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SRTEPC HOLDS ITS 62nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN MUMBAI

The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) held its Annual General Meeting on Friday, 16th September 2016 in Mumbai.

Shri Anil Rajvanshi, Chairman, The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) addressing the 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Council on 16th September 2016 in Mumbai. Also seen in picture from l to r Shri V. Anil Kumar, Executive Director, SRTEPC and Sri Narain Aggarwal, Vice Chairman, SRTEPC

Shri Anil Rajvanshi, Chairman; Shri Sri Narain Aggarwal, Vice Chairman; Shri G. K. Gupta, past Chairman; members of the Committee of Administration and member exporters of the Council were present on the occasion.

Export Scenario

Shri Rajvanshi, Chairman, SRTEPC expressing concern on the export scenario said that it has not been very promising year; although exports did pick up in June 2016 with exports of MMF textiles showing a slight rise of 1.3% after continuous downfall for 18 months. The sentiment was short-lived and once again dropped in July 2016. This, he said has been a result of withdrawal in the global trade primarily due to the lull sentiments in global growth. He further said that the situation has been aggravated due to the Brexit impact. He pointed out that exports of MMF textiles in the first four months of 2016-17 have been disheartening with no signs of revival.

Indian Textile Exports

The SRTEPC Chairman further stated that exports of MMF textiles during the year 2015-16 has not been very encouraging witnessing a fall of over 8% from the previous year (from US$ 6323.18 million in 2014-15 to US$ 5795.96 million). What has been blatant is that exports in all the four segments i.e. yarn, fabrics, made-ups and fibre have declined. UAE has once again emerged the leading market for Indian MMF textiles followed by USA while Turkey ranked third. Shri Rajvanshi said that the spending capacity of Indians is increasing and India has a population of young generation who are more inclined to fashion, hence advantage to the Textiles sector. He hoped for additional policy support from the Govt. to increase exports of MMF textiles. He also stated that the Ministry had set a target of US$ 7.1 billion for the year 2016-17 for MMF Textiles sector; however, looking at the global scenario the Council has urged the Ministry to bring it down to US$ 6 billion. Hence the target earmarked for the Council is US$ 6.3 billion.

Shri Sri Narain Aggarwal, Vice Chairman, The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) proposing the Vote of Thanks at the 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Council in Mumbai

GST – Challenge to the textile industry

Talking about the Goods & Service Tax (GST), Shri Rajvanshi said that he has suggested that textile sector should have no exemptions and the entire value chain from raw materials to finished goods should fall under one GST rate. Shri Anil Rajvanshi said that the exemption given in 2004 had distorted the tax structure and such repetitions should not be done in GST. He said that the GST should be studied properly by the Council. The

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SRTEPC MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE HIGH LEVEL DRAWBACK COMMITTEE

Members of the Drawback Committee interacting with the members of the Committee of Administration at the Meeting from l to r Shri Rajiv Talwar, Joint Secretary (DBK); Shri Gautam Ray, Member, Drawback Committee; Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri, Chairman of the Drawback Committee; Shri G.K. Pillai, Member, Drawback Committee and Shri Y.G.Parande, Member, Drawback Committee.

The Central Government (Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue) has constituted a Committee for the purpose of formulation of All Industry Rates (AIRs) of Duty Drawback for the year 2016. As an annual exercise, the drawback rates are worked out and notified every year after taking into account the budgetary changes in the duty structure and the consumption of input materials and the duties suffered on these input materials. The main objective of the Drawback Committee is to interact with the administrative Ministries, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards, trade bodies and other stake holders so as to elicit their views on the existing Duty Drawback Scheme for All Industry Rate; and work out the modalities for calculation of duty drawback and suggest All Industry Rates (AIRs) of Duty Drawback for the year 2016 for the existing items as also for new items as may be suggested by the stake holders.

Shri Anil Rajvanshi, Chairman of the Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC) welcomed the Drawback Committee and made a detailed presentation before them on Friday, 26th August, 2016 at Hotel Vivanta by Taj- President, Mumbai. The Drawback Committee members present at the Council's presentation meeting included Dr. Saumitra Chaudhuri, Chairman of the Drawback Committee, Shri G.K. Pillai, Member, Shri Gautam Ray, Member, Shri Y.G.Parande, Member and Shri Rajiv Talwar, Joint Secretary (DBK).

In the opening remarks, the Chairman of the Council emphasized the need for enhancement in the Drawback Rates for all synthetic textile items, especially in the context of increase in the Excise Duty on Man-made Fibres and Filament Yarns. The Chairman made a detail presentation of the calculations for various products such as – Polyester Staple Fibre, Viscose Staple Fibre, Polyester Filament Yarn, Polyester Partially Oriented Yarn, Polyester Texturised Yarn, Polyester Spun Yarn (Grey & Dyed), Polyester Viscose Yarn (Grey & Dyed), 100% Viscose Spun Yarn (Grey & Dyed), Woven Fabrics made out of P/V - Dyed, 100% Polyester Filament Fabrics -Dyed, Made-ups made out of Man-Made Staple Fibre – Dyed, Nylon filament yarn including crimped twisted and Dyed, Polyester Cotton Yarn(Grey).

Based on the Presentation Meeting of the Council, the Committee has suggested to recalculate the already submitted Drawback rates, so as to enable the Drawback Committee to fix appropriate Drawback rates for 2016- 17.

Shri Anil Rajvanshi, Chairman, SRTEPC making the Presentation to the Drawback Committee srtepc

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Editor: **V. ANIL KUMAR**

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Dear Member,

It was indeed a privilege for me to address the 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Council on 16th September 2016 in Mumbai. I thank all the members of the Council for your wholehearted support and cooperation. Let me express my gratitude for those who attended the AGM despite their busy schedule. I look forward to your active involvement in all the initiatives of the Council. I am sure your valuable guidance will further strengthen the Council in these challenging times. I assure you that with our concerted efforts we shall be able to resolve the issues confronting the Man-made fibre textile sector. I urge for your support in appropriately bringing all of them to the attention of the authority concerned in the Government. I am sure the MMF Textiles will get the required attention of the policy makers in resolving all its concerns.

