increasing in the same. Secondly, also I would like to know in how many countries we are making export and are there any plans for increasing number of countries in which we can export.

I would be highly obliged if I would get the reply of this questions.

So nice of you for according me the opportunity. Thank You.

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal, CC & CSR)

Moderator, please allow third speaker shareholder Shri Jindalbhai Doshi

Shri Jindalbai Doshi

It is Jindal here. Sir my DP ID is IN30154931399876. My question to the board is I have Two questions. The Couple of questions. First question is who are the competitors of our company that is the first question I have and the second is what is approved budget of the CSR activities for the current year that is 23-24 and which are the broad activities that we have planned during this year of 23-24.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal, CC & CSR)

Moderator, please allow fourth speaker shareholder. Shri Abhijit Pandaji

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal, CC & CSR)

Abhijeetji you are audible

Shri Abhijit Panda

Hello

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal, CC & CSR)

Yes

Shri Abhijit Panda

Hello

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal, CC & CSR)

Yes Abhijitji.

Shri Abhijit Panda

Hello

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal, CC & CSR)

Yes,

Shri Swaroop P. IAS Managing Director

You are audible you can go ahead.

Shri Abhijit Panda

Good morning, sir. Myself Abhijit panda equity shareholder of your company from Kolkata. Sir this is 50th Annual General Meeting of our company and the performance of this financial year is very good and sir I am very delight to company declare Rs. 23.55 pesa dividend. Sir, I like to ask few questions. Sir do you have any acquisition plan in domestic or international company. Sir, there is any plan near future for buy back of your shares. If yes then it should be in the route buy back. Sir, in the CSR activity sir please provide some treatment towards genetic bleeding disorder that is haemophilia. Haemophilia is a genetic bleeding disorder and treatment of this is very extremely costly and sir please provide a manufacturing set up plant in eastern region either in West Bengal or Assem or Orissa. Sir, I am very much satisfied of this result and I thankful to the Chairman, Board of Directors and all employees of this company because any success come from a total effort of the Company, from layman to top management. So, this is success for all and thank very much. Sir, Aanevale festival season keliye, Durga Pooja, Kali Pooja aur chhat pooja aur dipawali ke li ye aap sab ko mere taraf se badhaie aur sir please this is 50th year toh aap sab minority shareholder keliye please jo meeting attend kar rahe he or jo AGM mai apna view de rahe hai unke liye agar sambhav hai to kuch memento dene se muje lagata hai aacha honga aur please arrange a factory visit those shareholders who are interested. Sir, thank you very much.

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM (Legal, CC & CSR)

Moderator, please allow next shareholder Shri Kaushik Shahukarji,

Shri Kaushik Shahukar

Hello

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM

Yes Kaushikji, Please.

Shri Kaushik Shahukar

Am I audible sir

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM

you are audible.

Shri Kaushik Shahukar

Thank you sir.

Good morning to all. I am honour to have the opportunity to address you all today and I would like to express my gratitude to the Board of Directors for allowing and giving me chance to express my view. Thank you thank you so much sir. Also, I salute the Board of Directors for continue visual mode of meeting thereby allowing participation by shareholders. Sir request you to continue this trend. I am a satisfied shareholder of your company and I must comment for the Management for their remarkable efforts for paying for the shareholders more particularly among the minority shareholders. However, I like to raise couple of concern. My primary concern pertains to utilisation of saving on account of Visual mode of meeting. I believe it would be good to allocate a portion of this financial welfare of Shareholders more particularly among minority speaker shareholders

who participating in AGM as speakers. Considering the valuable contribution and active involvement in the meeting it would be gesture of recognition and appreciation to distribute a small memento among them on the occasion of festivals. Sir, can you provide the expenses on account of physical meeting and virtual meeting if possible. I humbly request the Board to consider proposal and possibility of introducing gesture of gratitude. By doing so I firmly believe that it will reinforce a positive atmosphere for the Company and stakeholders and contribute overall values of corporate family.

My next concern what are main product and segment in Gujarat alkalies portfolio and how they perform in the market. How does the company plan to maintain and improve its market position in this chemical manufacturing industry. Can you discuss any recent product development or innovations.

