

F.No.1/14/2019-EPL-I
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
(EPL-I Section)

Major Achievements of the Department of Commerce during February, 2020

Trade

- As per the latest data available for January 2020, imports were USD 41.14 billion which was 0.75 per cent lower in Dollar terms over imports of USD 41.46 billion in January, 2019. Further, Non-Oil and Non-Gold imports were USD 26.59 billion, recording a negative growth of (-) 4.66 per cent, as compared to Non-Oil and Non-Gold imports of USD 27.89 billion in January, 2020.
- Regional authorities(RA) of DGFT have issued the following authorizations/scrips during the month of February, 2020: -

| S.No. | FTP Scheme | Number of Authorizations/ Scrips issued in February, 2020 |
|-------|--|---|
| 1. | Importer Exporter Code (IEC) Number | 10319 |
| 2. | Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) | 16970 |
| 3. | Advance Authorizations | 1463 |
| 5. | Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) | 736 |

Coffee Board

- Coffee Board Participated in 27th International Exhibition for Food, Beverages, Food Raw Materials PROD EXPO – 2020, along with Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) from February 10th to 14th 2020, Moscow, Russia. As a part of the event, the Board organized BSM in joint collaboration with Embassy of India, Moscow on February 10th, 2020. The BSM activity certainly helps for boosting the Indian exports to Russian Federation. As many as 80 new business contacts were established and many of these will convert into business for our farmers and exporters. Overall participation in event and collaborative BSM certainly boost India's exports to Russia.
- Coffee Board participated in Gulfood-2020, UAE, Dubai - world's largest annual food event exhibited from 16th to 20th February 2020 at Dubai World Trade Centre. The Indian contingent comprised of 19 Coffee Exporters along with two Board Officers.

Tea Board

- The Tea Board organised India Tea Pavilion at Gulfood 2020, Dubai from 16th to 20th February 2020 with participation of 15 exporters. The Tea Board also organised India Tea Pavilion at Prodexpo 2020, Moscow, from 10th to 14th February 2020 with participation of 6 exporters i.e. Premiers Tea Ltd, Golden Tips Tea Co. Pvt. Ltd., Jayshree Tea, JFK International, Vikrma Impex and JV Gokal.
- As part of a promotional drive for Indian Tea, Ms. Dipa Karmakar, a renowned Indian gymnast flagged off the 'Run for India Tea' at Agartala, Tripura on 19th February, 2020 and approximately 1000 people participated in the run.
- The Tea Board inaugurated the India's Speciality Tea Boutique near Ooty Botanical Garden, a tourist hotspot on 20th February, 2020 in order to promote and popularize specialty Nilgiri teas. India's first Tea Café on Wheels was also inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change at Asansol, West Bengal on 26th February 2020.

Rubber Board

- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura released "High yielding hybrid rubber clone – Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) 429" for cultivating in North Eastern (NE) States of India on 12th February 2020 at Secretariat of Government of Tripura.
- The Rubber Board organized 440 farmer education programmes benefitting 10,805 farmers and 723 Rubber Producers Society (RPS) meeting benefitting 8,639 farmers during February 2020. In addition, certified 745 plantations covering an area 527 ha and formed three RPSs, seventeen Tappers' Bank & six Labour / common interest groups as a part of empowering rubber growers.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) scheme, the Rubber Training Institute (RTI) conducted 236 Skill Development programmes during February 2020 benefitting 7,080 participants.

Spices Board

- The Quality Evaluation Laboratories of the Spice Board analysed a total of 10400 parameters of spice samples during the month of February, 2020
- The average auction price for small cardamom during the month of February, 2020 was Rs.3347.18 per kg. The e-auction centres at Puttady in Kerala and Bodinayakanur in Tamil Nadu have facilitated auction of 1020 tons of cardamom (small) through e-auction
- The Spices Board has conducted a Buyer Seller Meet (BSM) at Nizamabad on 13th February, 2020 with an aim to provide common platform to the farmers and Farmer Producer Societies of Turmeric from Nizamabad and nearby areas with

exporters/buyers from across India for establishing commercial network & direct marketing with each other. 64 exporters and 115 farmers attended the programme.

- Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry distributed the Trophies and Awards to the winners during Presentation of Trophies & Awards for excellence in export of spices for the year 2015-16 and 2016-17 held at Kochi, Kerala on 22nd February, 2020 where he also launched some flagship events/projects of Indian Spice Sector i.e. Curtain Raiser of World Spice Congress 2020, Collaborative Project with Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) of WTO and FAO of United Nations project for Strengthening Spice value chain in India, Collaborative Project with Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) of WTO and FAO of United Nations project for Strengthening Spice value chain in India, Plant Protection Code for cardamom, National Spice Sustainability Programme (NSSP) and Online sales of spices under 'Flavourit', a signature brand promoted by Spices Board.

