

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

Major Achievements of the Department of Commerce during January, 2020

Trade

- As per the latest data available for December 2020, there is decline in imports, which is more pronounced in comparison to exports. As a result, there is decline in the merchandise trade deficit by (-) 11.25 percent.
- Regional authorities(RA) of DGFT have issued the following authorizations/scrips during the month of January, 2020: -

S.No.	FTP Scheme	Number of Authorizations/ Scrips issued in January, 2020
1.	Importer Exporter Code (IEC) Number	10887
2.	Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)	21032
3.	Service Export from India Scheme (SEIS)	01
4.	Advance Authorizations	1828
5.	Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG)	985

Important Notifications/Notices issued by DGFT

- In continuation of principal notification no.36/202015-2020, dated 17.01.2017 ITC (HS) 2017 – Schedule -1 Import Policy has been amended to be in sync with the Finance (No.2) Act, 2019 dated 1st August, 2019. The notification has come into effect from 1st January, 2020 by notifying the Exim Code introduced/deleted/split/merged/changed in description in the ITS (HS), 2017. (Notification No. 38/2015-2020 dated 01.01.2020).

- The Import Policy of Palm oil and its fractions under (HS Code 151190) has been amended from "Free" to Restricted" (Notification No. 39/2015-2020 dated 08.01.2020).
- Import Policy of desiccated coconut has been amended and import of desiccated coconut with CIF value of Rs. 150/- and above per Kilogram is "Free" and import below CIF value of Rs. 150/- per Kilogram is "Prohibited" (Notification No. 40/2015-2020 dated 08.01.2020).
- Existing notification No. 29/2015-020 dated 4th November, 2019 has been amended to the extent that export of Rice (Basmati and Non-Basmati) to EU member States and other European countries namely Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland only will require Certificate of Inspection from EIA/EIC. Export to remaining European countries (except Iceland Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) will require Certificate of Inspection by Export Inspection Council/Export Inspection Agency for export from 1st July, 2020 (Notification No. 41/2015-2020 dated 09.01.2020).
- The time period to receive requests in Regional Authorities of DGFT for block –wise extension under EPCG scheme, extension in Export Obligation Period and submission of installation certificate is further extended up to 31.03.2020 (Public Notice No. 55/2015-2020 dated 03.01.2020)

Rubber Board

- The Rubber Board took initiative to promote strategies for enhancing natural rubber (NR) production and productivity and efforts to bring untapped areas under tapping with the support of Rubber Producers Society (RPS) and Rubber Board promoted companies. Through intervention of RPS and Companies of the Board, natural rubber production was newly started in 234 ha during January 2020 through motivation, facilitation, adoption/ contract tapping, etc.
- The Rubber Board Organized 363 farmer education programmes with a participation of 10,283 farmers and 562 Regional Producers Society(RPS) meeting benefiting 10,458 farmers and certified 835 plantations having an area 551 ha during January 2020. In addition, the Board formed one RPS, twelve Tappers' Bank & five Labour/ common interest groups as a part of empowering rubber growers.

- The Rubber Board carried out the cultural operations in 268 ha of rubber plantations, benefitting 542 rubber growers, under the convergence with MGNREGS.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) scheme, the Rubber Training Institute (RTI) conducted 45 Skill Development programmes during January 2020 benefitting 1350 participants.
- The Rubber Board published Rubber Magazine (monthly in Malayalam) January 2020 issue and Rubber Statistical News (online monthly in English) November 2019 issue. The Board also conducted two special phone-in programmes through Call centre on "Winter Diseases" and "Success story of Farmer's Information and Coordination for Existence" (FAICE).
- Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) initiated field evaluation of new molecules & integrated field control against *Corynespora* leaf disease at the hot-spots of Kerala and Karnataka states and also, developed new bio dust formulation for the control of Powdery mildew disease on experimental trees at CES Chethackal during January 2020.
- Acclimatization of plants that were regenerated in vitro from *Corynespora* toxin (cassicolin) habituated callus belonging to RRII 105 clone and hardened four plants successfully & transferred to soil.
- The Rubber Board Standardized new coagulant formulation for faster sheet making from field latex and also, developed new technology which enables complete recovery of improved quality rubber from skim latex. Further, evaluated skim rubber obtained by new method blended with field latex for its raw rubber properties and technological properties after vulcanisation.
- The quality evaluation laboratories of the Spice Board analysed a total of 8300 parameters of spice samples during the month of January, 2020.

