

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 December 2021

I. Trade Performance

- India's merchandise export in December 2021 was USD 37.29 billion, the highest ever monthly achievement, which shows an increase of 37.0% over USD 27.22 billion in December 2020 and an increase of 37.55% over USD 27.11 billion in December 2019.
- Major commodity groups covering 79% of total exports and showing positive growths in December 2021 over corresponding month of previous year: Engineering goods (37.27%), Petroleum products (140.16%), Gems and Jewelry (15.80%), Organic and Inorganic Chemicals (26.01%), Drugs and pharmaceuticals (3.84 percent), Electronic goods (33.27%), RMG of all textiles (22.13%), Cotton Yarn/ Fabrics/ Made-ups handloom products etc., (45.73%), Plastic and Linoleum (56.54%) and Rice (29.27%).
- Value of non-petroleum exports in December 2021 was 31.67 USD billion, registering a positive growth of 27.31% over non-petroleum exports of USD 24.88 billion in December 2020 and a positive growth of 34.92% over non-petroleum exports of USD 23.48 billion in December 2019.
- Value of non-petroleum imports was USD 43.37 billion in December 2021 with a positive growth of 30.22% over nonpetroleum imports of USD 33.31 billion in December 2020 and a positive growth of 50.20% over non-petroleum imports of USD 28.88 billion in December 2019.

II. Export Infrastructure and Promotion

- Information about 76 upcoming projects was circulated to PEPC members in December' 2021.
- Participation in Pre-Vibrant Gujarat Summit on Local Goes Global - Export Led Growth in the session "Export Potential in Traditional and Sunrise sector" was held on 20th December 2021.
- Total fund of Rs. 11.71 crore was released under TIES during December 2021 for the following three projects: 'Construction of Trade Facilitation Centre at Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ) SEZ, ongoing project 'Setting up of Centre for Perishable Cargo at Chandigarh International Airport' of Chandigarh International Airport Limited (CHIAL) and Modernisation of infrastructure facility for Marine exports at Tadadi, Kumta Taluk, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka, being implemented by Karnataka Fisheries Development Corporation (KFDC), Govt. of Karnataka.

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of December, 2021 have approved the proposals of investments of Rs 18539.47 crore which will also provide employment to approx. 24470 persons.

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 219 farms, formed 4 new cluster farm and conducted 115 capacity building programs benefiting 1334 farmers.
- MPEDA issued 1838 DS 2031 certificates, 1083 catch certificates for EU, 52 catch certificates for Non- EU, 106 ICCAT documents, 33 Non-Radio Activity certificates, 5 Duty free import certificate, 4 RCMC and 2 certificates of legal origin.
- Through the Aqua One Centres, 36 registrations were done and an amount of Rs. 2,29,472 was collected for testing water quality & shrimp animals. Rs 272.15 lakh released under TDSVAP schemes.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- A Virtual Meeting was held with Exporters to discuss issues related to export of tea to Iran such as the Rupee-Rail payment mechanism, organizing in-bound and out-bound delegations to Iran, challenges regarding payment etc.
- 650 licenses were issued by the tea board during December 2021.
- A total of 5,500 nos. of Broca traps and 250 liter of Broca lure were supplied to the coffee planters, for the management of coffee berry borer. In addition, supplied 6,500 nos. of parasitoids (bio-control agent) for the management of mealy bug.
- A MOU was signed between RRII and Digital University of Kerala (DUK) for Comprehensive Rubber Information System Project (CRISP) aiming at advanced technology assisted advisories and extension support to rubber growers. A new method for rapid sheet making and drying was developed and demonstrated successfully. A scientific paper on the above topic has bagged the best paper award for innovation in the recently held PLACROSTM XXIV at Cochin between December, 14th and 16th, 2021.
- A Special scheme operated through RPS from December 2021 to February 2022 for ensuring availability of sheet rubber in domestic market has been launched. The scheme envisaged payment of incentive of Rs.2 per kg limited to Rs.5000 per grower for marketing sheet rubber through RPSs when the latex price is higher than that of RSS 4.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During December 2021, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 49,370 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 117 Crore, issued 1611 policies, added 534 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 115 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- Under the India-UAE CEPA, The Institutional Framework track has concluded its work at the third and final round of negotiations held from 06 – 10 December 2021. The legal scrubbing is now ongoing under the Institutional Framework track. India has not entered into any substantive chapter on Government Procurement (GP) in its FTAs so far. For the first time, a Government Procurement chapter has been finalised which provides for commitment on elements like Transparency, process and procedure of GP and no additional market access. Text of both SPS and TBT chapters were concluded.
- Sierra Leone, an LDC, has been included as one of the beneficiaries of India's Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme for LDCs. As of now, there are 35 beneficiaries of the DFTP scheme.
- In order to ensure early conclusion of India-Australia interim trade agreement, SPS/TBT desk conducted first round of meeting with Australia on 23rd November 2021. During the meeting, it was agreed that Australia will share the draft SPS text and India will share the draft TBT text. India shared its comments on the SPS text shared by India and proposed a TBT chapter for Australia's consideration.
- In view of the upcoming discussions on Trade and Sustainable Development in prospective FTAs, steps have been taken for preparing a Model Text for the TSD chapter, incorporating provisions which would be amenable to India as well as obligations which could be of interest to us.
- Tariff Structure, Import & Export data has been exchanged with MERCOSUR.
- Export monitoring sheet for LAC countries and Brazil (specific) for April- November 2021 period has been shared with EOI Brasilia and Colombia for reviewing the export performance of top 31 commodities, against the export target of \$400 billion set for 2021-22.
- RoD of VC with Embassies of India in Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Region to review the Achievement vis-a vis Export Target of USD 400 Bn for India and USD 15.50 Billion for LAC has been shared with EOI T&T for action appropriate.
- Secretary, Railway Board on December 28, 2021 has been requested for export of Wagons to Brazil in light of request from Ambassador of India in Brazil.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 43,411 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 December 2021.
