

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 November 2020.

I. Trade Performance

- Non-petroleum and Non-Gems and Jewellery exports in October 2020 were USD 20.31 Billion, as compared to USD 19.07 Billion in October 2019, registering a positive growth of 6.51 per cent.
- Major commodities/commodity groups which recorded positive growth during October 2020 vis-à-vis October 2019 were Other cereals (378.23%), Rice (113.62%), Oil meals (78.57%), Iron ore (74.14%), Oil seeds (54.21%), Carpet (37.67%), Cereal preparations & miscellaneous processed items (36.18%), Ceramic products & glassware (34.92%), Spices (21.85%), Drugs & pharmaceuticals (21.85%), Jute mfg. including floor covering (18.73%), Meat, dairy & poultry products (16.66%), Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet (11.38%), and Fruits & vegetables (9.87%).
- The merchandise trade deficit during October 2020 was estimated at USD 8.71 Billion as against the deficit of USD 11.75 Billion in October 2019, which is a decline of (-) 25.86 percent.

II. Export Promotion

- Project Export Promotion Council of India (PEPC) has compiled information of about eighty upcoming projects, which was circulated it to its members in November, 2020, to enable them to identify and tap potential business opportunities.
- Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) has participated in AfricaCom 2020, held from 10th-12th November 2020. The event helped Indian ICT companies to interact with the potential buyers from across the globe and negotiate business deals and conduct B2B meetings.

III. Promotion of Plantation sector

- The Tea Board inaugurated a New Tea Centre at Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Temple, Palani on 26.11.2020 as a part of domestic tea promotion activity.

- During the month of November 2020, permits were issued to export a quantity of 19,185 MT of coffee valued at Rs.388.17 Crore. In terms of value, the export earnings have increased by 18.9%.
- The Tea Board disbursed Rs. 59.91 lakh to 90 coffee growers towards coffee developmental activities in traditional, non-traditional areas and North Eastern Region such as replantation of 27.31 ha of senile and unproductive coffee plantations, expansion of 42.10 ha of new coffee plantations, construction of 34 drying yards to improve coffee quality, creation / purchase of 51 units of water augmentation to improve productivity of coffee and 4 coffee group nurseries of improve verities raised by self-help groups during November 2020.
- The Rubber Board, under the convergence with MGNREGS, completed the cultural operations in 1,401 ha of rubber plantations benefiting 2,485 rubber growers. Further, the Board initiated steps to streamline the working of Rubber Producers Society (RPS) and revive non-functional Group Processing Centres (GPCs). During November 2020, the Board revived eight RPS & six GPCs and formed three Labour Groups & one Tappers Banks. Besides, the Board certified 296 rubber plantations in an area of 178 ha and organized 405 RPS meetings benefiting 3,525 rubber farmers.
- Rubber Training Institute (RTI) conducted eighteen online calendared programmes / certificate courses and one webinar benefiting 676 participants.
- Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) prepared maps for landslide zone of rubber plantations in the entire state of Kerala and delineated panchayats with high, medium and low risk categories using Satellite-based mapping, an estimated area of 9,534 ha rubber plantations (age three years and above) in Wayanad district of Kerala.
- The Spice Board issued 143 Certificates of Registration and 3 Cardamom Dealer Licenses to its exporters during November 2020.
- The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) in association with Spices Board has consolidated all the details regarding the Ramnad Mundu Chilli and filed the application for obtaining Geographical Indication Tag with the Geographical Indication Registry on 10th November 2020.
- The Spices Board in association with Khadi & Village Industries Commission, Ministry of MSME, GoI organized a webinar entitled “Harnessing entrepreneurship opportunity in spices in India” on 27th November 2020. The webinar was meant to share insights and expertise on the potential of business opportunities in the spices sector in India. Around 100 participants attended the webinar.
- The Spices Board in association with FICCI - North East organised a webinar on Spices of Northeast on 20th November 2020 to bring together entrepreneurs, support agencies, marketing agencies and potential investors to deliberate on the possibilities of developing the spices sector in the region and promote spices exports from the region wherein around 140 stakeholders involved in spices business, rural development and

tribal welfare attended the webinar. The Spice Board also analysed 47 advisory soil samples from different cardamom growing regions of Kerala and fertilizer recommendations were given to cardamom farmers based on soil test results.

IV. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI assistance

- During November 2020, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 46,546 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 87 Crore, issued 932 policies, added 1000 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 41.74 Crore.
- Under National Export Insurance Account, during November 2020, value of exports supported was Rs 343.21 Crore and value of insurance covers worth Rs 276.92 Crore were issued.
- During November 2020, an amount of Rs.7.29 Crore was released to exporters and Trade bodies under MAI scheme for export promotion activities.

V. Bilateral Trade

- The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) organized virtually the “India-West Africa Summit and Buyer Sellers Meet 2020” from 19th to 20th November 2020. The Summit provided an opportunity to the Indian Industry to interact with the Ambassadors/High Commissioners of India to West African Countries and West African diplomats to India, representatives of Chambers of Commerce and local Industry on a single platform. The Buyer-Seller Meet primarily focussed on the sectors like, Agriculture & Food Processing, Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals, Energy Infrastructure, ICT and Telecommunications, Apparel & Clothing Accessories, Paper and Paper Manufacturers, Plastic and Packaging, Housewares, Beauty, Travel, Hospitality and Tourism, Printing & Toys and Games.

VI. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 16833 Authorizations/Scripts under FTP Schemes i.e., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Service Exports from India (SEIS), Advance Authorisations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during the month of November 2020.

VII. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- Total transaction value on GeM portal has crossed Rs. 73,209 Crore as on 30th November 2020. There are 3,46,873 MSEs vendors out of total 8,61,625 registered vendors on GeM Portal as on 30th November 2020.

- GeM signed MoU with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) for accelerated adoption of procurement of Goods and services through GeM portal.
- GeM has created 10,818 Product categories and 174 service categories during November 2020. Further, a total of 10,091 users (6,408 buyers & 3,683 sellers) have been provided online (due to COVID-19) training for capacity building in the month of November 2020.
- Gem held total 23 webinars exclusively for MSMEs / STARTUPS / ARTISANS / WEAVERS / SHGs/Women entrepreneurs for capacity building and onboarding on GeM, benefitting 2,133 participants in association with Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Indian Chamber of Commerce, MSME Associations under Industries Dept, DICCI MSME Webinar, SC/ST MSEs, and Industry Associations etc.
- In order to onboard sellers in a fast and focused manner, GeM had created a seller invitation module which can be utilized by buyers (12,679 sellers have been invited out of which 5,601 sellers have been registered).
- Registration of 26,800 artisans and 1,38,000 weavers as sellers on GeM portal has been completed with the assistance of 28 Weaver Service Centers and 56 Handicraft Service Centers under Ministry of Textiles. Over 2.02 lakh MSMEs registered with Udyam Registration Portal have been successfully onboarded on GeM as sellers.
- For faster and transparent procurement to fight COVID-19, GeM made available COVID-19 related Categories i.e., Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sample Collection Kits, Real Time PCR (ICMR Specifications), Ventilator, Viral RNA Extraction Kits, Automated Nucleic Acid Extraction Machine, masks, diagnostic kits PPE, Vinyl/rubber gloves, cardiac monitor etc.on GeM. 287 COVID-19 related categories (Medical and auxiliaries) with 90,363 unique products in Covid-19 in medical categories and 109,518 unique products in auxiliaries' categories on GeM during November 2020.