Spice Board

- The Spices Board organized an interactive session with exporters of the spices sector on 16.01.2020 at SB HO Kochi and sought the suggestions of the exporters on the Board's schemes. During the

session, The Spices Board also discussed in details issues for the Indian spices sector, in the light of the proposed revision for MRL of Chlorpyrifos & Chlorpyrifos- methyl in export consignments by EU.

- The weighted average auction price of the Spice Board for Small Cardamom during January 2020 was Rs.3811.96 per kg. The e-auction centres at Puttady in Kerala and Bodinayakannur in Tamil Nadu have facilitated auction of 1641 tons of cardamom (Small) through e-auction.
- The Spices Board, Guwahati had participated in the Expo on "Organic North East" from 17th to 19th January 2020 at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati, Assam and exhibited various organic spices collected from the Farmer Producer Companies

Govt. e-Market Place (GeM)

- Total transaction value on GeM portal has crossed Rs. 45,605 crores as on 31st January, 2020.
- GeM has 70,625(21.74%) MSMEs vendors registered on its portal.
- GeM has provided training to 2469 buyers & 536 sellers for capacity building in the month of January, 2020.
- GeM has signed an MOU with UP State Government for setting up of GOTT-PMU in the State. GeM has also signed an MoU with UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh.
- GeM samvaad (Buyer/seller meet) held in nine States/UTs i.e. Tripura, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Chandigarh, Mizoram and Guwahati in the month of January, 2020. As a part of Gem samvaad, a roundtable conference with FAs & Nodal officers of major Ministries/CPSEs was also held under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary & Chairman, GeM.

Events under Market Access Initiative

- The following major events were organised /participated with MAI support in January, 2020: -
 - a. 3rd Edition of Indus Food, greater Noida

- b. RBSM in Electricals & Electronics Sector, Greater Noida
 - c. India Heals 2020, Kochi
 - d. DOMOTEX International Trade Fair, Germany
 - e. ISPO Munich, Germany
 - f. Rs. 4.36 crores were released to Export Promotion Councils and trade bodies for undertaking export promotion activities under MAI Scheme
 - g. Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council(STREPC) along with Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) organised the event "Colombia Tex" in Colombia from 21st to 23rd January, 2020 with financial assistance of Rs. 85.50 lakhs under MAI Scheme.
- **Progress Report for Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) for January, 2020**

S. No.	Particulars	(₹ in Crore)
		January, 2020
1	Value of exports supported (business covered)	₹45,326
2	Gross premium earned	₹119
3	Number of new buyers added	1,389
4	Number of policies issued	1,243
5	Number of claims paid	58
6	Claims paid amount	₹102
7	Number of claims rejected	134

Progress Report for National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) for January, 2020

S. No.	Particulars	(₹ in Crore)
		January, 2020
1	Number of new projects supported	3
2	Value of Exports supported (project value)	₹959.37
3	Number of covers issued	9
4	Value of covers issued	₹1140.94

- DGTR organized a brainstorming session under the chairmanship of AS&DG on 22.01.2020 with an objective to invite suggestions helpful in streamlining their investigations and making them faster, transparent and effective. The event witnessed active participation by advocates/experts engaged in the field of Trade Remedies who shared

various suggestions on best global practices regarding Trade Remedial Measures.

- Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) organised a preliminary knowledge session of its members with Dun & Bradstreet in ESC house in January, 2020. ESC also organised a workshop with M/s DSK Legal for members on legal matters relating to exports on 29th January, 2020.
 - Pharmexcil with the support of DoC has set up Indian Pavilion in Arab Health 2020 from 27th to 31st January, 2020 in Dubai. 65 Indian companies from different sectors viz. Formulations, API, Medical Devices, Medical equipment & Supplies participated in the event.
 - The Cabinet approved the fund for the umbrella scheme of Department of commerce, the Champion Services Sector Scheme(CSSS) along with the sectoral schemes of six nodal Ministries/Departments under CSSS, namely, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, for a total amount of Rs. 3369.75 Crores for 2019-20 to 2023-24 out of the Rs. 5000 Cr.
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