The Government is making all out efforts to ensure GST roll out by early FY 2017. We must be prepared for meeting the emerging challenges in view of the same. I am sure this would be a task well taken up for the long-term benefits of both the industry and the Country, if implemented as envisaged in a seamless way. The textile industry must keep abreast with the developments of the GST Council's announcements, especially on the GST rate and follow up on various guidelines. We will represent to the concerned authority for consideration of special exemptions in the GST rates for MMF sector.

In the Budget 2016, the Government had initially allowed duty free import of fabrics equal to 1% of exports to Garment exporters without any nexus. Further, in the recently announced incremental Textile Policy, Apparel Industry has been granted special package of incentives of Rs. 6,000 Crore, out of which Rs. 500 Crore is towards labour cost and remaining Rs. 5,500 Crore towards concurrent availment of Advance Licence Scheme (ALS) and Duty Drawback Scheme (DBK). In addition, Drawback on State taxes suffered is also allowed under the Scheme.

In these difficult times of contraction in global trade and declining demand, it is imperative to adopt a 'holistic policy' prescription that ensures growth and development of the entire textiles sector extending to all the value chains and value added segments of this important sector. A segment-centric policy intervention, though intended for employment and enhancing exports, could do more harm to important upstream segments like fabrics, yarn and fibre, which also cater to livelihood crucial to millions. Hence, the earlier the damage is controlled, the better for the Textile industry of India, which is reeling under global trade lull since long. It is important that the Indian Textiles sector must be recognized as one of our key strategic sectors, given some of its domestic segment's structural weaknesses and more so with the heightened competition from neighbouring nations like Bangladesh, China, Vietnam, etc.

The above liberal knee-jerk market intervention policies will impact our fabric producers as there will be less demand for Indian fabric which has embedded taxes and duties with pricing structure. The Textile Ministry has allowed duty drawback on imported fabrics at 22% of inputs other than fabrics. No garment has 22% inputs other than fabric. Allowing imports of fabrics at the cost of the domestic industry would be fatal, especially since more than 90 % of the manufacturing segments are operating on feeble margins. This will aggravate the sufferings of weavers who are already facing the onslaught of cheap imports of fabrics from China for the last two years. The special dispensation on use of Advance Licence concurrent with availment of Duty Drawback benefit will disturb the level playing field vis-a-vis import and poses a threat to the local manufacturers of Fabric, Cotton & Synthetic. Import under advance licence is duty free. The largest *beneficiary of such import policy would be Pakistan and China.*

The Indian Fabric manufacturers would offer the fabric to garment exporters at their best domestic price, being a local sale. The domestic price of the Fabric, therefore, will have embedded State & Central Govt. Duties & Taxes billed into the price, out of which Central Taxes would be compensated under the existing DBK Scheme. Ideally the Scheme should offer a level playing field to the domestic producer of Fabric by allowing only import under Advance Licence by the Apparel manufacturer without availment of DBK benefits, which otherwise is not allowed. The option of buying Fabric from the domestic manufacturers without the burden of embedded State duties in the price is also available under the Advance Licence Scheme as Deemed Export transactions. Thus local fabric manufacturers, under the Deemed Export transaction will be able to offer fabric at export prices. In either case, whenever Advance Licence is availed, concurrent availing of benefit under DBK is not allowed.

Exports of MMF textiles during the period April-August 2016 witnessed a further slump of 12%, which is very disturbing as the fall is drastic in all the segments viz. fabrics (11%) yarn (13%), made-ups (9%) and fibre (24%). I am certain the Government will take serious policy decisions to reverse the situation and give exports a further push. It is interesting to note that the share of value added segments like fabrics and made-ups have increased to 68% of total exports which is in line with the Make in India thrust. In the context of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data, though, both manufacturing and industrial production show a declining growth, Textiles production has shown 2.3 per cent growth during July 2016, as compared to the negative growth in the same month in the previous year. In the cumulative period, it has shown a growth of 2.9 per cent during April- July 2016-17 period as compared to 1 per cent in the same period in the previous year which portrays an encouraging trend for the future.

The Council as part of its promotional programme is organizing participation in Federal Trade Fair for Apparel and Textiles (TEXTILLEPROG) in Moscow, Russia during 20th-23rd September 2016. The Council has in the past, participated in the Fair, which has helped participating companies in gaining a foothold in the Russian market. Thirty six companies of the Council will be participating in the Fair. Russia is one of the immensely potential and fast growing textile & clothing markets in the world especially for MMF textiles. Moreover, in the context of the changing world scenario this year, with China losing its position as the world's leading textile manufacturer and Russia's strained relationship with Turkey, has opened up avenues for other countries including India. Considering the importance of the fair, the Government is also leading a delegation to encourage enhanced trade relations with the Textile business fraternity of both India and Russia. Thus the Fair will help further exports of MMF textiles to Russia and the participating companies will be successful in forging fruitful business dealings at the event. I wish them all the very best.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

ANIL RAJVANSHI
CHAIRMAN
The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council

VIETNAM

Textile and clothing exports up 4.7%

Vietnamese textile and garment export has just managed to touch US$13.15 billion, an increase of 4.7 percent. The figure is much lower compared to the same period previous year. The three major markets of Vietnam include the US, Japan and South Korea.

The US topped US$6.52 billion, up 3.48 percent compared to the same period last year and accounting for 49.6 percent of the country's total textile export turnover. The second biggest market is Japan with nearly US$1.55 billion, up 4.4 percent and the third biggest market is South Korea with US$1.07 billion, a rise of 13.7 percent.

However, it is believed that US importers just expected to clear out inventories rather than laying new orders due to which domestic businesses are facing difficulties in finding new orders. Vietnamese textile and garment will face more difficulties because the world demand shrinks.

Vietnam expects to benefit from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) however its effects may cause difficulties because countries that are not TPP members have adopted many policies to increase its competitiveness capability. With these barriers, it will hardly be able to reach the export target of textile and garment forecasted by Economists of US$ 39 billion in 2017.