Govt. e-Market Place (GeM)

- Total transaction value on GeM portal has crossed Rs. 48,563 Crores as on 29th February, 2020. There are 75,735 (22.18%) MSMEs vendors registered on GeM Portal.
- GeM has provided training for 5998 buyers and 6414 sellers for capacity building in the month of February, 2020.
- Gem has signed MOU with three service providers of Trade Receivables Electronic Discount System (TReDS), a platform for enabling bill discounting. TReDS integration is completed and went live.
- GeM Samvaad (Buyer/Seller meet) held in 12 States/UTs i.e. Gujrat, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar, Punjab, Hyderabad, Jharkhand, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Kerala, Telangana and Utter Pradesh in the month of February, 2020.
- GeM participated in Global Procurement Summit 2020 organized by All India Management Association (AIMA) & World Bank and highlighted cost savings, efficiency, transparency & inclusiveness in procurement through GeM.
- GeM has signed MOU with Indian Overseas Bank for array of payment related services on GeM portal including GPA, e-PBG and EMD etc.

Progress Report for Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) for February, 2020

(□ in Crore)

| S. No. | Particulars | January, 2020 |
|--------|---|---------------|
| 1 | Value of exports supported (business covered) | □59.086 |
| 2 | Gross premium earned | 78 |
| 3 | Number of new buyers added | 1,475 |
| 4 | Number of policies issued | 980 |
| 5 | Number of claims paid | 61 |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----|
| 6 | Claims paid amount | ₹28 |
| 7 | Number of claims rejected | 105 |

Progress Report for National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) for February, 2020

(₹ in Crore)

| S. No. | Particulars | February , 2020 |
|--------|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Number of new projects supported | 1 |
| 2 | Value of Exports supported (project value) | 43.44 |
| 3 | Number of covers issued | 1 |
| 4 | Value of covers issued | ₹ 64.97 |

Events under Market Access Initiative (MAI)

- The following major events were organised /participated with MAI support in February, 2020: -
 - (a) IISJ Signature, Mumbai
 - (b) CEVISAMA, Spain
 - (c) Ambiente International Fair 2020, Germany
 - (d) 17th International Istanbul Yarn Fair, Turkey
 - (e) NY Now, USA
 - (f) Under MAI Scheme Rs.35.45 crores was released to Export Promotion Councils and Trade Bodies for undertaking export promotion activities in February, 2020.

International events

- India Pavilion in Asia Pharma, Dhaka, Bangladesh (28th February to 1st March 2020), in which 28 Indian companies participated under EEPC India banner and displayed products and capabilities of Indian engineering industry, particularly in the pharmaceutical & Healthcare machinery segment.
- Indian Engineering Pavilion at Ethiopia 2020 coinciding with ITME AFRICA 2020, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (14th to 16th February 2020), one of the biggest engineering exhibitions in Ethiopia and nearby regions, covering manufacturing, textile machinery, agricultural machinery, water management etc. 40 companies participated in this exhibition under EEPC India banner. During the 3-day event, enquiries worth USD 2.784 million were generated.
- DGTR held a meeting with Saudi Delegation led by Governor of the General Authority of Foreign Trade (GAFT) of Saudi Arabia on 20.02.2020 to discuss the issues related to Trade Remedial investigations initiated by India against Saudi Arabia.
- Telecom Equipment & Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) participated in Dhaka, Bangladesh held from 6th to 9th February alongside BASIS Soft Expo 2020 at International Convention City, Bashundhara in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The

participation was supported by Department of Telecommunications, Government of India and helped Indian companies to interact with Information and Communications Technology (ICT) companies and operators from Bangladesh.

- The Fifth Round of Negotiations for the proposed Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and Iran was held from 12th to 13th February, 2020 at Tehran wherein detailed discussions were held on draft text of the PTA, along with its proposed Annexes. A substantial portion of the text of the PTA along with its Annexes has been finalised.
 - A Bilateral meeting between Hon'ble CIM and Indonesian Trade Minister was held on 20.02.2020 in New Delhi wherein Market access issues faced by India in auto sector, agriculture sector (quota issue in bovine meat, pending approval of dairy plants, import restriction on chilies, discriminatory tariff issue on rice, International Commission for Uniform Methods of Sugar Analysis (ICUMSA) level of Sugar), pharmaceuticals, textiles etc. were discussed in detail. Indonesian Minister announced their decision to reduce the ICUMSA level of sugar to 600 from the existing level of 1200 which was a long standing demand of the Indian sugar industry.
 - Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) organized the 13th edition of India International Jewellery Show 2020 from 13th to 16th February, 2020 in Mumbai, with 94 exhibitors wherein 1371 visitors participated. GJEPC also participated in Doha Watch & Jewellery Show from 24th to 29th February, 2020 in Doha, Qatar with 17 Indian exhibitors.
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