

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 2022

I. Trade Performance

- India's merchandise export in February 2022 was USD 33.81 Billion, an increase of 22.36% over USD 27.63 Billion in February 2021 and an increase of 21.88% over USD 27.74 Billion in February 2020.
- Major commodity groups covering 73.77% of total exports and showing positive growth in February 2022 over corresponding month of previous year are Engineering goods (31.34%), Petroleum products (66.29%), Gems and Jewellery (15.79%), Organic and Inorganic Chemicals (24.74%), RMG of all textiles (18.54%), Electronic goods (33.77%), Cotton Yarn/ Fabrics/ Made-ups handloom products etc., (32.84%), Rice (0.19%) and Plastic and Linoleum (25.69%).
- Value of non-petroleum exports in February 2022 was 29.70 USD Billion, registering a positive growth of 18.04% over non-petroleum exports of USD 25.16 Billion in February 2021 and a positive growth of 22.23% over non-petroleum exports of USD 24.30 Billion in February 2020.

II. Export Infrastructure and Promotion

- To give a boost to the Gems and Jewellery Sector, customs duty on cut & polished diamonds (HSN 710229 & 710239) and gemstones (710391 & 710399) is being reduced from 7.5% to 5%. This is expected to boost exports of studded jewellery and increase employment potential domestically.
- Budget announcement of nil duty for sawn diamond is expected to give clarity and help India to consolidate its position further from the existing share of 75% of diamonds in terms of value, 85% in terms of volume and 92% in terms of pieces in global diamond trade.
- PEPC member company M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd. has secured an order from the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority to construct Hi-Tech IT Parks at 8 locations (2 packages at 4 locations each) across Bangladesh. This project is being funded by the Indian EXIM Bank and is the first IT & Office Space order that L&T has secured in Bangladesh.
- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of February 2022 have approved the proposals of investments of Rs 21560.16 Crore which will also provide employment to approx. 20294 persons.

- ‘Establishment of Plug & Play Infrastructure in SIPCOT Industrial Growth Centre, Perundurai, Erode District’ project by State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) supported with financial assistance of Rs. 3.43 Crore under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES).

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 171 farms, formed 5 new cluster farm and conducted 81 capacity building programs benefiting 1984 farmers.
- MPEDA issued 1234 DS 2031 certificates, 904 catch certificates for EU, 61 catch certificates for Non- EU, 104 ICCAT documents, 44 Non-Radio Activity certificates, 01 Duty free import certificate, 2 RCMC (Temp).
- Through the Aqua One Centres, 50 registrations were done and an amount of Rs. 2,40,245 was collected for testing water quality & shrimp animals.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- Festival of Indian Tea was organized by Embassy of India, Tokyo in association with Tea Board India on 15th February, 2022 and a virtual BSM was also organized.
- Rs.19.13 Crore were disbursed to 324 beneficiaries under the Tea Development Scheme in North Eastern Region during the April to February, 2021-22.
- India has been elected as the new Chairman of International Rubber Study Group (IRSG) for the term January 2022 - January 2024. Head of the Indian delegation to IRSG, Dr. K N Raghavan, Executive Director of Indian Rubber Board, will officiate as the Chairman of IRSG representing India.
- 3644 ha of holdings where rubber is grown were adopted during February, 2022. Total adopted area – 39,698 ha up to February, 2022. Efforts were continued for facilitating tapping, plantation management, processing and marketing by providing inputs and other services.
- Hon’ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry inaugurated the Coral Jubilee celebrations of Spices Board through a hybrid meeting on 26.2.2022. Hon’ble Minister released the postal stamp to mark the coral jubilee celebrations and also launched the weather-based insurance scheme for small cardamom. The Hon’ble Minister appreciated the proactive interventions of the Board while working with all categories of stakeholders, trade promotion and regulatory bodies of importing countries and inter-governmental organizations which has propelled Indian spice industry to mark the historic event of attaining USD 4 Bn.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During February 2022, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 58,099 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 104 Crore, issued 1167 policies, added 2765 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 47 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- India-Australia CECA negotiations are at advanced stage of finalization. Regular negotiations at the officer level and meetings at Minister level are taking place to resolve the pending issues. Several rounds of discussions took place to finalise SPS and TBT chapter. SPS chapter has already been finalised. 75% of the TBT chapter text is also clean and efforts are being made to finalise the same.
- Several meetings were held with Canadian side regarding Interim Agreement/CEPA in which various issues of on services like Market Access, MFN commitments, Interplay between FIPA and CEPA, Temporary entry and Presence etc. were discussed. Further, expert level meetings were also held with Canadian side on 07.02.2022 and 16.02.2022.
- A meeting of Hon'ble CIM with visiting Malaysian Minister of Plantation, Industries and Commodities, Ms Zuraida Kamruddin was held on 22.02.2022 at Udyog Bhawan. Both sides reviewed the ongoing discussions on long term trade arrangements for palm oil supply.
- Thailand carried out a virtual audit of India's shrimp disease control system on 14th-17th February 2022. Subsequent to the virtual audit, Indian agencies viz. EIC and MPEDA have shared the documents sought by Thai authorities. Thailand had imposed a temporary ban on shrimp import from India in December 2017 over concerns on the spread of IMNV, a contagious disease and an inspection visit by Thai authorities was long pending. A positive outcome of the virtual audit will boost marine exports to Thailand.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 20,343 Authorizations/Scripts 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 February 2022.

VIII. GeM

- Total Order Value in the first eleven months of FY 21-22 till February'22 has reached Rs 87,292 Crore as compared to Rs 38,585 Crore in the entire FY 20-21. Further, total order value of Rs 87,292 Crore for the first eleven months of FY 21-22, compared to Rs 29,927 Crore for the similar period during preceding FY 20-21 is higher by 191%.
- An MoU was signed with INDIA SME Forum, a Mumbai-based NGO representing 76K+ small, medium enterprises [SMEs] members across India on 04th February 2022.
- 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. A total of 84 no. of Forward Auction cases are closed and 19 Forward auction cases are "Live" as on 03.03.22.

- GeM has enhanced existing keyword-based APACHE SOLR based search platform by providing the state-of-the art algorithms to optimize the search using NLP techniques for 3000 categories.
