

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 June 2023

I. Trade Performance

- Merchandise exports in June 2023 were recorded at USD 32.97 Billion.
- Under merchandise imports, 21 out of 30 key sectors exhibited negative growth in June 2023. These include Silver (-94.36%), Coal, Coke & Briquettes, Etc. (-47.61%), Sulphur & Unroasted Iron Pyrites (-35.64%), Petroleum, Crude & Products (-33.77%), Textile Yarn Fabric, Made-Up Articles (-33.72%), Organic & Inorganic Chemicals (-30.53%), Wood & Wood Products (-28.83%), Vegetable Oil (-28.18%), Artificial Resins, Plastic Materials, Etc. (-25.99%), Dyeing/Tanning/Colouring Materials (-25.55%), Pearls, Precious & Semi-Precious Stones (-24.46%), Cotton Raw & Waste (-24.27%), Fruits & Vegetables (-18.04%), Metaliferrous Ores & Other Minerals (-16.99%), Fertilisers, Crude & Manufactured (-8.6%), Medicinal & Pharmaceutical Products (-5.41%), Machine Tools (-5.36%), Pulp And Waste Paper (-4.3%), Non-Ferrous Metals (-3.51%), Machinery, Electrical & Non-Electrical (-2.19%) and Transport Equipment (-1.57%).
- Electronic Goods export witnessed impressive growth of 45.4% in June 2023 at USD 2.43 Billion as compared to USD 1.67 Billion in June 2022. Electronics exports rose by 47.1% in April-June 2023 at USD 6.96 Billion as compared to USD 4.73 Billion over corresponding period last year.

II. Export Infrastructure

- During the month, Rs. 19.51 crore was released for various projects under TIES:
 - i. Rs. 10 Crore was released for “Construction of cargo complex at Kannur International Airport” project of Kannur International Airport Limited(KIAL) under Trade Infrastructure for Export Schemes(TIES).
 - ii. Rs. 2 Crore was released for “Creation of additional ZLD capacity in VISHTEC CETP” project of Council for Leather Exports(CLE) under TIES.
 - iii. Rs. 7.51 Crore was released for “Quality Assessment & Value Addition Centre for herbal industry in the North Eastern States of India” project of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Guwahati under TIES.

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of June 2023 have approved the proposals of investment of Rs 3405.27 Crore, which will also provide employment to approx. 13681 persons.
- The 115th meeting of Board of Approval was conducted on 17th June 2023. The Board of Approval has approved the following three proposals for setting up of SEZ viz,
 - i. Request of M/s. State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) for setting up of a Multi-Sector SEZ at A Sathanur Village, Ullundurpet Taluk, Kallakurichi District, Tamil Nadu over an area of 77.0950 Ha (190.50 Acres).
 - ii. Request of M/s. State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (SIPCOT) for setting up of a Multi-Sector SEZ at Panapakkam Village, Ranipet District, Tamil Nadu over an area of 52.20 Ha (129 acres).
 - iii. Request of M/s. Larsen & Toubro Limited for setting up of an IT/ITES SEZ at Ramapuram village, Maduravoyal Taluk, Chennai, Tamil Nadu over an area of 0.9190 Ha (2.2711 Acres).

III. Export Promotion

- PLEXCONNECT 2023, the first-ever export-focused Exhibition for the Indian plastic industry was organised from 15th-17th June 2023 at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, by the Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL). The PLEXCONNECT 2023 attracted more than 400 overseas buyers.
- Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) organised its members participation in Rubber & Tyre Vietnam 2023, Paper Vietnam 2023 & Coating Vietnam 2023 with INDIA PAVILION during 14th to 16th June 2023 at Saigon Exhibition & Convention Centre, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
- Information about 69 upcoming projects in Infrastructure, Water, Power, Consultancy was circulated to Project Exports Promotion Council of India (PEPC) members.
- Telecom Equipment & Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) organised India Pavilion in CommunicAsia 2023, from 7th-9th June 2023, facilitating India ICT companies under Market Access Incentive (MAI) scheme of Department of Commerce. Participation in this event helped the Indian companies to interact with potential buyers from across the globe and negotiate business deals and conduct B2B meetings.
- A meeting with Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) and top pharma exporters viz. Cipla, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Ltd., Biocon Pharma Ltd., Emcure, MSN Pharma and Glenmark was held by DoC on 2nd June 2023 on 'Pharma export to LAC region: challenges and opportunities.'

