

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 March, 2020

Trade

- As per the latest data available, merchandise exports in February 2020 were USD 27.65 billion, as compared to USD 26.87 billion in February 2019, exhibiting a positive growth of Rs. 2.91 per cent, for the first time since August 2019. In Rupee terms, merchandise exports were Rs. 1,97,646.12 crore in February 2020, as compared to Rs. 1,91,345.27 crore in February 2019, registering a positive growth of 3.29 per cent.
- Non-Oil and Non-Gold imports were USD 24.38 billion in February 2020, recording a negative growth of (-) 0.87 per cent, as compared to Non-Oil and Non-Gold imports of USD 24.59 billion in February 2019.

Government-e-Marketing

- Total transaction value on GeM portal has crossed Rs. 51,596 Crore as on 31st March 2020. There are 82,049 MSEs vendors registered on GeM Portal as on 31st March 2020. 3380 buyers & 2166 sellers have been provided training for capacity building in the month of March 2020.
- GeM won The Hindu Business Line Change Maker Award for Digital Transformation from Hon'ble Vice President of India.
- For accelerated adoption of procurement through GeM by Ministries/Departments, GeM has held meetings with M/o Railways, M/o Defense, M/o Power, Oil CPSUs etc under the chairmanship of Secretary, Commerce.
- 73 processes have been implemented / enhanced during March 2020.
- Shorter duration Bids (reduced to 3 days from 10 days) with shorter delivery period (reduced to 2 days from 15 days) for specific categories have been created for faster procurement.
- Introduction of a location filter at district/ state level has been done to minimise delivery failure or refusal of sellers to service orders in L1 purchase up to INR 5 lakhs.

- For COVID-19 Response Project, involving procurement of items such as masks, gloves, disinfectants, reagents etc., the World Bank has enhanced threshold for use of GeM from US\$ 100,000 to US\$ 1 Million.

Tea Board

- The Tea Board conducted Assam Tea Promotion Campaign in three cities of Odisha – Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Puri from 29th February to 6th March 2020 where tea kiosks, stalls, canopy, sampling booths, teas for sampling etc. were set up.
- The Board has made 100 per cent disbursement of subsidies against various components of the Schemes during the month of March, 2020.
- An Action Plan to fight COVID-19 and SOP in consultation of the stakeholders and scientific institutions has been created by Tea Board and it has also issued advisories to the Tea Sector on 26/03/2020, in accordance with the notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs No. 40-3/2020-DM-I (A) dated 24th March, 2020.

Rubber Board

- The Rubber Board organized 475 seminars, group meetings, exposure visits, etc under farmer education programmes benefitting 11,812 farmers and 523 RPS meeting benefitting 7,193 farmers during March 2020. The Board also certified 518 plantations covering an area 448 ha and formed two Rubber Producers Societies (RPSs) & ten Tappers' Bank under empowering of rubber growers.
- The Rubber Board produced 41,000 Budded stumps/Root trainer plants under generation of quality planting materials from Rubber Board Nurseries in Kerala (6) and in NE region (3) during March 2020. Under the convergence with MGNREGS, the Board carried out the cultural operations in 530 ha of rubber plantations benefitting 450 rubber growers.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) scheme, the Rubber Training Institute (RTI) of the Rubber Board conducted 130 Skill Development programmes during March 2020 benefitting 3,900 participants.

Spices Board

- The average auction price of the Spice Board for small cardamom during the month of March, 2020 was Rs.2678.40 per kg. The e-auction centres at Puttady in Kerala and Bodinayakanur in Tamil Nadu have facilitated auction of 579 tons of cardamom (small) through e-auction.
- The Spices Board issued 47 Certificates of Registration as Exporter of Spices (CRES) and 3 Cardamom Dealer Licences during March, 2020.

Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)

Progress Report for Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) for March, 2020 is as follows: -

(in Crore)

S. No.	Particulars	March 2020
1	Value of Exports supported (Business Covered)	₹49,008
2	Gross Premium Earned	₹87
3	Number of new buyers added	3,512
4	Number of policies issued	1,024
5	Number of Claims Paid	50
6	Claims Paid Amount	₹45
7	Number of Claims Rejected	94

MPEDA and APEDA

- Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) initiated action to issue online US Shrimp Importers Declaration (DS 2031) certificate, which is mandatory for export of shrimps to USA, and awaits final permission of US authorities.
- MPEDA Organized the survey visit by 2-member team of experts from Japan during 1-6 March 2020 to the hatchery and farms of Black Tiger shrimp and processing units that export Black Tiger shrimps. The outcome of the visit is that the inspection of Black Tiger shrimp consignments for antibiotic residue has been reduced to 30% from the current 100% at its border posts.
- MPEDA has finalized Technical & financial processing of Global Tender for Nucleus Breeding Centre (NBC), a National Facility of *L. vannamei* in India.
- MPEDA Quality Control labs and RGCA have prepared and distributed hand sanitizers to staff members as a measure to control to avoid COVID-19 contamination.
- MPEDA conducted an Integrated assessment covering NABL accreditation and EIC approval of QC Lab Kochi from 14th to 15th March, 2020 for enhancement of scope for the newly added parameters (16 parameters) under different groups.
- MPEDA has released ₹ 27 lakh as start-up grant to 54 aquaculture societies registered under NaCSA during March, 2020
- MPEDA Society, National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) has developed 11 clusters for aqua farming during the month.

- A financial assistance of Rs. 12.69 Crore was recommended by the committee to 20 exporters in March, 2020 under the scheme for 'Support for high end/Innovative value addition for exports. Under the scheme, 'Assistance for certification towards market access' Rs. 5228 lakhs were recommended by the committee to 39 beneficiaries during March, 2020.
- MPEDA – RGCA organized Farmers Meet on Diversified Aquaculture, and different training programmes on Artemia Processing, Aquaculture Genetics, Seabass and Mud crab aquaculture and Tilapia Aquaculture especially for SC/ST beneficiaries at different states.
- Indonesia has released a quota of 25,000 MTs for India for export of Buffalo Meat to Indonesia, which will help the Indian Exporters clear the stocks available with them.
- Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been focusing on collaborative approach to bring synergy with number of organisations and institutions having inherent professional and specialised expertise in different areas for capacity building of various stakeholders, in consonance with the objectives set under Agri Export Policy (AEP) announced by Government of India. During March 2020, APEDA entered into MoUs with various organisations viz Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), Quality Council of India (QCI) Delhi, Indian Chamber of Food & Agriculture (ICFA), Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary University (SGT), Pearl Academy, TRIFED, Delhi and Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).
- APEDA employees contributed One day salary amounting to Rs. 2.00 lakhs for PM Cares Fund for COVID 19.
- The Group A and Group B employees of Tobacco Board have agreed to contribute one day's salary to the PM-CARES Fund. The tobacco farmers as well as the tobacco trade have also agreed to contribute to the relief fund.

Export Promotion Councils

- M/s. Larsen & Tuberos Ltd., a member company of Project Export Promotion Council (PEPC) has made a contribution of Rs. 150 crores to PM-CARES fund and supporting the cause through community welfare plans & offering service assistance.
- Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC EPC) organized 20th edition of Reverse Buyer Seller Meet for Electronics and IT /ITeS – INDIASOFT from 3rd to 4th March, 2020 in which 350 foreign delegates from over 50 countries networked with 200 Indian ICT exhibitors. ESC also organized a Mega Global MSME Business Summit from 3rd to

4th March, 2020 at as a co-located event with NDIASOFT 2020 which was attended by around 500 Indian and Global IT players.

- Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) created a fund of Rs. 50 crores from its reserve to support Government initiatives to fight Covid19 and provide support to daily wage workers of Gems and Jewellery industry out of which GJPEC has made a contribution of Rs.21 crore towards the PM Cares Fund.
-