Source : Yarnsandfibers

Textile and clothing exports to double with TPP agreement

The Vietnam Textile and Garment Association (VITAS) and Mexico's National Chamber of Textile Industry (Canaintex) expect the value of Vietnamese exports to Mexico to double in 3-4 years after the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is implemented. This is because tariff on Vietnamese goods exported to Mexico would fall to zero from the current 30 per cent.

It is expected that once TPP agreement comes into effect, Vietnam's garment and textile exports will rise sharply and its market share in TPP member countries would increase substantially due to preferential tax policies.

According to VITAS, Vietnam has targeted to increase its garment and textile exports from US$28 billion at present to US$50 billion by 2020. Of the US$28 billion, nearly US$11 billion worth of garments were exported to the US, another TPP member country, last year.

Source : Fibre2fashion

SRI LANKA

Exports of textiles and clothing buoyant

Exports of textiles and garments from Sri Lanka continued its positive trend since the beginning of this year and increased by 4.5 per cent year-on-year in the first six months of this year.

During January-June 2016, Sri Lanka's export earnings from textiles and garments stood at US$2.514 billion, compared to US$2.405 billion earned in the corresponding period of last year.

Export growth in June mainly came from the US and non-traditional markets. It is believed earnings from textiles and garments exports, which account for around 48 per cent of total export earnings, grew by 1.4 per cent year-on-year to US$430 million in June 2016, as a result of higher garment exports to US and non-traditional markets such as Canada, China and UAE.

Textiles and apparel accounted for about 63.15 per cent of all industrial exports and about 49.23 per cent of all exports made by the South Asian nation during the six-month period.

In 2015, Sri Lanka's export earnings from textiles and garments had dropped by 2.2 per cent year-on-year to US$4.820 billion, compared to US$4.929 billion in 2014.

Source : Fibre2fashion

PAKISTAN

Government to boost the textile industry

The Pakistan government had allocated Rs. 6 billion for Textile Policy initiatives for 2016-17 while support schemes would also continue during this year which include Sales Tax of five export oriented sectors namely among others textiles had been made part of zero rated tax regime from July 1, 2016.

Further, all the pending sales tax refunds till April 30 whose RPOs have been approved, will be paid.

The government has now formulated a Technology Up-gradation Fund (TUF) Scheme to facilitate textile sector. At present, the scheme is under process in State Bank of Pakistan, sources at Textile Industry Division said on Tuesday.

Highlighting the measures introduced to facilitate the said sector, the sources said that facility of duty free import of textile machinery will continue during 2016-17.

The existing scheme on Drawback of Local Taxes (DLT) will also continue in 2016-17.

SOURCE: Yarnsandfibers

TURKEY

Latest machinery for training centre in Pakistan

The Turkish Cooperation and Co-ordination Agency (TIKA) has offered the latest machinery and equipment for the apparel centre at the Government Institute of Emerging Technologies in Pakistan. TIKA experts will provide two months training to students as well as to Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) teachers on the equipment which is worth Rs 110 million.

SOURCE: Fibre2fashion

USA

Textile and clothing exports fall during January-July 2016

Exports of textile and apparel from United States dropped 7.66 per cent year-on-year in the first seven months of this year. The value of exports stood at US$12.934 billion during January-July 2016 compared to US$14 billion in the corresponding period last year.

Among textile mill products, yarn exports declined by 9.72 per cent year-on-year to US$2.648 billion, while fabric and made-up article exports decreased by 7.02 per cent and 5.06 per cent respectively to US$5 billion and US$2.045 billion.

Country-wise, Mexico and Canada together accounted for nearly half of the total US textile and clothing exports during the period under review. The US supplied US$3.482 billion worth of textiles and apparel to Mexico during the seven-month period, followed by US$2.927 billion to Canada and $876 million to Honduras.

In recent years, the US textile and clothing exports have remained in the range of US$22-25 billion per annum. In 2011, they stood at US$22.432 billion, while the figure was US$22.656 billion in 2012, US$23.665 billion in 2013, US$24.418 billion in 2014 and US$23.737 billion in 2015.

SOURCE: Yarns&Fibers

MYANMAR

New Textile Association set up

A Myanmar Textiles Manufacturers Association has finally been launched, following years of discussion about creating an upstream textile-specific body in this fast developing southeast Asian country. Finished garment exports from Myanmar have more than doubled from 2011-12 to 2014-15, from US$497m to US$1.02bn according to statistics from the country's Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). Yet the local textile industry has not kept up, with backward linkages remaining weak. A previous military-backed socialist government, whose non-socialist successor handed over power to the current National League for Democracy government in March 2016 tried to move into commercial production of textiles, setting up several textile factories with at best mixed success. Industry insiders say building a robust domestic textile industry has been a long time coming.

Growing a domestic textile industry has numerous advantages for garment producers. Currently, Myanmar clothing manufacturers import textiles from a number of countries, such as China, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. However, China generally predominates as the source for price-competitive textiles and Thailand for higher quality products. Almost all of the fibres used by the Myanmar textile industry need to be imported as natural fibre production in the country is small and there is no production of manmade fibres. Current textile exports are limited as they fall in niche markets, such as silk for export to Japan and South Korea, and it will take time before mass export of commercial textiles begins. While Myanmar's textiles can potentially be exported on their own merits, they could also be used domestically as a substitute for imports. And this could help Myanmar tackle its wide and growing trade gap, at about US$4.1bn on around US$29.1bn in total trade for 2014-15, according to CSO data. Making increased use of domestically produced textiles in exported garments would reduce the trade deficit while providing positive economic spinoffs in Myanmar.

Source : The Just Style

PHILIPPINES

S & T Roadmap for textile industry chalked

The Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST- PCIEERD) recently presented Science and Technology (S&T) Roadmap for textile industry aiming to reinvigorate the country's once dominating sector. This has been done with a desire to help the local textile industry rise back to the ranks in the international community by employing science and technology (S&T) in textile research and development (R&D). The roadmap aims at Philippine textile industry that is culture-sensitive, robust, sustainable, and profitable based on Filipino knowledge using locally available raw materials. The roadmap by DOST to boost textile industry is drawn for a duration of five years from 2016 to 2020.

