

F.No.1/14/2019-EPL-I
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
(EPL-I Section)

Subject: - Major Achievements of the Department of Commerce during October, 2020.

I. Trade Performance

- India's exports have posted a positive growth in September 2020 after a decline in each of the last six months. As per the latest Quick Estimates (QE) released by DGCI&S, India's merchandise exports in September 2020 were USD 27.58 Billion, as compared to USD 26.02 Billion in September 2019, exhibiting a positive growth of 5.99 per cent. In Rupee terms, exports were Rs. 2,02,694.07 Crore in September 2020, as compared to Rs. 1,85,642.32 Crore in September 2019, registering a positive growth of 9.19 per cent.
- Major commodities, which contributed to this growth during September, 2020 vis-à-vis September, 2019 were: Other cereals (304.71%), Iron ore (109.52%), Rice (92.44%), Oil meals (43.90%), Carpet (42.89%), Ceramic products and glassware (35.92%), Oil seeds (35.42%), Cereal preparations and processed item (33.54%), Drugs and (24.36%), Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet.40%), Meat, dairy and poultry products (19.96%), Jute mfg. including floor covering (18.62%), Cotton yarn/fabs./made-up, handloom products etc. (14.82%), (11.09%), RMG of all textiles (10.21%) and Spices(10.07%).
- The value of merchandise imports in September, 2020 has been USD 30.31 Billion as compared to USD 37.69 Billion in September, 2019, which shows a decrease of (-) 19.60%.
- The merchandise trade deficit during September, 2020 narrowed down to USD 2.91 Billion from USD 11.67 Billion in September, 2019, which is a decrease of (-) 75.06%.

II. Export Promotion Initiatives

- PLEXCONCIL supported the 1st "VIRTUAL PLEXPOINDIA 2020" Exhibition organized by the Gujarat State Plastic Manufacturers Association (GSPMA) during 27th October to 1st November, 2020 on virtual platform.
- Project Export Promotion Council of India (PEPC) has compiled information about ninety upcoming projects and circulated it to its members in October, 2020, to enable them identify and tap potential business opportunities.

III. Promotion of Plantation sector

- The Tea board issued 142 licenses to its exporters, manufacturers, buyers etc in October, 2020 against monthly average of 80 licenses in 2019-20.
- The coffee board issued permits to its exporters in October 2020 to export a quantity of 21,238 MT of coffee valued at Rs.346.19 Crores as against 20,456 MT of coffee valued at Rs.328.71 Crores during the corresponding month of previous year, thus, registering an increase of 3.82% in quantity terms and 6.3% in terms of export earnings.
- The Coffee Board has received USD 90,000 from International Coffee Organization towards ICO Special fund project “Promoting Coffee Consumption in India-Unlocking the potential of coffee value chain through increased domestic consumption and entrepreneurship development”.
- The Spice Board has issued 133 Certificates of Registration as Exporters of Spices (CRES) and 9 Cardamom Dealer Licenses (CDL) during October, 2020.
- The Quality Evaluation Laboratories of the Spice Board have tested a total number of 10106 parameters out of the 5985 samples received during October 2020.
- The Spice board have issued 2152 analytical reports and 316 health certificates to its exporters during October 2020.
- The Spice Board conducted an online Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) focused on Nutmeg to establish effective business linkages between farmers and exporters, organized an international BSM focused on Egypt for the promotion of exports of Indian spices, in collaboration with the Embassy of India at Cairo, participated by the spice’s exporters/importers from India and Egypt and conducted *“Tripura Spice e-Conclave and 2nd International Buyer Seller Meeting” in association with the ICC, Guwahati. Exporters from India and Importers from Bangladesh and officials from Govt. of Tripura, during October, 2020.*
- Rubber Training Institute of the Rubber Board signed an MoU with M/s. St. Dominic College, Kanjirapally under MG University for launching *Bachelor in Vocational* (B.Voc.) programme, extended technical support to M/s Vimal Jyothi Engineering College, Kannur for the proposed project on “Rubber Gloves Manufacturing” under the Unnat Bharath Abhiyan (UBA) Scheme of the Central Government and conducted *thirteen* online calendared programmes and *one* webinar benefitting 245 participants, which includes 42 participants attended webinar on “Scope of Rubber based Industries” in association with District Industries Centre, (Meenachil) Kottayam from different stakeholders of rubber industry during October, 2020.

