

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

Subject: Major Achievements of Department of Commerce during February 2023

I. Trade Performance

- Merchandise exports in February 2023 were recorded at USD 33.88 Billion.
- The sectors which have recorded positive growth in exports during February 2023 over the corresponding month of last year are Oil Meals (USD 0.23 Billion; 220.96%), Iron Ore (USD 0.31 Billion; 51.37%), Spices (USD 0.38 Billion; 30.85%), Electronic Goods (USD 1.93 Billion; 29.85%), Fruits & Vegetables (USD 0.36 Billion; 17.42%), Gems & Jewellery (USD 3.6 Billion; 13.76%), Rice (USD 1.04 Billion; 11.75%), Ceramic Products & Glassware (USD 0.31 Billion; 11.5%), Other Cereals (USD 0.12 Billion; 10.65%), Oil Seeds (USD 0.11 Billion; 9.4%), Cereal Preparations & Miscellaneous Processed Items (USD 0.22 Billion; 5.22%), Marine Products (USD 0.53 Billion; 4.96%), Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (USD 2.05 Billion; 4.72%) and Mica, Coal & Other Ores, Minerals Including Processed Minerals (USD 0.45 Billion; 2.97%).
- Merchandise exports for the period April-February 2022-23 were USD 405.94 Billion as against USD 377.43 Billion during the period April-February 2021-22.

II. Export Infrastructure

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of February 2023 have approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 1334.598 Crore, which will also provide employment to approx. 11684 persons.

III. Export Promotion

- Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) participated in Mobile World Congress, Barcelona 2023.
- Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) organized participation of India ICT companies at LEAP, Saudi Arabia during 6th-9th February 2023.
- Project Export Promotion Council (PEPC) organized a Capacity Building Programme for Project Exporters on 24th February 2023 in Pune.
- Information of 93 upcoming projects in Infrastructure, Water, Power, Consultancy was circulated to PEPC members in February, 2023.
- An interaction of CIM with stakeholders from the Services sector was held on 14th February 2023.

