

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

Subject: -Major Achievements of the Department of Commerce during May 2020.

I. Trade

- The merchandise trade deficit for April, 2020 was estimated at USD 6.76 billion as against the deficit of USD 15.33 billion in April 2019.

II. Export Promotion Councils

- PEPC circulated information about sixty-six (66) upcoming projects to its members in May, 2020.
- The representation of Pharmexcil and Farma exporters has been taken up with Ministry of Finance and DGFT about the requirement of RBI to issue a notification to direct the Banks for extending the facility of rate equalisation under the interest Equalisation Scheme for exporters on pre and post shipment credits keeping in view that DGFT has extended the validity of the scheme up to 31st March 2021 as a component of the FTP (2015-2020). RBI has issued the circular directing the banks and problem stands resolved.
- On the request from various countries for procuring Hydroxychloroquine and Paracetamol and based on the recommendations of MEA, DGFT has granted exemptions to export HCQ to 111 countries and Paracetamol to 23 countries till May, 2020.

III. Bilateral Cooperation

- As a result of close coordination with the Missions, in May 2020, after discussion with the CG-NY, FT-NAFTA Division received the list of top 500 and apparel importers of USA, and other 500 top US leather importers textile with contact details, volume and value of exporters, etc., which has been shared with EPCs for reaching out to our exporters.
- Covid-19 has led to increased trade and cooperation between India and the U.S. with India making gestures such as relaxation of export restrictions on 24 APIs and hydroxychloroquine. Three USA companies are currently engaged with their Indian counterparts for mass production of COVID-19 vaccines in India, Serum Institute of India with Codagenix of USA; Bharat Biotech of India with FluGen of USA. Similarly, U.S. company Gilead has also signed voluntary licensing agreements with four Indian companies for production of generic of the COVID drug remdesivir and its export to the 127 countries, which will provide India an opportunity to seize larger share of global pharmaceutical supply chain.

- After much persuasion by DoC, negotiations personally led by Hon'ble CIM, Indonesian side had announced an enhanced annual quota of 1,70,000 MT for Indian bovine meat in the current year which is a substantial increase compared to the 75000 MT allotted last year. In addition to the existing single agency, Bulog, another two State Owned Enterprise, Bedikari& PPT have also been engaged to buy bovine meat from India. which was also a long-standing demand of India.
- List of exemptions granted by DGFT to the consignments of European Countries is as under:

S. No.	Country	Item	Quantity	Date
1.	UK	Hydroxychloroquine Sulphate 200 MG	1,92,00000 Tablets	20.5.2020
2.	Germany	Hydroxychloroquine Sulphate	0.96 MT (50 Lakh tablets)	5.5.2020
3.	Netherlands	Hydroxychloroquine Sulphate 200 MG	29,99,999 Tablets	1.5.2020
		Hydroxychloroquine 200 MG	78,00,000 Tablets	1.5.2020
		Hydroxychloroquine 200 MG	400,000 Tablets	12.5.2020
4.	Italy	Hydroxychloroquine 200 MG	54,23,580 Tablets	5.5.2020
5.	Bulgaria	Hydroxychloroquine 200 MG	4,50,000 Tablets	20.5.2020
6.	Belgium	Hydroxychloroquine Sulphate 200 MG	2,28,000 Tablets	20.5.2020

IV. E&MDA

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

(□ in Crore)

S. No.	Particulars	May 2020
1	Value of Exports supported (Business Covered)	□20,012
2	Gross Premium Earned	□55
3	Number of new buyers added	582
4	Number of policies issued	489
5	Number of Claims Paid	26
6	Claims Paid Amount	□6.64
7	Number of Claims Rejected	26

- Progress Report for NEIA for the month of May 2020 is as under: -

(□ in Crore)

S. No.	Particulars	May 2020
1	Number of new projects supported	1
2	Value of Exports supported (Project Value)	16.78
3	Number of Covers issued	1
4	Value of Covers issued	15.10

V. Plantation

- The Tea Board organized a special initiative for fine plucking of tea leaves to symbolize high 'Quality Tea' of India on the occasion of International Tea Day on 21st May, 2020 wherein 300 tea companies across India took part in this special exercise with their best teas plucked to commemorate the event.
- The Rubber Board, in backdrop of COVID 19, chalked out a scheme to extend financial support to growers for rain guarding, which is very crucial for enhancing production. Hence, the Board launched a scheme through Regional Offices with a target of 25,000 ha and an outlay of Rs. 4 crore and took a lead role to make available short-term loans with interest free/nominal interest from Banks, especially in the Co-operative sector. The Rubber Board companies also offered credit facility to growers by supplying rain-guarding materials at credit which will be adjusted later against the cost of latex/sheet.
- The Rubber Board continued activities uninterruptedly in six Board's Nurseries in Kerala and three in North Eastern region for generation of quality planting material and distributed around 20,000 advanced planting materials to growers during May, 2020.
- The Rubber Board chalked out and implemented an action plan to procure rubber from small and marginal farmers through Rubber Board promoted companies and provided a short-term loan to Rubber Board companies for procurement of rubber and procured around 100 MT of RSS4 grade sheet during May, 2020, as the dealers abstain from purchasing rubber from growers due to COVID-19 lockdown.
- AS in the present Covid -19 pandemic scenario, Government of India directed to close down all Training Institutions to contain its spread, the Rubber Board cancelled all calendared programmes and PMKVY programmes scheduled during the month of May, 2020. However, Rubber Training Institute undertook technology initiatives and launched the webinar series on various topics viz. (i) Talk on "*Post COVID scenario–Challenges and Opportunities*"– Stakeholder perspective and Employees perspective by the Executive Director, Rubber Board (ii) Talk on "*Coping with COVID 19-Global Rubber Scenario*" by Mr. Jom Jacob, Senior Economist, ANRPC, Kuala Lumpur (iii) Talk on "*Indian Rubber Industry in the post COVID 19 Scenario – R&D strategies for self-reliance*" by