- With the objective of promoting self-tapping to make rubber cultivation as a sustainable enterprise, the Rubber Board launched mass contact programmes in September 2020 which continued during October 2020 with a slogan of the campaign “*Self-Tapping for Viable Rubber Production in Small*”. During October 2020, the Board also organized 276 meetings benefiting 4,934 rubber growers.
- Regional Offices of the Board organized 184 batches of field training on different topics benefiting 1,697 farmers and under farmer education programme, conducted 376 training programs on Tapping, Beekeeping, LFT & CUT, Mushroom culture, etc with the participation of 3,498 farmers during October 2020. Further, the extension officers of the board regularly keep in touch with the Rubber Producers societies and promoted measures to enhance NR production and productivity. Consequently, the Board provided inputs and supporting services to bring untapped rubber plantations under tapping through adoption of plantations so as to regularize tapping and brought additionally 4,600 ha under adoption in October 2020 with a cumulative total adoption of 10,600 ha up to October 2020.
- The Board continued activities uninterruptedly in *six* Board’s Nurseries in Kerala and *three* in NE region and generated / distributed 8,822 advanced planting materials to rubber growers and also certified 323 rubber plantations covering an area of 184 ha.
- Under the convergence with MGNREGS, the cultural operations completed in 1,625 ha of NR plantations benefiting 2,816 rubber growers and the steps initiated to streamline the function of RPSs and revive non-functional GPCs. For the strengthening of existing RPSs, the Board organized 539 meetings benefiting 4,967 rubber farmers and formed *two* RPS, *one* Labour Group & *two* Rubber Tappers Banks during October 2020.

IV. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI assistance:

- During October 2020, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 46,460 Crores, earned a premium of Rs 99 Crores, added 1081 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 108.72 Crores.
- Under National Export Insurance Account, during October 2020, value of exports supported was Rs 107.42 Crores and insurance cover worth Rs 181.68 Crore were issued.
- During October, 2020 an amount of Rs.15.08 Crore was released to exporters and Trade bodies under MAI scheme for export promotion activities.

V. Bilateral Trade

- “9th Session of India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held on 19th October, 2020 through virtual platform under the co-chairmanship of Hon’ble MoS (C&I) and H.E. Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce and

Industry and Investment Promotion of Sultanate of Oman, wherein both sides deliberated upon issues cutting across trade, investment, specific trade issues, Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTA), Bilateral Investment Treat (BIT) along with cooperation in the fields of Space, Civil Aviation, Renewable Energy, Agriculture and Food Security, Standards & Metrology, Tourism, Health & Pharmaceuticals, MSMEs, Culture, Mining and Higher Education. Both sides also reviewed the progress of prospective Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) in the field of mining, standards and metrology, financial intelligence, cultural exchange, and information technology, and agreed to conclude them expeditiously. Both sides also agreed to expedite their internal procedures for signing and ratification of the Protocol amending India-Oman Double Taxation Agreement and conclusion of the India-Oman Bilateral Investment Treaty”.

VI. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 22947 Authorizations/Scripts under FTP Schemes i.e. Importers Exporters Code (IEC), Merchandise from India Scheme (MEIS), Advance Authorisations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during the month of October, 2020.

VII. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- Total transaction value on GeM portal has crossed Rs. 69,163 Crore as on 31st October, 2020. There are 154,669 MSMEs vendors registered on GeM Portal as on 31st October, 2020. Further, 9,945 Product categories and 165 service categories have been created.
 - GeM has provided online (due to COVID-19) training for capacity building to a total of 10,052 users i.e. 5,766 buyers & 4,286 sellers in the month of October, 2020.
 - Registration of 20,000 artisans and 1,20,000 weavers as sellers on GeMportal has been completed with the assistance of 28 Weaver Service Centres and 56 Handicraft Service Centres under Ministry of Textiles.
 - A total of 35 webinars were held exclusively for MSMEs / Startups / Artisans / Weavers / SHGs for capacity building and onboarding on GeM, benefitting 2,631 participants.
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