My final concern is the company has been hesitant in supporting individual in need including myself. I have shared my credential in past and followed with the company but my request has gone unnoticed unheard. Sir, should not aiding differently abled person with part of CSR activity then why my request has not been considered so far. Appeal for support in certification work including Form 15C(b). Your assistance would mean alot to me. Infact I cannot get help from such capital Company like Gujarat Alkalies then who can I turn to. I am resending my credentials after AGM with a hope to consider for desired help and support in the 50th year. I want to clarify I am not seeking sympathy. I value my independent and self-reliant chartered accountant myself. I consider and hope you can understand and respect my desire to maintain independence. Thank you for considering my request. I firmly believe that with your support I can make significant contribution to our organisation and have positive

impact on society. I eagerly await your response and sincerely appreciate time and attention you have provided me today.

Additionally, I would like to request your assistance. As a fellow professional I believe the expertise and guidance would be instrumental in realising our mutual goals.

Thank you thank you so much.

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM

Thank you. Moderator, please allow next speaker shareholder Shri Yousuf Yonous Rangwalaji. Then next shareholder Shri Bharat Shah.

Moderator

Shri Yousuf Yonous Rangwala and Shri Bharat Shah have not joined.

Shri Sanjay Bhatt, Company Secretary & CGM

That's all about sir.

Dr. Hasmukh Adhia, IAS (Retd.) (Chairman)

Now I would request the Managing Director to kindly respond to all the questions. I could see that there is a lot of enthusiasm among the members who joined online for giving their suggestion. Because it is an online meeting it's possible that we have not been able to grasp all your questions properly. So, in case if we have missed something in the response, do, please send us those questions in writing and if you have any suggestions do send it to us in writing on e-mail. Now I request the Managing Director to kindly respond to some of these questions.

Shri Swaroop P. IAS Managing Director

Thank you, Chairman Sir and thank you all the Directors and the Shareholders those who have participated and asked questions. I will

try to respond as briefly as possible. I take it questions wise. Question no. 1 is by speaker no. 1 is Mr. Jagdish Thakkar. So, he has asked the overall market scenario of Caustic chlorine. Ofcourse, the last year 22-23 year was its was very moderate year we can say. In the second quarter the prices of caustic soda definitely has reduced from 750 US dollars to 300 US dollars Per Metric Tons. In rupee terms if we can convert it is a fall from Rs. 60,0000 Per metric tons to almost 28,000 rupees per metric tons. So, I mean the Caustic prices were under pressure but the good news is that from September '23 onwards we are seeing upward trend in entire caustic soda market. So, we expect a good recovery and good performance in the coming quarter. On caustic soda demand is also expected to grow by almost 5% CAGR which is also good news for us. Of course, the global supplies and the factor , the China factor also resulted in price reduction that was especially in the last quarter of previous year and also the first quarter of this year. As I said September, onwards, we can see rising trend. In the chlorine market scenario, it is also little volatile especially the Agrochemicals and pigments being the largest consuming segments. They were not picking up but however we expect this trend to pick up in the coming month especially from September -October onwards. Then your question was about the China threat and the global scenario that I think we have answered in fact the industry as a whole is also insisting on BIS certification for players of other countries that we expect the scenario also to improve.

The long-term plans, you have asked about the long-term plans, in fact Chairman saheb has mentioned very briefly about our long-term plans. In fact last year we have commissioned four major projects that is the caustic soda expansion, the Hydrazine Hydrate, Chloromethane and also the joint venture company GNAL they are all commissioned and they are reaching their full potential may be we are expecting to reach

in another few months 100% capacity of these newly commissioned Projects.

Renewable energy in the Chairman speech also he mentioned about tie up with NTPC renewable energy and also with GAIL for Bio-ethanol. These are some of the projects which are on very advanced stage. We are also going to commission a Chlorotoluene Project most probably by May or June, 2024. That's also increase going to increase our capacity. I hope I am answered the first shareholder's questions.

Second one is from Shri Devash Pathak, its mostly about the exports and export sales. Yes we have achieved good export sales realisation last year. We are going to expect further more in this coming year also. One of the key products that we are focusing on is the Methylene Chloride and Phosphoric Acid. These are giving us good results in the export market. We are also expecting good results of export sales in the Hydrogen Peroxide also.

You are asking about number of countries. Right now, we are exporting to almost 19 countries including Qatar, Spain, South Africa, Israel, Ukraine, Vietnam cutting across the continents. Infact in Paraguay also we have some presence. Our target is to reach atleast upto 50 countries export market. We are working very closely on that and I think we will be able to achieve that in the coming year.