Source : Yarns&Fibers

EEC

Changes to the technical regulations of the Customs Union

The Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) has recently approved changes to the technical regulations of the Customs Union 'on safety of the production of light industry'. This will simplify procedures for certification of compliance for textiles, apparel and accessories. The EEC oversees the Customs Union consisting of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia.

The changes made by the EEC apply to carpets, matt, felt, nonwoven materials, and their products. For these products, EEC requirements with respect to biological and chemical safety were termed excessive by the European Union. Now, they have been made simpler, in particular by removing 'hygroscopicity' regulation for table and kitchen linen and 'air permeability' regulation for blankets and pillows.

The EEC has also amended the certification procedure of conformity with mandatory requirements. Table and kitchen linens, handkerchiefs, swimwear, towels and sheets, and scarfs are currently subject to compliance certificate. Post-amendment, they will be subject to declaration.

Similarly, for large businesses with their own laboratories, the procedure for obtaining compliance documents will become considerably simpler. For underwear, corsetry and bathing products, the compliance assessment shall be in the form of certification.

The technical error in standardising of water-washable chromium mass fraction in fur products has been corrected. The correct value shall not exceed 3.0 mg/kg.

All these changes will come into effect in 12 months from the date of the publication of the EEC.

Source : Fibre2fashion

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Cut on excise duty of MMF on the anvil

The government is considering lowering excise duty on man-made fibre (MMF) in order to boost investment to meet growing demand from the synthetic textiles industry.

The Ministry of Textiles is set to announce a cut in excise duty on MMF in the new policy, which is scheduled to be announced soon. While cotton fibre attracts no duty, the government has levied 10 per cent excise duty on MMF. The MMF industry has on several occasions represented to the government seeking exemption on MMF from excise duty, arguing that the garments produced through MMF are primarily used by the economically weaker sections of society.

India's fibre demand is likely to more than double in 10 years on the government's increasing impetus on textiles sector for both domestic consumption and exports of readymade garments.

MMF requirement for Indian textiles industry would jump by at least five times to 12 billion kg by 2025, from 2.5 billion kg currently, given the kind of impetus we have given to the textiles sector.

Meanwhile, the government of Maharashtra is providing up to 35 per cent of working capital subsidy for new textile plants in the state.

Source : Business Standard

Ministry to notify rebate of states levies on export of garments

The Ministry of Textiles has notified first of its kind scheme with unique features for Rebate of State Levies on Export of Garments (ROSL) which will apply with 'Let Export Order'. The scheme seeks to rebate state value added tax or central sales tax on inputs, including packaging and fuel, duty on electricity generation and duties, and charges on purchase of grid power, as accumulated through the stages of production from yarn to finished garments.

The ministry has notified the rebate rates for all items covered under chapters 61 and 62 of the All Industry Rates of drawback.

Usually these are between one and two percent of the FOB value for those availing of the special advance authorization scheme and between three and four per cent of the FOB value for those claiming duty drawback. The scheme will apply from September 20 onwards and valid for three years but the government can change the rebate rates any time.

The rebate will be disbursed by the Customs along with duty drawback. The scheme is optional. So, the exporter claiming the benefit has to make a suitable declaration to the Customs regarding his eligibility for the rate and rebate, acceptance of the terms and conditions of the ROSL scheme, that he has not claimed and shall not claim the credit or rebate or refund reimbursement of the specific taxes that comprise the rebate of state levies under any other mechanism and also that he has constituted an ICC.

The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has issued a detailed circular, clarifying various aspects of the scheme. It says the claim-cum-declaration of eligibility has to be made by the exporter on drawback exports at item level. The drawback exports (shipping bill or bill of export) may be standalone or in combination with other schemes. For the EDI (electronic data interchange) shipping bill, selection of the scheme code involving the ROSL scheme at the time of export shall itself amount to making a claim- cum-declaration of eligibility.

An attention-grabbing condition of the scheme is that the rebate will be available for exporters who have constituted an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), where applicable, in pursuance of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. A declaration to that effect will have to be given to the Customs at the time of claiming the rebate.

Source : Fibre2fashion

Exchange of Tariff concessions under Fourth Round of Negotiations APTA approved by the Cabinet

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the exchange of tariff concessions, on Margin of Preference basis, under the Fourth Round of Negotiations under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement and related amendments. The Asia Pacific Trade Agreement or APTA (formerly the Bangkok Agreement) is an initiative under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) for trade expansion through exchange of tariff concessions among developing country members of the Asia Pacific Region. The current membership of APTA consists of six countries or Participating States (PSs), namely, Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka.

Till date, three rounds of trade negotiations have taken place. Up to the Third Round, India has offered tariff preferences on 570 tariff lines at an average Margin of Preference (MoP) of 23.9% and an additional 48 tariff lines to LDC members at an average MoP of 39.7% at the 6-digit HS level. The third round, with respect to all Participating States, cumulatively covered concessions on 4,270 products with MOP of 27.2%.

The Cabinet approved India's offer 28.01% of dutiable national tariff lines (i.e. 3142 lines in HS2012 at 8-digit) with an average MoP of 33.45%. This will deepen the concessions being offered under this Agreement. Approval was also given to amend the preamble of APTA to effect accession of Mongolia as the 7th APTA Participating State. Other amendments to incorporate the Sectoral Rule of Origin to the Agreement were also approved.

Source : Press Information Bureau

Shipping sector worried over review of cabotage

The Shipping Ministry's plans to review provisions governing cabotage has sent alarm bells among domestic companies and ports. Major ports such as JNPT have written to the Ministry expressing apprehensions. Cabotage is the right of Indian ships to carry cargo on the national coast by paying local taxes and employing Indian seafarers. Under the present provisions, only ships registered in India can provide their services on the coastal shipping route. However, foreign companies have been lobbying with the Government for relaxing the law to so that they can operate along India's coast. A recent study by Shipping Ministry has shown that coastal shipping could carry about 230-280 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of coal, cement, iron and steel, food grains, fertilisers, petroleum, oil and lubricants, which could save ₹ 21,000-27,000 crore by 2025.