- A meeting was held on 23rd June 2023 with EEPC India and its member exporters to discuss the ways and means to increase exports of engineering products from India. The exporters highlighted the major issues faced by them in the sector. EEPC India was asked to submit a detailed note on the various problems faced by their members in exporting their goods. The note has been received and further action with respect to addressing the issues is being taken.

IV. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 206 farms, formed 18 new cluster farms and organised 103 campaigns benefitting 1027 beneficiaries during June 2023.
- 15 exporters, 1 handling facility and 1 storage premise were issued certificate of registration. Currently 430 EU approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU approved cold storages are present.

V. Export Credit and Insurance

- During June 2023, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 37,438 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 100.95 Crore, issued 926 policies, added 1,633 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 16.35 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- The 5th round of India-EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations was held in New Delhi from 15th to 27th June 2023 in 76 technical sessions. Discussions/negotiations on the all the 20 policy areas were continued to find landing zones in the areas of convergence. In this round, modalities for exchange of market access offers in Goods and Government Procurement were discussed and finalized. Negotiation on SMEs chapter has concluded and textual part of Government Procurement chapter has also been agreed in-principle.
- The 10th round of India-UK FTA negotiations was held during 5th-9th June, 2023 in New Delhi. The discussions were held across 10 policy areas i.e., Rules of Origin, IPR, Investment, Procurement, Services, Disputes, Core Text, Digital, Environment and Financial Services. Intersessional on TBT (Annex) and Labour chapters were held on 14th and 15th June, 2023 respectively. Senior Level Discussion on Rules of Origin was held on 23rd June 2023 to resolve the difficult issues in the chapter. A meeting with Stakeholders of Wines and Spirits under India-UK FTA was also held on 28th June 2023.
- The 16th Session of India-Austria JEC was held from 12th-13th June, 2023 in Vienna, Austria for enhancement of trade and investment between both the countries. Both the sides agreed to enhance the cooperation in the fields such as Digitalisation, Global Incubator Network including Start-ups, Infrastructure (Automotives, Railways,

Ropeways), Industry 4.0, Tourism, Joint Industrial Research, Environmental and sustainable technology, Skill Development, Film Funding and AYUSH.

- The 11th Session of India-Slovak JEC was held from 14th-15th June, 2023 in Bratislava to enhance trade and investment between both the countries. During the session both sides agreed to enhance the cooperation in the fields such as Science and Technology, Standards, Metrology and Testing, Automotive and Engineering Industry, Agriculture and Irrigation.
- CIM had a virtual meeting with Dr. Robert Habeck, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK), Germany on 27th June, 2023 to discuss Global economic development and current challenges, India-EU FTA, Diversification of Supply Chains and Business Visas for Indian businessmen visiting Germany.
- CIM convened a meeting with the Ambassadors/High Commissioners of the African Countries viz. Botswana, Djibouti, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe on 8th June 2023 to discuss bilateral trade issues.
- The 18th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership themed “Creating Shared Futures” was held from 14th to 16th June 2023 in New Delhi. The event had over 1500 delegates comprising of leading Indian Industry and representatives from almost 67 countries including 45 African countries. The conclave covered a diverse range of sectoral sessions including Infrastructure, Financing, Space, Agriculture and Food Processing, Defence, Manufacturing, Trade, ICT, Critical Minerals, Skill Development, Trilateral Partnerships, Water, Healthcare & Pharmaceutical and Power & Energy. Country focussed sessions on Gambia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe were also organised.
- The first Joint Committee (JC) meeting of India-UAE CEPA was held on 11th – 12th June, 2023 in New Delhi. During the meeting both sides discussed on operationalization of the sub-committees under the CEPA, mutual data exchange for effective monitoring of the CEPA, CEPA Implementation matters (i.e, rules of Origin issues, Pharma Annex issues, Services trade matter, Certification matters), implementation of mechanism on trade remedies matters, review of the schedule of tariff commitments for market access on goods.
- On 8th June, 2023, the 1st Round Table meeting between India and New Zealand took place in New Delhi. The meeting focused on taking forward the objectives of the India-NZ Joint Trade Committee (JTC), formed under the Bilateral Trade Agreement of 1986. The discussions held in the meeting led to tentative identification of various areas of cooperation including the facilitation of UPI system, carbon credit, package proposal on Kiwi fruits, trans-shipment hub, prioritization of bilateral trade issues for their timely resolution, collaboration on technology issues, cooperation in services such as work visa related issues, improving the banking relations further, etc. The Indian industry representative from services sectors like IT and ITeS, logistics and

banking sector as well as manufacturing sectors namely food processing, pharmaceuticals, automobile, construction and power made useful interventions on the bilateral issues and the huge potential and ample opportunities available between both the economies which needs to be nurtured through such interactions and actions thereof.

