

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 September, 2020.

I. Trade Performance

- As per the Preliminary Estimates released by DGFT, India's merchandise exports in September, 2020 were USD 27.40 Billion, as compared to USD 26.02 Billion in September, 2019, which is a positive growth of 5.27%.
- 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 miscellaneous processed item (33.54%),Drugs and pharmaceuticals (24.36%), Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet (21.40%), Meat, dairy and poultry products (19.96%), Jute mfg. including floor covering (18.62%), Cotton yarn/fabs./made-up, handloom products etc. (14.82%), Tobacco (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

- Government of Hidalgo, Mexico and PHARMEXCIL & seven Indian companies signed a Letter of Intent for promotion of Indian medicines on 3rd September, 2020.
- Trade Export Promotion Council (TEPC) organized India Pavilion in ConneCTech Asia 2020, (virtual Expo) from 29th September to 1st October, 2020 along with ICT industry. The event provided an opportunity to Indian companies to interact with potential buyers from across the globe and negotiate business deals and do B2B meetings.
- Project Export Promotion Council of India (PEPC) has compiled information about eighty-six (86) upcoming projects and circulated it to its members in September, 2020, to enable them identify potential business opportunities.
- Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), as part of their export promotion activities, organized three virtual events during the month, viz. (i) Virtual Buyer Seller Meet for Loose Diamonds on 3-4 September, 2020, (ii) Virtual Buyer Seller Meet for Plain Gold Jewellery on 21-24 September, 2020 and (iii) India Global Connect focused on buyers in UK on 28th September, 2020.
- Hon'ble Ministers of Commerce & Industry and of Coal and Mines held a meeting on 2nd September 2020 regarding creation of an Import Monitoring System (IMS) for Coal, Copper and Aluminium wherein it has been decided that IMSs for Copper, Aluminium and Coal shall be developed, hosted and operated by the line Ministries i.e Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Coal, for the efficient collection and use of import data, and DGFT/DoC would provide necessary support in this regard, including notification of IMSs.

III. Promotion of Plantation sector

- The Rubber Board has been empanelled as "Technical Agency" for SFURTI project by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India for a period of 3 years to provide Technical knowhow as well as the financial support for the projects related to rubber processing and product manufacturing especially in the North East Region.

- With the objective of promoting self tapping to make rubber cultivation as a sustainable enterprise, the Rubber Board launched mass contact programmes during September 2020 with the slogan of the campaign “Self Tapping for Viable Rubber Production in Small Holdings”. It is proposed to conduct 2000 campaign programmes in the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu with participation of 40,000 growers.
- The Rubber Board, through its regional offices, organized 90 batches of field training on different topics benefiting 590 farmers and under farmer education programme, conducted 207 training programs on Tapping, Beekeeping, LFT & CUT, Mushroom culture, etc with the participation of 1,885 farmers during September 2020. The Board also continued activities uninterruptedly in six Board's Nurseries in Kerala and NER and generated / distributed 35,000 advanced planting materials to rubber growers and certified 318 rubber plantations covering an area of 214 ha.
- The Tea Board disbursed an amount of Rs.243.78 Lakhs to 167 numbers of beneficiaries under Plantation Development and Promotion Scheme in September, 2020. Further the board initiated a new field experiment in South India following a new planting design with ultra-high density (UHD) with TRI 2043 clone plants.
- The Spice Board has issued 260 Certificates of Registration as Exporters of Spices (CRES) and 14 Cardamom Dealer Licenses (CDL) during September, 2020.
- With a view to facilitate ease of doing exports and to streamline the process of issuing Official Certificates for exports to EU, Spice Board has introduced provisions in the Export Support System portal for online application and processing of Official Certificates from 28th September 2020.

IV. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI assistance:

- During September 2020, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 45,954 Crores , earned a premium of Rs 84 Crores , added 1307 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 14.42 Crores.
- Under National Export Insurance Account, during September 2020, value of exports supported was Rs 11.85 Crores and insurance cover worth Rs 4.95 Crore were issued.

- During September, 2020 an amount of Rs.4.99 Crore was released to exporters and Trade bodie sunder MAI scheme for export promotion activities.

V. Bilateral Trade

- Australia on 8th September 2020 has in principle allowed import of fresh Indian pomegranates into Australia. Indian pomegranates will be exported to the Australian market for the first time subject to meeting Australia's bio security and import protocol. While Australia already produces pomegranates, India as one of the world's largest pomegranate producers, is well placed to meet shortfalls in the Australian market.

VI DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued total 42716 Authorisations/Scripts under FTP Schemes i.e. Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Advance Authorisations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during the month of September 2020.
- In the light of several changes that have taken place in the past 7-8 years in the tanning technology and new types of finished leather being produced now, DGFT has revised Leather Norms by certain additions/amendments in the entry "Finished Leather all kinds" in Export Policy of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 to facilitate export of Finished Leather.
- A new Policy condition has been added in Chapter 85 and 94 if ITC(HS), 2017, Schedule-I (Import Policy) to enable random sampling of LED products and Control Gear for LED products notified under "Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirement of Compulsory Registration Order, 2012".

Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- Total transaction value on GeM portal has crossed Rs. 64,814 Crore as on 30th September, 2020. There are 126,058 MSMEs vendors

registered on GeM Portal as on 31st August, 2020. Further, 9163 Product categories and 143 service categories have been created.

- GeM signed MoUs with State Government of Rajasthan, CPSEs i.e. GAIL India Limited & NMDC Ltd, for procurement of Goods and services through GeM portal.
- For faster and transparent procurement to fight COVID-19, following steps have been taken:
 1. COVID-19 related categories i.e. Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sample Collection Kits, Real Time PCR (ICMR Specs), Ventilator, Viral RNA Extraction Kits, Automated Nucleic Acid Extraction Machine, masks, diagnostic kits PPE, Vinyl/rubber gloves, cardiac monitor etc were made available on GeM.
 2. 279 COVID-19 related categories (Medical and auxiliaries) with 81,389 unique products in covid-19 in medical categories and 85,014 unique products in auxiliaries' categories have been made available on GeM.
 3. There are 23,452 sellers in COVID-19 medical categories & 21,545 sellers in COVID-19 auxiliaries' categories available on portal.
 4. Creation of a new page for tracking COVID-19 categories and the number of sellers.
 5. Introduction of Delivery Lead Time Filter for L1 purchase up to INR 5 lakhs. This will help the buyer in filtering sellers with the lead time for supply suited to a buyer's needs.
 6. New business rule for controlling price increase so that prices are not increased arbitrarily by sellers
 7. Setting the Default Delivery Period as 3 days for shorter duration COVID-19 bids