Cabotage relaxation will further impact the business. Indian container fleet has increased 36 per cent over the past six months as eight new ships were added to the fleet at a $40-million investment.

Indian companies borrow at 12-14 per cent and the debt has a tenure of about seven years while foreign companies borrow from 0 to 2 per cent for a period of 10-12 years. Indian shipping companies should be given a maturity period before opening the sector fully. JNPT is a hub port and these of kind of changes could have an impact.

The foreign companies welcome the review of cabotage provisions. According to them easing the cabotage regulation is the right thing to do for India as it would mean a cheaper, smoother and more robust supply chain benefiting both exporters and importers while improving the carbon footprint. It is believed that cabotage regulations, India could attract more containerised cargo by reducing time and cost for mainline vessels that now transship containers at neighbouring hub ports. It would eventually help India in building a successful transshipment hub.

SOURCE: The Hindu Business Line

Mill closures and falling exports affecting the textile industry

India's textile sector continues to reel under the burden of mill closures and sagging exports, despite of top global fashion brands such as Zara, Mango, Vero Moda, H&M, Forever 21 and Marks & Spencer vie for a share of the Indian market. Ever since the government allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in single brand retail outlets - first at 51% in 2006 and later 100% in 2012- top global fashion brands have rushed into the country. While H&M has announced plans to invest Rs 730 crore to set up 50 stores in the country, the US-based fashion label Gap is reportedly eyeing a revenue of Rs 1,000 crore from the 40 stores it plans to open across 15 cities in the country in the next five to six years. Even the online fashion space has seen its fair share of action, including the acquisition, first of Myntra and later of Jabong by the country's largest e-commerce company Flipkart in the recent times.

But as per data sourced from the textile ministry show that not only have exports of several types of textiles from India declined in the past three years, mill closures across the country, too, are at a record level. While in 2008, India had 381 closed textile mills, the number steadily rose to 593 by May this year. This means that almost 3 lakh textile mill workers remain unemployed, according to the government's own figures. Among the states that have witnessed the highest number of mill shut downs are Tamil Nadu and Punjab. Although some other states like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have seen new mills opening up, the growing number of shutdowns has meant that a third of the country's mills have continued to remain shut in the past four to five years. However, none of this seems to have helped in turning around the fortunes of the Indian textile sector.

SOURCE: Yarns&Fibers

Duty drawback rates hiked to give high value RMG exports a push

The Central government in a bid to boost export of high-value readymade garments (RMG), has increased the duty drawback of 3.2 per cent to 4.7 per cent, depending on the category, for exports of non-fabric inputs made from imported fabrics under the Advance Authorisation Scheme. The new duty drawback rates would be effective from September 2016. Exporters shall be eligible for the All Industry Rate of Duty Drawback, for non fabric inputs, as determined by Central government for this scheme. The fabric imported shall be subject to pre-import condition and it shall be physically incorporated in the export product (making normal allowance for wastage). Only physical exports shall fulfil the export obligation. Authorisation, and the fabric imported, shall be subject to actual user condition. The same shall be non-transferable even after completion of export obligation. Duty-free import of fabric under the Special Advance Authorisation Scheme shall be allowed for export of articles of apparel and clothing accessories for export of items covered under Chapter 61 and 62, subject to the terms and conditions. The authorisation shall be issued based on Standard Input Output Norms (SION) or prior fixation of Norms Committee. The authorisation shall be issued for the import of relevant fabrics including inter lining only as input. No other input, packing material, fuel, oil and catalyst shall be allowed for import under this authorisation.

SOURCE: Fibre2fashion

Positive and negative impact of Brexit for trade with UK

The United Kingdom (UK), European Union's (EU) second-biggest economy, voted by a margin of 52% to 48% to end its 43 years long EU membership, pursuant to a referendum on June 23, 2016. Although in the short-term Brexit may negatively impact India's trade and investment, it opens up significant long-term opportunities for India.

An FTA between UK and India and presents a significant opportunity for India's financial and small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) sectors. UK and India share complementary interests. An FTA would enhance Indian exports of garments, textiles, machinery and instruments to UK, and Indian imports of engineering goods, spirits, beverages, etc. from UK. Similarly, trade in services of Information Technology (IT) and banking would also benefit. UK was the biggest investor in India among the G-20 nations in 2015, while India represents the third-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Britain. An FTA can lead to greater trade and investment between the two countries.

In the short-term, due to depreciation of the pound, imports into UK would be costlier, which would adversely affect Indian exports, worsening India's overall trade deficit. However, given the increase in Indian exports to emerging markets, this is not a major threat to India.

Indian companies in UK: Indian IT services companies that have exposure to UK and EU markets and companies based in UK would face several challenges. The depreciation in pound would affect their earnings in rupee terms and a possible increase in tariff barriers would result in increased trading costs. Moreover, there will be increase in operation and compliance costs.

Brexit would possibly lead to bilateral agreements of UK and EU with India. The precise impact of India's FTAs with UK and EU on its trade balance cannot be known with certainty. However, the FTAs would certainly lead to a rise trade volumes for India. This would result in greater investment in India, lower prices of goods, more competition and greater variety for consumers. There is a possibility that the long-term benefits of Brexit would outweigh the short-term costs for India.

SOURCE: The Financial Express

Surat to have first textile university

India's first textile university will be set up at Surat for which the Gujarat government will provide funds worth Rs.800 crore - Rs 900 crore. The aim of the university is to provide all kind of support including technology, research and development (R&D), skilled manpower etc. Purpose of the university will be to create a complete eco system for the textile industry in Gujarat and India. It will guide the government in policy making for the industry. The textile industry will support the government in this endeavour. The University will serve in a many ways like support in R&D, policy making skill manpower training and all. For that they will tie up with various centres of excellence and other national and international institutes as per the requirements. The university will be built on over 250 acre land in Surat. The construction work for the university will start in early phase of next year and it will be operational in one and a half years.