Third shareholder Mr. Jindalbai Doshi was asking about our main competitors and also for the CSR activities. Main competitors I think most of us are aware Grasim Industries, DCM Shriram, Meghmani, Nirma, Gujarat Fluorochemicals Ltd., Reliance Industries and Kutch Chemicals. There are other competitors also these are the main competitors and we are competing with them very nicely and in a very positive environment. Second is about the CSR activities. I mean GACL is very much committed to its CSR activities. We have very robust plan. All the independent directors and the Chairman is very keenly interested in reviewing it and giving suggestion. In fact, our

approved budget is Rs. 12.54 Crore. This year we are planning to spend on Nutrition especially focusing on the health of adolescent girls, Sanitation, creation of sustainable livelihood, Skill Development and also promotion of Art, Culture and Heritage. In fact, we have HMDC centre this is the centre for home for mentally challenged and differently abled Children by the Government of Gujarat and we are running it very successfully for the past five years now. We will continue to run that HMDC centre. It is in Baroda and almost all of our Directors have visited that. And coming to the shareholder member Mr. Abhijit Panda. He has asked about the acquisition plan in Domestic and international. As of now the answer is negative. We don't have any acquisition plans. Buyback also as of now the answer is negative. Then the road map for this Company I think that has been taken up in the previous question and also in Chairman speech. He was asking about manufacturing plant in West Bengal. We don't have plans for having manufacturing plant in West Bengal but we do have a very good presence in eastern part of India including West Bengal. We have good presence in Kolkata. We have a good dealer network there and ofcourse our caustic soda is being exported to I mean supplied to NALCO plant in Orissa in the eastern region. Ofcourse, we are trying to expand our network not only eastern part but also the southern part of the Country.

Momento part of it we try to include but I may not be able answer it positively as of now. Factory visit is definitely we are very keen any shareholder interested they can reach to us. We will definitely arrange factory visit. We have two factories one in Baroda and one in Dahej. So, any time of the year whenever is mutually convenient time, we can definitely arrange for factory visits.

Question number 5 is by Mr. Kaushik. I mean, we could not understand your question fully but what I was made to understand is one is portion

of the fund for some welfare of the small shareholders and also a momento part also came again and the second part was about the product portfolio aspect. We have more than 35 products as mentioned in Chairman speech. Main is the Caustic Soda and Caustic allied group. We also have a phosphoric acid group. We have chloromethane group. We can send it across the entire product portfolio what we are dealing with. Infact caustic is our major almost 51% share followed by other products.

Recent developments of innovation, yes, I would mention again what Chairman saheb has mentioned is Hydrazine Hydrate is import substitute product. It was developed by GACL along with IICT CSIR of Hyderabad. It has got patents from US and from the Indian Government. It has come to the commercial production. It is just picking up, once it picks up it will be one of the major contributions by GACL to the entire nation as far as import substitution is concerned.

There was some certification work audit related work that you had sent an e-mail me we will able to reply it through e-mail considering all our qualifications and the rules and regulations that we have.

I hope I have answered most of your questions if there is anything as chairman saheb has said, if you need any clarification you can definitely send it by an e-mail. Thank You.

Dr. Hasmukh Adhia, IAS (Retd.) (Chairman)

Thank you Mr. Swaroop. I would like to make some closing remarks. The Members may kindly note that, E-voting by Members on the above resolutions is open. E-voting platform will also continue to be available for 20 minutes after the completion of this meeting. Therefore, members who have not cast their votes yet are requested to complete their E-voting within the prescribed time limit. The Board of Directors have appointed Shri Niraj Trivedi, Practicing Company Secretary, as a

scrutinizer to supervise the E-voting process. The results of today's E-voting and remote E-voting will be placed on the Company's website, on the Company's notice board, on the CDSL's website and on the website of BSE and NSE within the stipulated time.

I now declare this 50th AGM as concluded. I would like to thank all the members for spending their valuable time for participating in the 50th AGM of the Company through video conference.

Shri Swaroop P. IAS Managing Director

On behalf of the Company, I express my sincere vote of thanks to the Hon'ble Chairman, all our Directors, Auditors and all the members for joining this historic 50th AGM through video conference.

Thank you very much. Jai Hind

Dr. Hasmukh Adhia, IAS (Retd.) (Chairman)

Thank you.