- The 3rd round of negotiations on India-Australia CECA was held during 5th-16th June, 2023. Overall, the 3rd Round of negotiations/exploratory discussions were quite productive. The discussions on both the ECTA agreed tracks and the exploratory tracks are progressing well. The 4th round of negotiations was held from 12th-21th July 2023.
- India and Canada are presently negotiating CEPA/EPTA. In this regard, 8th round of negotiation was held from 5th June to 16th June, 2023 through virtual mode. CIM and Canadian Trade Minister reviewed the progress made in EPTA negotiations on 8th June, 2023, 16th June and 22th June during the month through VC. Further, Canadian Agriculture Minister met CIM on 19th June, 2023 to discuss the agriculture issues between the two countries. Besides that, two intersessional to discuss Goods track under India Canada CEPA/EPTA negotiations were held on 15th June & 20th June, 2023. The India-Canada Chief Negotiators VC meetings to discuss the progress of overall tracks were also held during the month.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 16,630 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 June 2023.
- **Amendment in Import Policy Condition 6 (Pet Coke) under Chapter 27 of Schedule –I (Import Policy) of ITC (HS) 2022:** In pursuance to Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 24th March 2023 in the WP(C) No. 13029/1985 [M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India & Ors], based on the Report of the Sub-Committee constituted by the CAQM (Commission of Air Quality Management), the DGFT allowed import of Needle Pet Coke for making graphite anode material for Li-Ion battery as feedstock/raw material, and Low Sulphur Pet Coke by integrated steel plants only for blending with the coking coal in recovery type coke ovens equipped with de-sulphurisation plant, subject to terms and conditions set out by MOEF&CC.
- **Import of Watermelon Seeds under ITC(HS) 12077090 of ITC(HS), 2022 Schedule-I (Import Policy):** Based on the recommendation of DAFW, DGFT has issued quota of 35,000 MTs Watermelon Seeds for import upto 31st October 2023 on Actual User basis.
- **Amendment in Import Policy and Policy Condition of Copra under ITC (HS) Code 12030000 of Chapter 12 of ITC (HS), 2022, Schedule-I, Import Policy:** The

import policy of Copra was amended from 'STE' to 'Restricted' category and NAFED was removed as a canalizing agency for import of Copra under ITC (HS) Code 12030000.

- **Amendment in Appendix 2X of FTP, 2023:** List of countries exempted from testing for presence of Azo Dyes in imported Textiles and Textile Articles has been updated with the inclusion of UK and exclusion of China from the exemption list.
- **Amendment in procedure for import of Copper products and Zinc Oxide under the Revised India Nepal Treaty of Trade:** DGFT amended the procedure for import of Copper products and Zinc Oxide under the Revised India Nepal Treaty of Trade and notified itself as the monitoring agency in place of MMTC.
- **Notification of a new Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices under FTP 2023:** A new Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices was notified for issuing RCMC for items related to medical devices based on the recommendations of Department of Pharmaceuticals and Department of Commerce.
- **Amendment in import policy of Cigarette lighters covered under CTH 9613 of Chapter 96 of Schedule –I (Import Policy) of ITC (HS) 2022:** DGFT amended the import policy of Cigarette lighters from 'Free' to 'Prohibited' category. However, the said item is freely importable if the CIF value is Rs. 20/- or above per lighter.

VIII. DGTR

- **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has issued Final Findings in the following cases:**
 - i. Sunset review investigation of the anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of "Fishing Net" originating in or exported from China PR.
 - ii. Sunset review investigation of anti-dumping duty imposed on import of "Flat Base Steel Wheel" originating in or exported from China PR.
 - iii. Anti-Circumvention investigation concerning alleged circumvention via Malaysia of the anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of "Fishing Net" originating in or exported from China PR.

IX. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- GeM organized क्रेता -विक्रेता गौरव सम्मान समारोह 2023 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, on 26th June 2023. The event aimed to recognize the outstanding performance of government buyers and sellers in the public procurement process through GeM.
- On International MSME Day, MoU was signed by the Ministry of MSME and GeM for last-mile advocacy, outreach, mobilisation, and capacity-building of last-mile MSMEs in public procurement.

- GeM signed a MoU with Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association (TANSTIA) on 21st June 2023.
- During the month 162 training sessions and 12 events were conducted for various Buyer and Seller organizations with a total participant count of 8416 with 7000+ Buyers and 1400+ sellers.