SOURCE: Yarns&Fibers

SAARC Finance Ministers Meeting focused on improving trade relations and promoting double tax avoidance

The two-day SAARC Finance Ministers Meeting held recently focused on promoting double tax avoidance and improving trade relations among member nations, said Economic Affairs Secretary Shri Shaktikanta Das, who represented India.

It is reported that the focus of discussion was on economic issues and fostering a customs union, promoting double taxation avoidance between the SAARC nations, improved connectivity between the SAARC countries, increasing volume of trade, developing supply chain linkages between the SAARC countries.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is a regional inter-governmental organisation. Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Das added there was special focus on the SAARC Development Fund and its funding.

SOURCE: The Financial Express

India-US to use S&CD mechanism to strengthen mutual trade ties

India and the US today resolved to use the Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD) mechanism to further elevate mutual trade and investment, while noting that strong commercial ties have defined their growing partnership. In an otherwise sluggish global economy, bilateral trade between India and the United States has held steady, and bilateral investment flows have grown over the last two years, their joint statement released after the 2nd India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue here. They noted the “significantly increased” government-to- government engagement on economic and commercial topics undertaken in the past year under the S&CD.

Recognising the success of the ongoing smart city collaboration in Visakhapatnam, the two sides resolved to launch a follow-on phase that will deliver an integrated master plan. They resolved to continue reverse trade missions from the MOU partner cities (Ajmer, Allahabad and Vishakhapatnam) to look at smart solutions for their respective cities. The sides looked forward to working on the Plan of Action developed for mutual technical cooperation for issuance of municipal bonds by Pune, the statement said. The leaders noted the recommendations of the US-India CEO Forum and acknowledged the crucial role of the Forum in strengthening our partnership on commercial and trade related issues. They acknowledged the value of closely integrating the CEO Forum with the Commercial track of the S&CD.

Taking note of the India’s ‘Startup India’ initiative to foster greater entrepreneurship and innovation, the two sides committed to further collaboration between Indian and the US startups, venture capitalists and other stakeholders.

SOURCE: The Economic Times

India stands 35th in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index

The World Bank in its recently released Logistics Performance Index has now ranked India at the 35th position from amongst 160 countries, as against the LPI rank of 54 in 2014, a jump of 19 places. The LPI is an interactive benchmarking tool created to help countries identify the challenges and opportunities they face in trade logistics. Among the six-components of the LPI report ranking’s; customs was ranked 38; infrastructure at 36; international shipments at 39; logistics quality and competence at 32; tracking and tracing at 33; and timeliness at 42. The LPI is based on a worldwide survey of stakeholders on the ground providing feedback on the logistics friendliness of the countries in which they operate and those with which they trade. Feedback from such stakeholders is supplemented with quantitative data on the performance of key components of the logistics chain in the country of work.

SOURCE: Fibre2fashion

Exim Bank to start portal on export facilitation services

The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) plans to start a portal 'Exim Mitra' to encourage small enterprises to export, It aims to facilitate 20-25 services, including registration for undertaking exports, information on the closest bank branch that will provide export credit, and indicative freight cost. While big companies have a well-oiled infrastructure set-up to take care of their exports, small enterprises are at sixes and sevens when it comes to dealing with the procedures related to exports. Hence, Exim Bank proposes to start a portal to provide facilitation services for the latter.

Exim Bank Chairman and Managing Director Shri Yaduvendra Mathur said: the Bank is looking to open an online facilitation window. It has been noted there is a big information gap. There are a large number of potential exporters, typically smaller companies which are not able to access the whole gamut of facilities and there are many agencies involved (for exports).

Shri Mathur said that exporters have to get registration from the Director-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to export. Then they have to deal with customs procedures. They have to get finance. If they are in small cities, their banks may not know export procedures and may be unwilling to extend them packing credit. So, 20-25 services, which typically an exporter would want to access, would be put online via the portal. For example, if an exporter in Satara, Maharashtra needs export finance then he should be able to tap the 'Exim Mitra' portal and get information on the closest commercial bank branch that can help him with his financing requirement. Shri Mathur also informed that Exim Bank is in talks with all the banks and they are giving their data (on branches dealing with export finance) so that the same can be uploaded on IDBI portal….at least, those links and leads so that exporters can approach the nearest bank branch for loan.

The Exim Bank is looking at putting up a structure so that an exporter can get an estimate of the freight cost of an export consignment from, say, Mumbai to Peru and is also talking to logistics companies to give macro figures like the per kilometer cost if an export consignment goes from Mumbai Port to Peru. Shri Mathur hopes that this will help an Indian company/ manufacturer take a decision on whether to service a particular export market.

SOURCE: The Hindu Business Line

India supports the realization of a balanced RCEP agreement

India today gave its commitment to support the realisation of a balanced Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement that will offer equal justice to manufacturing, services and investment sectors. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) agreement was discussed at both ASEAN-India and East Asia Summits attended by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister and other leaders reaffirmed support for a modern, comprehensive, high quality, balanced and mutually beneficial agreement, sources said here. Later India, the 10 member ASEAN, Australia, China, Korea, New Zealand and Japan adopted a joint statement stating that progress had been made in negotiating a mutually beneficial economic partnership.

The RCEP statement welcomed the intensified efforts to advance market access and text-based negotiations, remaining mindful that considerable work still had to be done. The combined output of the sixteen Participating Countries amounted to USD 22.4 trillion or 30.6 per cent of world output in 2015. The total trade among the Participating Countries amounted to USD 11.9 trillion in 2015, while total FDI inflows to Participating Countries reached USD 329.6 billion, the statement said. While acknowledging the complexities of the RCEP negotiations and the diversity of the Participating Countries, including differences in the level of development, the countries resolved to find appropriate ways to address the various sensitivities and interests of each Participating Country to arrive at balanced, high-quality and mutually-beneficial outcomes. The 16 nations in the agreement reiterated the importance of advancing negotiations and instructed their Ministers and officials to further intensify negotiations in a cooperative manner for the swift conclusion of the RCEP negotiations.