Dr. James Jacob, Director, RRII and (iv) Talk on “Coping with COVID 19– Strategies for effective management of rubber plantations” by Dr. C.Kuruvilla Jacob, former Director (Training), RTI to maintain the sector vibrant & motivate the grower and about 450 beneficiaries from different stakeholders of the rubber industry attended in May, 2020.

- The Rubber Training Institute (RTI) conducted on-line training on Rain Guarding benefitting 53 growers and completed all the documentation works in connection with the renewal of the QMS - ISO 9001:2015 and also submitted proposed exclusive training projects for SC/ST beneficiaries under SCSP/TSP schemes for 2020-21.

VI. **APEDA**

- Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has formed Export Promotion Forums (EPFs) for seven products for a more focussed approach for identifying interventions required to boost the exports of each individual product. Chairman, APEDA is the chairman of these EPFs and these forums have representation from trade/industry, D/o Commerce, DAC&FW /DAHD, concerned State Governments, Research Institutes etc. The EPFs have been formed for the following products:

Sl.No.	Product	Date of notification
1.	Rice	6 th May 2020
2.	Banana	6 th May 2020 6 th May 2020
3.	Grapes	6 th May 2020
4.	Mango	6 th May 2020 6 th May 2020
5.	Onion	6 th May 2020
6.	Dry Products	6 th May 2020 6 th May 2020
7.	Nutri-cereals	28 th May, 2020

VII. **DGFT**

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued the following Authorizations /Scrips during May 2020: -

Sl. No.	FTP Scheme	Number of authorizations /Scrips
1	Importers Exporters Code (IEC)	7541
2	Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)	11503
3	Advance Authorizations	1342
4	Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG)	550

VIII. **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**

- Important activities/achievements on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) during May, 2020.

A. GeM statistics:

Sr No.	Parameter	Number added during the preceding month	Cumulative total

		Number	Value	Number	Value
1	Number of Users	16,282	--	5,66,140	--
2	Number of Government organizations	205	--	45,026	--
3	Number of Sellers/Service Providers	14,853	--	382,114	--
4	Number of Product categories (level 3) in market	16	--	1064	--
5	Number of Products*	92,893	--	1,746,471	--
6	Number of product orders placed	78,975	--	3,934,497	--
7	Value of product orders placed	--	1044.84 INR CR	--	44,240.30 INR CR
8	Number of service orders placed	1,323	--	33,749	--
9	Value of service orders placed	--	355.30 INR CR	--	4,364.35 INR CR
10	Number of Government buyers trained on GeM	956	--	1,49,471	--
11	Number of vendors trained on GeM	1,664	--	43,629	--

* The number of products has been reduced due to sanitization activity.

B. Top ten Central Government organizations (in terms of value of orders) making procurement through GeM:

Sr.No.	Name Of Central Government Organization	Cumulative value of orders placed (in Rupees Crores)
1	Dte. Genl. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)	1511
2	National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI), New Delhi	634
3	Assam Rifles, Headquarter, Directorate General of Assam Rifles (DGAR)	488
4	National Informatics Centre (NIC), Headquarter	428
5	Delhi Police Headquarter, Central Police Organisation	422
6	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), New Delhi	347
7	Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), MHA	300
8	National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)	293
9	Border Security Force (BSF), New Delhi	266
10	Directorate General, Indo Tibetan Border Police	245

C. No. of Central Government organizations registered on GeM but not making procurement through GeM: 6239

D. Top ten State Government organizations (in terms of value of orders) making procurement through GeM:

Sr No.	Name of State Government organization	Cumulative value of orders placed (in Rupees Crores)
1	Directorate of Public Instruction, School Education Department Madhya Pradesh	626
2	Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department Madhya Pradesh	445
3	Telangana State Police Department	416
4	Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation	411
5	Medical & Health, Medical Health and Family Welfare Department Uttar Pradesh	380
6	Medical & Health, Medical Health and Family Welfare Department Uttar Pradesh	343
7	Up Police Head Quarter Allahabad	320
8	Punjab State Grains Procurement Corporation Limited (Pungrain)	302
9	Tribal Development Department, Maharashtra	262
10	Industries and Mines Department Gujarat	232

E. Other Payments on GeM

Average Payment time on GeM	16 Days (Only online Payments are considered. i.e which are paid through payment mode integrated with GeM. Payments which are paid outside GeM and updated in the system manually are not considered)
Central Government Organizations making timely payment on GeM in May, 2020	339 offices have made payment within the prescribed timeline of ten days.
Central Government organizations making delayed payment on GeM in May-2020	66 Central Government offices have made payments beyond the prescribed time-limit of ten days, ranging up to 100 days.
No. of contracts in which timely payment has been made since launch of GeM	641,501 (396,008 online + 245,493 offline).
No. of contract in which delayed payment has been made since launch of GeM	1,099,765 (230,194 online + 869,571 offline).
Number of vendors put on Watchlisted /Suspension /Disabled list from GeM Portal due to malpractices	151