

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 2023

I. Trade Performance

- Merchandise exports in January 2023 was USD 32.91 Billion.
- The sectors which have recorded positive growth in exports during January 2023 over the corresponding month of last year are Electronic Goods (55.54%), Oil Meals (48.89%), Oil Seeds (23.81%), Iron Ore (21%), Rice (18.8%), Fruits & Vegetables (14.57%), Cashew (10.34%), Tobacco (9.41%), Ceramic Products & Glassware (8.25%), Petroleum Products (8.01%), Marine Products (6.61%), Other Cereals (3.92%), Spices (3.79%) and Tea (3.76%).
- Merchandise exports for the period April-January 2022-23 were USD 369.25 Billion as against USD 340.28 Billion during the period April-January 2021-22; an increase of 8.51%.

II. Export Infrastructure

- During the month, 'Construction of 5 MLD STP with Tertiary Treatment Plant at IFP Jalandhar' project of Punjab Small Industries & Export corporation limited (PSIEC) was supported with financial assistance of Rs. 3.43 Crore under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES).
- 17th Meeting of Empowered Committee on TIES was held on 24th January, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary.
- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of January 2023 have approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 1727.7 Crore, which will also provide employment to approx. 18506 persons.

III. Export Promotion

- Project Export Promotion Council (PEPC) organized a Webinar on International Trade Settlement in Indian Rupees (INR) on 24th January 2023. The objective of the programme was to acquaint the participants with the latest measures of RBI and its impact on the business prospects of Indian Exporters.
- Information of 71 upcoming projects was circulated to PEPC members in January, 2023.
- Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) organised its 1st ever participation in Consumer Electronics Show (CES) Las Vegas from 5th-8th January, 2023. 20 Indian electronics and IT companies showcased their products and services in the India Pavilion organised by ESC.

- ESC organised its 1st ever participation in IPC Apex Expo, San Diego, USA from 24th-26th January, 2023. 15 Indian electronics components companies showcased their products in the India Pavilion organised by ESC.

IV. MPEDA

- MPEDA enrolled 229 farms, formed 56 new cluster farms and organised 167 campaigns benefitting 1877 beneficiaries during January 2023.
- 11 exporters, 3 processing plants, 6 storage premises, 4 peeling shed and 1 handling facility were issued certificate of registration. Currently 428 EU approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU approved cold storages are present.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During January 2023, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 56,702 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 96 Crore, issued 954 policies, added 1,209 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 21 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- The Ministerial level India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) were held on 11th January 2023 in USA. Both sides decided to continue close monitoring of visa issues with the shared resolve to facilitate the movement of professionals, skilled workers, experts, and scientific personnel. The Ministers acknowledged the ongoing discussions on a Social Security totalization agreement and supported intensifying the work to achieve early outcomes in the matter. The Ministers noted the potential of enhancing trade in professional services between the two countries and acknowledged that well-functioning pathways for recognition of qualifications in professional services, and deeper dialogue between the professional bodies of the two countries can facilitate this growth. They also discussed the importance of electronic payment services to furthering the trade relationship and both sides expressed their intention to continue engagement in this area.
- The sixth round of India-Canada Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA) negotiations was held from 24th January to 27th January, 2023 in New Delhi.
- A meeting between Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister (HCIM) and UK Secretary of State (SoS) was held on 27th January 2023 to take stock of the progress in India-UK FTA negotiations and to discuss the way forward in negotiations.
- To facilitate better understanding of various provisions for enhancement in bilateral trade taking benefits of Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA), which came into effect on 29th Dec 2022, additional stakeholder consultations were held with exporters, industry associations, EPCs, service providers at different cities of India, including Type II & Type III cities. Some of them are Chandigarh, Cochin, Kolkata, Hyderabad etc. Other similar programmes are in the pipeline.
- Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister (HCIM) had an interaction with a group of German Parliamentarians headed by Mr. Tilman Kuban on 30th January 2023 wherein discussions were held on bilateral trade & investment and India-EU FTA.

- Commerce Secretary and DG(Trade), European Commission had a virtual meeting on 24th January 2023 to take stock of the progress in the 3 rounds of negotiations concluded till December 2022. Both sides dwelt upon the gateway issues in Goods, Services and Government Procurement tracks. Discussion on the respective views and approaches in Trade and Sustainable Development chapter also took place. In this meeting, it was agreed to finalize the modalities for exchange of offer in Goods and Services during the 4th Round from 13th-17th March 2023 in Brussels and to exchange the 1st offer sometime around June-July 2023, depending upon completion of respective internal approval process for exchange of offers.
- Commerce Secretary met Mr. Emmanuel Moulin, Director General and Secretary of the Treasury & Finance, French Ministry of Economy & Finance on 6th January, 2023 to discuss India-France bilateral trade & investment issues.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 15,047 Authorizations/Scripts under various FTP Schemes viz., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Service Exports from India's (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during January 2023.
- Amendment in import policy condition of Urea [Exim Code 31021000] in the ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule – I (Import Policy).Effect : Fertilizer Marketing Entities (FMEs), authorized by the Department of Fertilizers, have been allowed to file Bill of Entries at Indian ports for import of Urea (for agriculture purpose) on Government account. (Notification No. 54/2015-20 dated 24/01/2023)
- Implementation of RoDTEP Committee report in relation to Anomalies etc —reg. Effect : The revised Appendix 4R, after incorporating changes recommended by the RoDTEP Committee in relation to apparent errors and anomalies in 432 HS codes in the earlier notified RoDTEP rates/caps, is being notified and will be applicable for exports made from 16.01.2023 to 30.09.2023. (Notification No. 53/2015-20 dated 09/01/2023).
- Amendments in Para 4.42 of the Handbook of Procedures 2015-2020. Effect : Provisions amended to promote Ease of Doing Business, reduce composition fee payable and to simplify the process of levying composition fee in case of Extension of Export Obligation period under Advance Authorisation Scheme. (Public Notice No.52/2015-2020 dated 18/01/2023).

VIII. DGTR

- Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has issued Final Finding of the following investigations:
 - i. Anti-Dumping investigation concerning imports of “Ursodeoxycholic Acid (UDCA)” originating in or exported from China PR and Korea RP.
 - ii. Anti-Dumping investigation (Material-Retardation) concerning imports of “Vinyl Tiles than in roll or sheet form” originating in or exported from China PR, Taiwan and Vietnam.