SOURCE: The Financial Express

INDIA – CHILE ….."BUY – BUY"

Ms. Rita Teaotia, Commerce Secretary and Mr. Andres Barbe Gonzalez, Ambassador, Embassy of Chile signed an agreement on 6th September 2016 to expand the India-Chile Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) that was originally signed on 8th March 2006. This Agreement came into force with effect from 17th August 2007 in Chile and 11th September 2007 in India.

The salient points of the PTA include Fixed Tariff Preferences ranging from 10% to 100% on 1031 tariff lines at 8 digit levels being offered by India while Chile has offered concessions on 1798 tariff lines with preferences ranging from 30% to 100% on similar 8 digit levels.

An FTA or PTA allows duty free or low duty trade in merchandise between the signatories. These are measures taken by the Government to boost exports. The current global economic slowdown, the Euro crisis, the Yuan devaluation, the looming election fever in the USA have all contributed to this PTA between India and Chile to be expanded.

Chile has valuable natural resources which can boost the 'Make in India' process by importing these at lower rates. Some of the major imports from Chile consist of copper ore and its concentrates, iodine, molybdenum ores and its concentrates, lithium carbonates & its oxide, metal scrap, inorganic chemicals, pulp and waste paper, fruits and nuts excluding cashews, fertilizers and machinery.

In turn India's exports to Chile are diverse and consist of transport equipment, drugs and pharmaceuticals, agro chemicals, plastic goods, leather items, engineering goods, imitation jewellery, sports goods and handicrafts.

Of keen interest to our members are the exports of yarn of polyester fibres, articles of apparel, textiles and readymade garments to Chile. India has enjoyed friendly relations with Chile, who, have always cooperated with India at major International forums. This expansion would be an import landmark to consolidate the relationship.

An analysis of trade between India and Chile post the commencement of the PTA is given below.

In USD MN	2007-08	2008-09	Growth (%)	2009-10	Growth (%)	2010-11	Growth (%)	2011-12	Growth (%)
India's Exports to Chile	250.21	393.47	57.26	277.32	-29.52	507.55	83.02	522.08	2.86
India's Total Exports	163132.18	185295.36	13.59	178751.43	-3.53	249815.55	39.76	305963.92	22.48
% Contribution	0.15	0.21	38.45	0.16	-26.94	0.20	30.96	0.17	-16.01
India's Imports from Chile	1837.21	1503.90	-18.14	1119.38	-25.57	1550.25	38.49	2133.27	37.61
India's Total Imports	251654.00	303696.30	20.68	288372.87	-5.05	369769.12	28.23	489319.49	32.33
% Contribution	0.73	0.50	-32.17	0.39	-21.61	0.42	8.01	0.44	3.99
Total Trade with Chile	2087.42	1897.37	-9.10	1396.70	-26.39	2057.80	47.33	2655.35	29.04
India's Total Trade	414786.18	488991.66	17.89	467124.30	-4.47	619584.67	32.64	795283.41	28.36
% Contribution	0.50	0.39	-22.90	0.30	-22.94	0.33	11.08	0.33	0.53
Trade Balance with Chile	-1587.00	-1110.43	-30.03	-842.06	-24.17	-1042.70	23.83	-1611.19	54.52
India's Total Trade Balance	-88521.82	-118400.94	33.75	-109621.44	-7.42	-119953.57	9.43	-183355.57	52.86

In USD MN	2012-13	Growth (%)	2013-14	Growth (%)	2014-15	Growth (%)	2015-16	Growth (%)
India's Exports to Chile	690.00	32.16	663.94	-3.78	565.82	-14.7784	679.32	20.06
India's Total Exports	300400.58	-1.82	314405.30	4.66	310338.48	-1.2935	262290.13	-15.48
% Contribution	0.23	34.61	0.21	-8.06	0.18	-13.6617	0.26	42.05
India's Imports from Chile	2992.31	40.27	2507.87	-16.19	3080.63	22.8385	1960.67	-36.35
India's Total Imports	490736.65	0.29	450199.79	-8.26	448033.41	-0.4812	381006.63	-14.96
% Contribution	0.61	39.86	0.56	-8.64	0.69	23.43247	0.51	-25.16
Total Trade with Chile	3682.31	38.68	3171.81	-13.86	3646.45	14.96433	2639.99	-27.60
India's Total Trade	791137.23	-0.52	764605.09	-3.35	758371.89	-0.81522	643296.75	-15.17
% Contribution	0.47	39.40	0.41	-10.87	0.48	15.90924	0.41	-14.65
Trade Balance with Chile	-2302.31	42.90	-1843.93	-19.91	-2514.81	36.38316	-1281.35	-49.05
India's Total Trade Balance	-190336.07	3.81	-135794.49	-28.66	-137694.93	1.399497	-118716.50	-13.78

CAGR for the period 2007-08 to 2016-16

India's Exports to Chile	13.30
India's Total Exports	6.12
India's Imports from Chile	0.82
India's Total Imports	5.32
Total Trade with Chile	2.98
India's Total Trade	5.64

Notes

1 Only exports to Chile Post the PTA shows a double digit CAGR growth rate over an eight year period

2 While the balance of Trade with Chile has shifted positively for us. The net imports is far higher than net exports, the CAGR in Imports is less than 1% over an eight year period.

ATTENTION : MEMBERS

Renewal of Membership 2016-2017

Kindly refer to the Council's letter no.Secy/Mem/198 dated 22nd March, 2016 and the Subscription Memo sent along with the Circular in this regard to all members regarding renewal of your Membership of the Council for the year 2016-2017.

As you have already been informed non-payment of membership will lead to the discontinuation of Membership as well as Cancellation of the Registration-cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC) issued to you.

In view of the above, members who have not yet sent the renewal fee are requested to send the Membership Subscription Fee for the year 2016-2017 at the earliest.

