

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 October 2021

I. Trade Performance

- India's merchandise exports in October 2021 was USD 35.47 billion, an increase of 42.33% over USD 24.92 billion in October 2020 and an increase of 35.21% over USD 26.23 billion in October 2019.
- Top 10 major commodity groups, covering more than 80% of total exports, have shown positive growth in October 2021 over corresponding month of previous year: Engineering goods (50.70%), Petroleum products (231.63%), Gems and Jewellery (44.24%), Organic and Inorganic Chemicals (41.89%), Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (-0.91%), Electronic goods (39.50%), Cotton Yarn/ Fabrics/ Made-ups handloom products etc., (46.08%), RMG of all textiles (6.40%), Marine products (18.09%) and Plastic and Linoleum (30.35%).
- Value of non-petroleum exports in October 2021 was 30.27 USD billion, registering a positive growth of 29.63% over non-petroleum exports of USD 23.35 billion in October 2020 and a positive growth of 32.84% over non-petroleum exports of USD 22.79 billion in October 2019.
- Value of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports in October 2021 was USD 26.05 billion, registering a positive growth of 27.54% over non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports of USD 20.43 billion in October 2020 and a positive growth of 36.59% over non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports of USD 19.07 billion in October 2019.

II. Export Promotion

- Grant-in-aid of Rs. 11.09 Crore was provided under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) for setting up of 1 MLD Zero Liquid Discharge Plant in Cochin SEZ.
- TEPC, with support of Ministry of Commerce & Ministry of Communications, virtually hosted 'India Africa ICT Expo & Conference' during October 5th & 6th, 2021.
- ESC EPC organized Virtual Exhibition and B2B meet namely DIGITECH EXPO with buyers from the ASEAN region on 6th-7th October 2021. 27 Indian ICT exhibitors and 60+ buyers from ASEAN region participated in the event.
- A virtual meeting was held by Joint Secretary (EP-Engineering), DoC on 29th October, 2021 with the stakeholders in the Steel sector with regard to exchange of tariff

concessions with UAE on Steel products in the India –UAE CEPA & Supply of Steel to members of EEPC India at Export Parity Price. Ministry of Steel, Indian Steel Association (ISA), and Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC India) participated in the meeting. After detailed deliberation, it was decided that ISA, in consultation with Industry, would submit detailed comments on all tariff lines for chapter 72 & 73 with regard to India-UAE CEPA. EEPC and ISA were also requested to forward their suggestions with regard to the simplification of procedures for implementing the Export Parity Price Scheme.

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 159 farms, formed 4 new cluster farm and conducted 95 capacity building programs benefiting 1449 farmers.
- MPEDA issued 1997 DS 2031 certificates, 801 catch certificates to EU, 40 catch certificates for Non- EU, 69 ICCAT documents, 10 Non-Radio Activity certificates, 10 Duty free import certificate, 10 RCMC and 3 Brand name certificates for export facilitation.
- Through the Aqua One Centres, 96 registrations were done and an amount of Rs.5,12,445/- was collected for testing water quality & shrimp animals.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- Tea Board issued 99 licenses during the month.
- Coffee Board celebrated 7th International Coffee Day on 1st of October with the theme “Coffee’s Next Generation”.
- Consulate General India in Frankfurt, Germany in collaboration with the Coffee Board participated in the Frankfurt Coffee Festival held at Union Halle during 1st-3rd October 2021 and Embassy of India, Brussels, Belgium in collaboration with Coffee Board organized a coffee tasting event on 5th October 2021.
- An International Buyer Seller Meet (IBSM) for Indian spices with focus on UAE was conducted on 20th October 2021. More than 250 Indian exporters & over 40 buyers from UAE attended the BSM.
- EPN infected Galleria cadavers were produced in the laboratory and supplied to the needy farmers for the sustainable management of pests.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During October 2021, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 41,926 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 80 Crore, issued 732 policies, added 911 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 59 Crore.

VI. Bilateral and Multilateral Trade

- India and Australia have agreed to conclude negotiations on the Early Harvest/Interim agreement for India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) by December 2021, and full CECA by the end of 2022. The interim agreement would include negotiations on goods, services, investment, energy and resources, logistics and transport, standards, rules of origin, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures. Ministers also agreed to explore government procurement.
- Hon'ble CIM wrote to his counterpart in Indonesia highlighting trade issues of India's concern such as informal stoppage of issuance of import recommendation of Horticulture Products (RIPH), issues related to bovine meat export, NTMs in Auto Sector, export duty/levy on palm oil etc.
- Hon'ble CIM wrote to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Republic of Chile requesting to facilitate marketing approvals for import of medicines from India and also for early conclusion of the agreement between respective drug regulatory agencies from both sides.
- India held bilateral meetings with the EU; Russia; Norway; African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group to explain its latest proposal on Overcapacity and Overfishing incorporating 'common but differentiated responsibility' (CBDR) and 'polluter pays' principles in fisheries subsidies agreement.
- The G20 Trade and Investment Ministers' Meeting (TIMM) was held on 12th October 2021 in Sorrento. The Indian delegation was led by the Hon'ble CIM. TIMM adopted the Trade and Investment Ministerial Statement that covers topics of Reform of the WTO, Trade and Health, Services and Investment, Government Support and Level Playing Field, Trade and Environmental Sustainability and MSMEs participation in the World Trade. A number of bilateral meetings were also held on the sidelines of G20 TIMM.
- The 20th Meeting of the Ministers responsible for foreign economic and foreign trade activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States was held virtually on 14th October 2021. The Indian delegation was led by the Hon'ble MOS for C&I, Smt. Anupriya Patel. The statement "to restore and ensure balanced and sustainable economic growth" was adopted by the Ministers.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 60,103 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 October 2021.
