

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 February 2021

I. Trade Performance

- India's merchandise exports in January 2021 were US\$ 27.45 Billion, as compared to US\$ 25.85 Billion in January 2020, exhibiting a positive growth of 6.16 per cent. In Rupee terms, exports were Rs.2,00,661.11 Crore in January 2021, as compared to Rs.1,84,369.73 Crore in January 2020, registering a positive growth of 8.84 per cent.
- Major commodities/commodity groups which have recorded positive growth during January 2021 vis-à-vis January 2020 are Other cereals (343.57%), Oil meals (257.50%), Iron Ore (108.84%), Cereal preparations & miscellaneous processed items (44.88%), Jute mfg. including floor covering (27.68%), Rice (26.33%), Tobacco (26.16%), Fruits & vegetables (24.34%), Carpet (23.69%), Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet (21.09%), Spices (20.36%), Ceramic products & glassware (19.03%), Engineering goods (18.81%), Drugs & pharmaceuticals (16.42%), Electronic goods (16%), Tea (13.34%), Mica, Coal & other ores, minerals including processed minerals (11.89%), Cashew (11.82%), Plastic & Linoleum (10.40%).
- Exports other than petroleum products and Gems & jewellery were US\$ 22.44 Billion in January 2021, as compared to US\$ 19.79 Billion in January 2020, registering a positive growth of 13.40 percent.

II. Export Promotion

- M/S Larsen & Toubro (a member company of PEPC) has won an order in Qatar to install the line connected current limiting reactors (400-kV equipment) for the first time in the country's network which will expand help to improve grid stability and enable use of existing switchgear without major replacements during February 2021.
- Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) India with the support of Ministry of Railways, Government of India and Department of Commerce organized a 3-day virtual conference 'Indian Railways Sourcing Week' from 10th to 12th February 2021 to develop linkages for the Indian MSME sector with the Indian Railways for building an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 252 farms, formed three new cluster farms in Andhra Pradesh and one in West Bengal, conducted 23 awareness campaigns on antibiotics, 6 campaign on diversification, 6 training programmes and 7 demonstrations for diversified species during February 2021.
- Three MPEDA labs got NABL accreditation wherein 653 NRCP and 465 PHT samples were tested during February 2021.
- MPEDA issued 1069 DS-2031 certificates to USA, 747 Catch certificates to EU, 29 Catch certificates for Non- EU, 53 ICCAT documents, 16 Non-Radio Activity certificates and 01 Certificate of Legal origin in February 2021.
- Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) conducted 5 farmer meets for the benefit of 340 farmers and NETFISH has conducted 140 extension programmes during February 2021.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

Tea Sector

- The Tea Board fabricated 10 traffic barricades promoting Indian tea to create awareness among the visiting tourists to the Nilgiris and handed over these to the Superintendent of Police, Nilgiris during February 2021.

Coffee Sector

- The Coffee Board provided financial assistance of Rs.515.80 lakh to 1398 coffee growers towards coffee developmental activities such as replantation of senile and unproductive coffee plantations, expansion of new coffee plantations, and construction of drying yards to improve coffee quality and creation /purchase of water augmentation, etc during February 2021.
- The Coffee Board disbursed Rs.223 lakh as transit freight assistance to 55 Indian exporters towards export of 10,117.50 MT of Indian coffee from India to far-off destination countries and Rs.34.16 lakh to 899 children of labourers working in coffee estates/curing works as labour welfare measures. The Coffee Board also supplied 17,358 kg of coffee seeds to coffee growers during February 2021.
- The Research and Extension units of the Coffee Board conducted 57 webinars / capacity building programmes on different aspects of coffee cultivation benefiting about 2,385 coffee growers across the coffee growing regions of the country during February 2021.

Rubber Sector

- For promoting good agricultural practices, the Rubber Board disbursed 18.64 lakh as financial assistance for Rain Guarding and 98.92 lakh as roller and smoke house subsidy as an initiative for promoting quality improvement in NE & NT regions. The Board also disbursed Rs.72.36 lakh as plantation subsidy under Rubber Plantation Development (RPD) Scheme during February 2021.

- The Rubber Board conducted 234 trainings on Tapping, Beekeeping, LFT & CUT, Mushroom culture, etc, benefited 5,611 farmers and organized 143 batches of field training on different topics benefiting 2,380 participants under farmer education programmes during February 2021.
- The Rubber Board, under Rubber Production Incentive Scheme (RPIS) of Government of Kerala, verified 90,625 bills submitted by growers and forwarded to Government of Kerala for payment. Further, under the convergence with MGNREGS, the cultural operations were completed in 720 ha of rubber plantations benefiting 853 rubber growers.
- The Rubber Board made seven defunct Rubber Production Schemes (RPS) & seven defunct GPCs as functional and formed four new RPS, one Rubber Tappers Bank (RTB) and one SHG with 308 members. Further, the Board certified 399 rubber plantations covering an area of 255 ha. and organized 620 RPS meetings benefiting 8,210 rubber farmers during February 2021.
- The Board issued 25 fresh and renewed 13 manufacturers' licences, 76 fresh and renewed 10 Dealers' licences for trading in North region and one Processors' licence during February 2021.
- DoC has approved the proposal of Rubber Training Institute (RTI) for renaming RTI as National Institute for Rubber Training (NIRT). RTI conducted twenty-six online/ in-house training programmes and certificate courses benefiting 238 participants from various stakeholders of rubber industry during February 2021.

