

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 January 2022

I. Trade Performance

- India's merchandise export in January 2022 increased by 23.69% to USD 34.06 billion over USD 27.54 billion in January 2021; recorded increase of 31.75% over USD 25.85 billion in January 2020.
- Major commodity groups covering 78.18% of total exports and showing positive growth in January 2022 over corresponding month of previous year are Engineering goods (24.13%), Petroleum products (74.73%), Gems and Jewellery (13.83%), Organic and Inorganic Chemicals (26.04%), Cotton Yarn/ Fabrics/ Made-ups handloom products etc., (42.58%), RMG of all textiles (19.53%), Electronic goods (15.64%), Plastic and Linoleum (32.29%) and Rice (5.70%).
- Value of non-petroleum exports in January 2022 was USD 30.33 billion, registering a positive growth of 19.4% over non-petroleum exports of USD 25.4 billion in January 2021 and a positive growth of 33.81% over non-petroleum exports of USD 22.67 billion in January 2020.

II. Export Infrastructure and Promotion

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of January 2022 have approved the proposals of investments of Rs 3109.03 Crore which will also provide employment to approx. 24065 persons.
- Total fund of Rs. 17.76 Crore has been released under TIES during January 2022 for the following two projects-
 - i. 'Hi-Tech Cycle Valley, Dhanansu, Distt. Ludhiana' project by Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation Ltd. (PSIEC) supported with financial assistance of Rs. 10 Crore.
 - ii. Grant of Rs. 7.76 Crore released for a project 'Plug & Play Infrastructure at SIPCOT Industrial Park, Vallam-Vadagal' of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT).
- SEPC participated in a virtual interactive meeting on 17th January 2022 on General review of the export target for the current year and outlook for the next year with Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goel. Chairman, SEPC mentioned about activities towards business connectivity (RBSMs, BSMs, Exhibitions,

Brand building exercises etc) which are being planned and proposed by SEPC under MAI scheme.

- SEPC in association with Quality Council of India, National Board for Quality Promotion and D.L. Shah Trust for Applied Science and Technology organized Master Class Series webinar on Applying Tools / Techniques and Technology for improving business performance in service sector on 5th January 2022. The objective of this webinar was members to understand the fundamentals of quality improvement in business performance for services sector.

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 253 farms, formed 3 new cluster farm and conducted 95 capacity building programs benefiting 914 farmers.
- MPEDA issued 1370 DS 2031 certificates, 733 catch certificates for EU, 29 catch certificates for Non- EU, 88 ICCAT documents, 21 Non-Radio Activity certificates, 5 Duty free import certificate, 3 RCMC (ordinary) and 1 RCMC (Temp).
- Through the Aqua One Centres, 19 registrations were done and an amount of Rs. 2,17,665 was collected for testing water quality & shrimp animals.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- In South India, Tea Promotion advertisement was printed on back cover of 6250 Post Office savings bank account books and distributed to create awareness on tea drinking amongst the youth and general public.
- The role of Tea Board and its various functions including capturing of important cultural operations were covered by the Doordharshan Kendra, Pudhucherry from 6th to 7th January 2022.
- Coffee Board conducted On-Spot Mobile Soil Test Programme in various coffee growing zones of Karnataka wherein soil samples were analyzed for soil reaction (pH) and issued lime recommendation on the spot.
- An MoU was signed between Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) and SMPT (Societe des Matieres Premieres Tropicales Pe Ltd), Singapore, a subsidiary of Michelin, a major multinational company for future research collaborations.
- An Advanced Analysis Laboratory for Rubber products was inaugurated at RRII. The new facility will enable the Exporters to conduct independent third-party testing of rubber products for REACH compliance and for Manufacturers in the MSME sector to design REACH compliant product formulations. REACH is the European Union Regulations which deals with Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical Substances. The objectives of REACH regulation are to protect human health and environment through better and earlier identification of the residual chemical substances in industrial products.

- Eight short term new schemes for enhancing domestic NR production have been launched. (Rain guarding/ Disease management/ Modernization of Group Processing Centres/ Tool kit to women tappers/Incentive to RPS for group management/ Purchase of sprayer/Purchase of auger/Sponsored nurseries).
- Geospatial mapping and updating of the acreage of rubber plantations in North Tripura district was completed which is 3010 ha higher than the earlier estimate done in 2012.
- Credit Linked Rubber Plantation Development Plan (CLRPDP) - Planting activities have been completed for 2021. Achievement as on 27-01-2022 is 3861 ha. (Agartala zone - 2372 ha and Guwahati zone - 1489 ha). New name of the scheme is NE - MITRA.
- Board has developed and launched a novel digital platform titled ‘SpiceXchangeIndia’ (www.spiceexchangeindia.com) for the use of Indian spice exporters to easily connect with the importers across the globe and to facilitate export of spices from the country. This portal is equipped with features like integrated database of global spice traders in a searchable format, artificial intelligence based short listing, 24x7 virtual office space for Indian spice brands, spice market information, access to global spice trade data, etc. In addition, the Board will use this digital platform to organise various export promotion activities online including International Buyer-Seller Meets. This platform has got good potential to open up new business opportunities for the benefit of Indian spice entrepreneurs.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During January 2022, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 52,196 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 89 Crore, issued 836 policies, added 5859 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 26 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- A letter from Hon'ble CIM was sent to Indonesian Trade Minister highlighting India's market access issues with Indonesia in important sectors including agriculture and auto. Indonesian Minister was requested to remove the quota on bovine meat and to allow free import of bovine meat from India.
- Thailand has agreed to carry out the virtual audit of India's shrimp disease control system on 14th-17th February 2022. A temporary ban on shrimp import from India is in place since December 2017 over concerns on the spread of IMNV, a contagious disease. The visit of Thai side for inspection in India is long pending due to COVID-19 situation. DoC as well as Indian Mission have actively pursued with Thailand for lifting the import suspension. Thailand importers have shown interest in import of shrimps from India and have played a part in the flexibility shown by Thailand for virtual audit. Once the import suspension is removed, it will greatly enhance marine exports to Thailand.

- India and the UK have formally launched FTA negotiations on 13th January 2022 and the negotiations have started from 17th January 2022. The Bilateral Groups are working towards finalizing the text across all the chapters.
- A virtual bilateral meeting of Joint Working Group on Trade & Investment under the MEA led Joint Task Force on Aceh (Indonesia) - Andaman & Nicobar Islands connectivity was held on 18th January 2022 to discuss trade in potential products between Aceh and A&N Islands such as construction material, agricultural products & daily goods, developing business to business links and possibilities of investment in development projects in Aceh and A&N islands.
- Negotiations on the comprehensive trade agreement between India and UAE were completed in December 2021. Apart from SPS and TBT chapter. Further both the sides have decided to finalize Annex on Organic products within one year from entry into force. Legal scrubbing of the text was concluded in January 2022.
- The first meeting of the reconstituted Inter-Ministerial Consultative Group (IMCG) on Trade and Environment to deliberate upon and finalize India's position on trade and environment issues in international forums was held on 14th January, 2022. It was decided by both the departments to engage closely on issues related to trade and environment.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 24,097 Authorizations/Scrips under various FTP Schemes viz., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Service Exports from India's (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during the month of January 2022.

VIII. GeM

- Memorandum of understanding signed between GeM and Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for efficient, transparent & faster procurement through GeM portal.
- GeM has recently launched a **new module for forward auction** which can be used by various Government offices for selling of various type of scrap, movable and immovable property, etc.
- Vaccine categories of UIP Programme of MoHFW have been made live in consultation with them.