IV. MPEDA

- MPEDA enrolled 108 farms, formed 75 new cluster farms and organised 130 campaigns benefitting 1610 beneficiaries during February 2023.
- 8 exporters, 1 processing plant, 1 storage premise, 1 peeling shed and 1 handling facility were issued certificate of registration. Currently, there are 428 EU approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU approved cold storages.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During February 2023, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 65,528 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 96 Crore, issued 1009 policies, added 5073 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 58 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- A meeting between Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry (CIM) with Mr. Igor Levitin, Aide to President of the Russian Federation on implication INSTC was held on 2nd February 2023.
- 6th round of India- Canada FTA negotiations were held in New Delhi in two parts i.e 23rd - 27th January, 2023 and 3rd-8th February, 2023. Canadian delegation led by Chief Negotiator visited New Delhi for the negotiations.
- CIM and Ms. Mary Ng, Canadian Trade Minister discussed the progress of ongoing India-Canada CEPA/EPTA Negotiations on 15th February 2023 through virtual meeting.
- 7th round of negotiations of India-UK FTA was held in hybrid mode during 6th-10th February 2023. Negotiations were held in GMA, Services, IPR, Rules of Origin, Investment, SoEs, Core Provisions, Disputes, Procurement, Environment and TBT tracks.
- CIM had bilateral meetings on 2nd and 21st February 2023 with Swiss delegation led by Ms. Helene Budliger Artieda, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs to discuss bilateral trade and investments. The discussions were also held with regard to progress made in the India-EFTA TEPA negotiations.
- CIM had bilateral meeting on 9th February, 2023 with a delegation of Finland and Norway led by H.E. Mr. Jan Christian Vestre, Minister of Trade & Industry, Norway and H.E. Mr. Vile Skinnari, Minister for Development Cooperation & Foreign Trade, Finland, respectively wherein discussions were held on bilateral trade & investment; India-EU FTA; India-EFTA TEPA and areas of future co-operation.
- CIM had bilateral meeting on 27th February, 2023 with a delegation of Czech Republic led by Czech Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Jan Lipavsky, wherein discussions were held on bilateral trade & investment; scheduling next session of India-Czech Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation and progress made in India-EU FTA.
- The first round of India – Australia CECA Negotiations was held on 23rd February 2023, in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. It was agreed that both the sides will engage to further expand services commitment under the CECA. Discussion on requests raised by India and Australia under the CECA was held and next steps were decided to take forward the discussion in the next round.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 14,971 Authorizations/Scripts under various FTP Schemes viz., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Service Exports from India's (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during February 2023.
- Amendment in Appendix 2T (List of Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards/Export Development Authorities) of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020. Nutraceutical products have been included in the jurisdiction of the Shellac & Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) in Appendix 2T of FTP 2015-2020. (Public Notice No. 55/2015-20 dated 02.02.2023)
- Enlistment of PSIA under Para 2.55 of Handbook of Procedure 2015-2020. 03 Agencies are notified as PSIA, additional areas of operation for 04 existing PSIAs and additional instruments in respect of 07 existing PSIAs. (Public Notice No. 56/2015-20 dated 14.02.2023)
- Procedure for allocation of quota, for year 2023-24, for import of (i) Calcined Pet Coke for Aluminum Industry and (ii) Raw Pet Coke for CPC manufacturing industry (Public Notice No. 57/2015-20 dated 14.02.2023)
- One-time relaxation for furnishing additional fee to cover excess imports affected under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme to promote Ease of Doing Business – reg. (Public Notice No. 58/2015-20 dated 24.02.2023)
- Amendments in Para 4.42 of the Handbook of Procedures 2015-2020. Para 4.42 of the Handbook of Procedures 2015-2020 has been amended to integrate a uniform and transparent system for implementation of all PRC decisions including previous decisions involving process of levying Composition Fee in case of extension of Export Obligation Period (BOP) and/or regularization of exports already made under Advance Authorization Scheme, for ease of doing business and reduction of transaction cost. (Public Notice No. 59/2015-20 dated 28.02.2023)
- Alignment of RoDTEP Schedule for Chapter 28, 29, 30 & 73 with First Schedule of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. Consequent to inclusion of export items from Chapter 28, 29, 30 & 73 vide Notification No. 47 dated 07.12.2022 under RoDTEP, Appendix 4R is aligned with First Schedule of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 for implementation with effect from 15.02.2023. (Notification No. 55/2015-20 dated 07.02.2023)
- Addition of Gemological Science International (GSI) Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, Maharashtra, India in Para 4.42 of Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20). Gemological Science International (GSI) Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, Maharashtra, India is added as an agency permitted to import diamonds for certification / grading & re-export. (Notification No. 56/2015-20 dated 07.02.2023)
- Amendment in import policy and policy condition of ITC (HS) Code 080280 of Chapter-08 and ITC (HS) Code 2106 90 30 of Chapter-21 of ITC (HS), 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy). The Minimum Import Price (MIP) imposed on tariff lines under 080280 is revised from Rs. 251/- per Kilogram to Rs. 351/- per Kilogram. The Import Policy of Supari under ITC(HS) 21069030 is revised from 'Free' to 'Prohibited' and Import shall be Free if CIF value is Rs. 351/- or above per Kilogram. The given conditions shall not be applicable for imports by 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in the SEZs subject to the condition that no DTA sale is allowed. (Notification No. 57/2015-20 dated 14.02.2023)

- Amendment in Export Policy of Biomass – regarding. The export of Agri Residue Based Biomass and Briquettes / Pellets under ITC-HS Heading 1213 is placed under ‘Free’ category with immediate effect. (Notification No. 58/2015-20 dated 14.02.2023)
- Amendment in Import Policy condition of Cashew Kernels (broken/ whole). Minimum Import Price (MIP) on Cashew kernel (broken / whole) will not be applicable for imports by 100% export Oriented Units (EOUs) and units in the SEZs subject to the condition that the imported Cashew Kernels are not sold into Domestic Tariff Area (DTA). (Notification No. 59/2015-20 dated 21.02.2023)

VIII. DGTR

- **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has issued final findings in the following cases in February 2023:**
 - i) Sunset Review anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Saturated Fatty Alcohol originating in or exported from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.
 - ii) Anti-subsidy investigation concerning imports of “Saturated Fatty Alcohol” from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.
