

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 August 2021

I. Trade Performance

- As per trade alert data, India's merchandise exports in August 2021 was USD 33.14 billion, an increase of 45.17% over USD 22.83 billion in August 2020 and an increase of 27.5% over USD 25.99 billion in August 2019.
- Top 10 major commodity groups, covering more than 80% of total exports, that have shown positive growth in August 2021 over corresponding month of previous year are: Engineering Goods (58.79%), Petroleum Products (139.78%), Gems and Jewellery (88.04%), Organic and Inorganic Chemicals (35.75%), Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (1.21%), Cotton Yarn/Fabrics/Madeups, Handloom Products Etc. (55.62%), RMG Of All Textiles (13.99%), Electronic Goods (31.49%), Plastic and Linoleum (16.16%), and Rice (6.58%).
- Value of non-petroleum exports in August 2021 was USD 28.58 billion, registering a positive growth of 36.57% over non-petroleum exports of USD 20.93 billion in August 2020 and a positive growth of 25.44% over non-petroleum exports of USD 22.78 billion in August 2019.
- Value of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports in August 2021 was USD 25.15 billion, registering a positive growth of 31.66% over non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports of USD 19.1 billion in August 2020 and a positive growth of 28.53% over non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports of USD 19.57 billion in August 2019.

II. Export Promotion

- The following two new projects were approved under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES), by the Empowered Committee headed by Commerce Secretary in its meeting held on 2nd August 2021: -
 - a. Expansion/Improvement (3 MLD Effluent Refractory Management and TDS Reduction) in CETP, Baddi, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh' project of M/s Baddi Infrastructure, Himachal Pradesh supported with Grant-in-aid of Rs. 10 Crore (1st

installment). The total cost of the project is Rs. 28.51 Crore and TIES share is Rs. 20 Crore.

- b. Setting up of 1 MLD Zero Liquid Discharge Plant in Cochin SEZ project of Cochin SEZ supported with Grant-in-aid of Rs. 11.09 Crore (being released in one installment). The total cost of the project is Rs. 23.50 Crore and TIES share is Rs. 11.09 Crore.
- Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) organized India Gem & Jewellery Awards on 27th August 2021 in Surat, to honor the achievements made by leading exporters of the sector besides felicitating the top importers and banks that are financing the trade etc. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat was the chief guest of the function.

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 261 farms, formed 3 new cluster farm and conducted 79 capacity building programs benefiting 762 farmers.
- MPEDA issued 2505 DS 2031 certificates, 433 catch certificates to EU, 16 catch certificates for Non- EU, 26 ICCAT documents, 13 Non-Radio Activity certificates and 7 duty free import certificate.
- Through the Aqua One Centres 114 registrations were done and an amount of Rs. 4,57,435 was collected for testing water quality & shrimp animals.
- 15th ELISA Screening Laboratory of MPEDA was inaugurated on 25th August 2021 at Contai in West Bengal.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- The Tea Board issued 110 licenses during August 2021
- Tea Board India participated at “Delhi Bazaar” held in Moscow from 13th -15th August 2021 and displayed various Indian teas that were highly praised for their taste and fragrance.
- Coffee Board was awarded winner of National IP award for the year 2020 as top organization for best facilitation for registration of GIs and promotion of registered GI in India.
- As a part of the Credit Linked Rubber Plantation Development Plan (CLRPDP) for NE region with the financial support of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA), the Rubber Board transported 4.70 lakh rubber saplings (planting materials) up to August 2021 to develop rubber plantations in North Eastern States.

- Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) successfully completed the data analysis of 622 clones selected from preliminary yield trials on existing pipeline clones and found that 64 clones have superior yield potential than RRII 430.
- A new project for developing Can sealing compound from NR latex has been registered with the Rubber Production Incubation Centre (RPIC) functioning under RRII by M/s SMS Chemicals & Process Consultants (P) Ltd., Kolkata in August 2021.
- Spices Board, in association with the Embassy of India, Thailand, organized a webinar on "Opportunities of Indian Spices in Thailand" and Buyer Seller Meet on 18th August 2021. About 250 Indian Spices exporters & 50 importers from Thailand attended the programme.
- As a pilot initiative, rapid curcumin testing device has been installed at AMC, Nizamabad so as to facilitate instant analysis of curcumin by farmers & traders, which would help in better price discovery.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During August 2021, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 46,233 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 69 Crore, issued 990 policies, added 1,073 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 26 Crore.
- Under National Export Insurance Account, during August 2021, exports worth Rs 67.46 Crore were supported and insurance covers worth Rs 43.48 Crore were issued.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- India-EFTA TEPA: A meeting between track leads in TiG was held on 9th August 2021. While the Indian side conveyed that India is willing to positively consider most of their core demands in 1773 lines [excluding dairy and gold], it will be subject to EFTA, especially Switzerland, agreeing to India's demand in Services shared in April 2020, in addition to India's core demands in mode-4 and data adequacy. The EFTA side agreed to relook these demands and will come back with their response. It was also agreed that while India would share its Trade Statistics, EFTA would share latest TiG Text available with them, which would be matched with the text available with Indian side.
- De-listing of Indian Products from U.S. TVPRA list: On 3rd August 2021, Secretary (Labour & Employment) convened a meeting with DoC. It was decided that DoC will prioritize certain products and concerned industry bodies / EPCs will be requested to prepare the product-specific dossiers in support of de-listing of these products. It was also decided that VV Giri National Labour Institute will provide overall guidance to Industry in this respect. Accordingly, 12 products (out of 25)

have been prioritized and EPCs concerned have been requested to connect with VVGNNLI for necessary guidance while preparing the dossiers.

- Following Chief negotiator and Minister level discussions, India and Australia issued a Joint Statement on 27th August 2021 agreeing to speed up the negotiations for bilateral trade agreement and achieve an early harvest announcement by December 2021.
- 3rd meeting of Inter-Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary for monitoring the implementation of PDF (Project Development Fund) scheme for CLMV countries was held physically on 2nd August 2021. AS&FA and representatives from MEA, DEA, DFS and Exim Bank participated in the meeting. Among major decisions taken by IMC, the requirement of Letter of Intent (LoI) from foreign Governments, mandated by IMC in 2nd meeting, was waived to facilitate the implementation of identified projects. IMC also decided to explore expansion of the PDF scheme to the South Asian countries viz. Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 16120 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 August 2021.

VIII. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- GeM has created 16,409 product categories and 193 service categories during August 2021.
- As on 31st August 2021, around 25.95 lakh sellers and service providers are registered on GeM of which 7,17,902 are MSEs and they have fulfilled about 33.05 lakh orders having worth approx. 56.74 percent share of Gross Merchandise Value.
- GeM has provided online (due to COVID-19) training to its 5,286 users (4,084 buyers & 1,202 sellers) for capacity building during August 2021.
- 298 COVID-19 related categories (Medical and auxiliaries) with 204,607 unique products in COVID-19 in medical categories and 168,512 unique products in auxiliaries' categories have been made available on GeM.
- There are 39,324 sellers in COVID-19 medical categories & 39,815 sellers in COVID-19 auxiliaries' categories on the portal.

- The 5th edition of the Annual 2-day National Public Procurement Conclave [NPPC] 2021 was inaugurated by Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry on 9th August, 2021 in the presence of Shri B. V. R. Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Department of Commerce, on the occasion of GeM's 5th Establishment Day through the virtual CII-HIVES platform wherein sessions on the role of GeM in public procurement during the COVID-19 pandemic, potential and challenges for Defence, Railways and CPSEs in public procurement, and the scope for under-served seller groups such as women and tribal entrepreneurs, MSEs, Startups, artisans, weavers, divyanjan, and hunaar haat craftsmen were discussed.