Spices Sector

- The Spice Board issued 98 Certificate of Registration as Exporters of Spices (CRES) and 1 Cardamom Dealer License during February 2021.
- The Spice Board sold a quantity of 1301 MT of cardamom (small) through auction at an average price of Rs.1472.84 per kg during February 2021. Further the Spice Board drawn 4944 pre-shipment samples and carried out 3925 stuffing supervisions
- The Spice Board carried out quality analysis of small cardamom capsules of 17 improved / released varieties, analyzed 192 advisory soil samples from different cardamom growing regions of Kerala and has given fertilizer recommendations to cardamom farmers based on soil test results during February 2021.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 57,556 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 101 Crore, issued 1,357 policies, added 1,201 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs.38.24 Crore, during February 2021.

- Under National Export Insurance Account, during February 2021, value of exports supported was Rs 256.80 Crore and value of insurance cover worth Rs.222.12 Crore were issued.
- An amount of Rs.14.41 Crore was released during February 2021 to export promotion councils and trade bodies for undertaking export promotion activities under MAI Scheme.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- Having approved by Cabinet on 17th February 2021, Commerce Secretary, Government of India and Ambassador Mr. Haymandoyal Dillum, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Government of Mauritius signed the India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) in Port Louis on 22nd February 2021 to cover Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Financial services, Customs Procedures and Cooperation in other Areas.
- The Department of Commerce has approved the draft protocol for the establishment of the India-Costa Rica Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) and has been sent to the Ministry of External Affairs and EOI for Costa Rica with the request to share the Protocol on JETCO to concerned authorities in Costa Rica so that the Protocol may be signed by both the countries during February 2021.
- The Terms of Reference (ToR) for India-Cambodia Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment (JWGTI) have been finalized in February 2021 with the aim of promoting economic partnership and regular discussions on trade and investment issues with both the countries.
- In the 1st High Level Dialogue (HLD) on 5th February 2021 co-chaired by Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister and EU Trade Commissioner Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, both sides agreed on significant next steps for further strengthening India-EU trade and investment partnership. Both sides agreed to deepen the engagements through series of interactions at official level for quick deliverables to be announced in EU Leader's Summit in Porto, Portugal on 8th May 2021.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 14,993 Authorizations/Scripts under FTP Schemes, i.e., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Service Exports from India (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during the month of January 2021.
- DGFT, as part of IT Revamp of the Organization, has introduced a new online module - e-Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) system for processing such TRQ applications vide trade notice No. 40/2020-21 dated 4th February 2021.

- IEC related provisions in Chapter-1 and Chapter-2 of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 are amended /deleted and new provisions inserted by DGFT vide Notification No. 58/2015-20 dated 12th February 2021.

VIII. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- Total transaction value on GeM portal has crossed Rs. 91,573 Crore and 5,67,989 MSEs vendors are registered on GeM Portal as on 28th February 2021.
- GeM has created 13,105 product categories and 178 service categories during February 2021.
- GeM has provided online training to 11,503 users (9,023 buyers & 2,480 sellers) (due to COVID-19) for capacity building in the month of February 2021.
- GeM held 57 webinars exclusively for MSMEs / STARTUPS / ARTISANS / WEAVERS / SHGs for capacity building and on-boarding on GeM, benefiting 2,665 participants in association with Food Corporation of India (FCI), ONGC, Indian Air Force, RINL, Unconventional 2021: Roundtable conference with Start-ups and Tea Board India during February 2021.
- In order to on-board sellers including MSMEs, SHGs, women entrepreneurs, artisans, etc. on GeM portal, GeM had created a seller invitation module through which 15,966 sellers have been invited and 7020 sellers have registered.
- There are 29,098 nos. of sellers in COVID-19 medical categories & 32,033 nos. of sellers in COVID-19 auxiliaries' categories on the portal. New page for tracking COVID-19 categories and the number of sellers has been created.
- 1,48,792 weavers and 28,111 artisans registered as sellers on GeM with the assistance of 28 Weaver Service Centres and 56 Handicraft Service Centres at Ministry of Textiles and 4,05,000 MSMEs registered with Udyam Registration Portal have been successfully on-boarded on GeM as sellers.
- GeM signed Memorandum of Understanding for faster adoption and procurement of goods and services through GeM portal between GeM and OIL Limited and between GeM and Government of Kerala.
- For faster and transparent procurement to fight COVID-19, GeM has made available 295 COVID-19 related categories (Medical and auxiliaries) with 1,36,300 unique products in COVID-19 in medical categories and 1,29,646 unique products in auxiliaries' categories.
