

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5048
ANSWERED ON 01/04/2025

BHARAT TRADE NET AND EXPORT PROMOTION MISSION

5048. SHRI YADUVEER WADIYAR:
SMT. KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT:
SHRI RAMVIR SINGH BIDHURI:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which the exporters are likely to be benefited from the initiatives like Bharat Trade Net and Export Promotion Mission, particularly in engineering sector;
- (b) the specific strategy being formulated by the Government for providing security to Indian exporters from the growing global conservative trade policy;
- (c) the plan of the Government for providing assistance to bail MSME exporters out of financial and logistic challenges;
- (d) whether the Government has signed new trade agreements or promote partnerships for expansion of engineering export market of India; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

- (a) The Export Promotion Mission is being coordinated by the Department of Commerce along with the Ministry of MSME and Ministry of Finance. The initiative is intended to address challenges related to export credit accessibility, factoring for cross-border trade, and overcoming non-tariff barriers, with a particular focus on supporting MSMEs. Deliberations for the Mission

have included financial institutions such as EXIM Bank, ECGC, SIDBI, CGTMSE, NCGTC, and representatives of Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards.

Simultaneously, the BharatTradeNet (BTN) initiative is expected to support the digitalization of trade documents, facilitate seamless data exchange, and improve transparency in trade finance mechanisms. It would help exporters, especially MSMEs, in reducing procedural bottlenecks, improving documentation efficiency and reducing compliance-related delays.

(b) To address growing global conservative trade policy, the Government is adopting multipronged strategy to safeguard Indian exporters. These include expanding market access and diversifying export destinations, addressing tariff and non-tariff barriers through bilateral and multilateral engagements, and negotiating Free Trade Agreements to create new trade opportunities. Export assistance under various schemes and digital trade facilitation initiatives are also being strengthened to enhance competitiveness. Export performance is continuously monitored, and corrective measures are implemented in coordination with Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards, and Indian Missions abroad to mitigate adverse impacts on Indian exporters.

(c) To help MSME exporters overcome financial and logistical challenges, the Government is implementing a range of initiatives, which include:

(i) The Ministry of MSME is implementing the International Cooperation (IC) Scheme to support the international growth of MSMEs. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided on a reimbursement basis to eligible Central and State Government organizations, as well as Industry Associations. The assistance facilitates MSME participation in international exhibitions, fairs, and buyer-seller meets held abroad. It also supports organizing international conferences, seminars, and workshops in India, aimed at promoting technology upgradation, modernization, and fostering joint ventures. A new component of IC Scheme namely Capacity Building of First Time Exporters (CBFTE) has been launched in June 2022, under which reimbursement is provided to new Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) exporters for costs incurred on Registration-cum-Membership Certification (RCMC) with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), Export Insurance Premium and Testing & Quality Certification for exports.

(ii) Other schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry of MSME include Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGTMSE), Micro & Small Enterprises - Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), SFURTI, ZED, Incubator, LEAN, IPR, Procurement and Marketing Scheme (PMS) which assist MSMEs in boosting their export competitiveness.

(iii) Establishment of 65 Export Facilitation Centres (EFCs) across the country with an aim to provide requisite mentoring and handholding support to MSMEs in exporting their products and services to foreign markets.

- (iv) The Interest Equalization Scheme on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit has been extended to the MSME Sector up to December 31, 2024.
- (v) Assistance is being provided through several schemes to promote exports, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme.
- (vi) The Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) Scheme to promote export of certain labour-oriented items of textile sector has been implemented since March 07, 2019.
- (vii) Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme has been implemented since January 01, 2021. Currently, 10,642 tariff lines (8-digit ITC(HS) Codes) are covered under this Scheme. The budget allocation for RoDTEP Scheme for the current financial year 2024-25 is Rs. 16,575 crores. The benefits of the RoDTEP scheme have been extended to exports from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) units till September 30, 2025.
- (viii) A Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilization by exporters.
- (ix) Districts as Export Hubs initiative had been launched by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/manufacturers to generate employment in the district.
- (x) The government has launched the Trade Connect e-Platform as an information and intermediation platform for international trade bringing together Indian Missions Abroad and officials from Department of Commerce and other organizations to provide comprehensive services for MSME exporters.
- (xi) To address the logistical challenges faced by MSME exporters, the Government has undertaken a series of strategic interventions. Notably, the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan was launched to enhance infrastructure integration and improve the efficiency of the logistics ecosystem. The GatiShakti platform brings together key Ministries, including Railways and Roadways, for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure projects. The emphasis is on multimodal connectivity, which aims to provide seamless and efficient movement of goods, services, and people across modes of transport. This can potentially ease the transit and delivery timelines for MSME exporters.

(d) & (e) India has recently signed trade agreements with United Arab Emirates (UAE), Australia and European Free Trade Association (EFTA). In all these trade agreements, India has been granted preferential benefits to enhance market access for engineering goods. Tariff schedules offered by the partner countries to India for the engineering goods and allied sectors are available on the website of the Department of Commerce. These agreements also include provisions on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) to promote mutual understanding of each sides' standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures and measures to enhance transparency. Additionally, institutional mechanisms have been set up under these agreements to address non-technical barriers, thereby facilitating smoother and more effective access to these export markets for Indian engineering goods.