The annual Membership fee is as follows:

For SSI Units : ₹ 7,418 (including service tax of 15%)

For others : ₹ 11,443 (including service tax of 15%)

SRTEPC SIGNS MOU WITH KCCI – WAY FORWARD

The Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, India, has signed a historic agreement with the Kabul Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Afghanistan, thus paving the way for increased commerce and trade between the two countries in the Man Made Fibres and Textiles sector.

13th August 2016, marks a watershed moment in the history of bilateral trade relations between India and Afghanistan. For years, on account of the unstable political climate in the region, business was carried out indirectly through other countries and third party arrangements. All of this is now poised to change when Shri Anil K Rajvanshi, Chairman, SRTEPC shook hands with Mr. Abdul Hassib Rahimi, Executive Director, KCCI in the august presence of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani at the Source India Show, Surat.

The International Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet put in place by SRTEPC, under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles and funded by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry hosted nearly 100 buyers from 31 countries, including a delegation from Afghanistan. The show piece event enabled productive and fruitful interactions between more than 100 member exporters of the Council with the International buyers as well as representatives of leading International and Indian Buying Houses.

Stressing on the importance of such an MOU, Shri Sri Narain Aggarwal, Vice Chairman, SRTEPC, mentioned that this was the right time to make inroads into the Afghanistan textile market since there are no manufacturing units in that country and depends on imports of fabrics to cater to their requirements.

Elaborating further, he said that Afghanistan is a promising market for export of fabrics and made-ups, especially for exporters based out of Surat. He was confident that in the next couple of years the trade volume would increase triple fold from the existing USD 165 million, comprising of USD 161 million of fabrics, made-ups worth USD 3 million and polyester yarn worth USD 1 million.

Although the banking system in Afghanistan is not very solid, he was hopeful that with this agreement in place the trade bodies in Afghanistan would facilitate increased business for the benefit of both sides.

SRTEPC MEMBERS DIRECTORY

The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council in commemoration of its 60 years service to the industry, presents the 1st edition of Members Directory with over 3400 entries covering the details of manufacturers/exporters of MMF textiles and blended textile items including Fibre, Yarn, Fabrics, Made-ups, Home textiles, etc. Directory also includes information on members contact details, Authorized representatives, products, export destinations, etc.

The publication will serve as a useful reference book and sourcing guide for the industry, importers. buying Houses and Agents of textile products. The cost of the Members Director is as follows:

Printed Copy – ₹ 1,000/ - US$50/- (Including delivery Charges)

For further information and request for supply of Directory may be sent to Shri Anand Haldankar, Joint Director :
E mail : anand@srtepc.in/Mrs Barbara Mendes, Sr. Executive E-mail : barbaram@srtepc.in.

BENEFITS OF GLOBALIZATION AND DIGITALIZATION TO SME SECTOR

Director – General of the World Trade Organization Mr. Roberto Azevedo met up with Mr. Jack Ma, Founder and Executive Chairman of Alibaba group, a family of internet based businesses on 6th September 2016.

The DG met up with Mr. Jack Ma in the latter's capacity as the Chair of the B20 SME development task force at the headquarters of Alibaba in Hangzhou. They discussed on how digital technology should be leveraged to make the global trading system more inclusive of the small and medium sized enterprises.

At both the G20 and B20 summits, leaders of the world have been voicing for trade to be the heart and engine of global growth. This meeting was part of the agenda to work out processes and policies that will ensure the advantages of the globalization and digitization reaches the SME's. They were of the opinion that SME's should be able to access online commercial platforms, wherein Jack Ma presented his thoughts to make an electronic World Trade Platform or eWTP a reality.

Such a platform would enable exchange of ideas, data and other variables among all the stakeholders of the modern business world – Governments, International organizations and businesses. The DG indicated that it would be a priority of the WTO to take these proposals forward to enable SME's partake the benefits of such an effort.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) deals with the global rules of trade between nations. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows smoothly, predictably and freely as possible including setting of global trade rules.

B20 or Business 20 is an event that is part of the G20 summit, whose main purpose is to develop recommendations and relevant commitments from the business leaders and business organizations to deal with present day trade issues. B20 is organized around 12 topics which are crucial to the business community and a priority for the G20. 120 CEO's and Chairmen of global companies have been working together for several month in 12 working groups co-chaired by a company CEO to provide concrete recommendations and expertise.

It is a very heartening and positive development especially in the context of SRTEPC since more than 70% of our members belong to the SME sector. We are confident that the steps taken at B20 shall go a long way in promoting their interests.

THE SYNTHETIC ROUTE TO PROSPERITY

Around 114 BCE, during the time of the Han Dynasty, the merchants of China established the Silk Route - what today the UNESCO has classified as a Heritage Site. It connected mainland China to the Mediterranean countries stretching 15000 kms, passing through South East Asia, the Indian Sub Continent, Middle Eastern regions before culminating in the Mediterranean.

Silk, a textile of ancient Chinese origin, was the catalyst, used to open trade with the Roman Empire. Communication routes and paths of trade across both land and sea carried not only merchandise but also enabled transmission of knowledge, cultures, ideas and beliefs, which had a profound impact on civilization and the history of mankind.

Travelers, along the Silk Roads, were attracted not only by trade but also by the intellectual and cultural exchange that was taking place in cities along the Silk Roads, many of which developed into hubs of culture and learning. Science, arts and literature, as well as crafts and technologies were thus shared and disseminated into societies along the lengths of these routes, and in this way, languages, religions and cultures developed and influenced each other.

Cut to the 21st Century – Once again it is China which is at the forefront of the Synthetic Route, having created **'Keqiao – China Textile City'**. Strategically located at the south of the Yangtze River it is centrally located to three main airports, Hangzhou, Ningbo and Shanghai. Spread across 1080 sq.kms, it houses 12 towns and 4 residential districts, housing a residential population of 6.5 lacs and an equal number of migrants.

Well connected by roads, highways and railways in the Shanghai-Hanghzou-Ningbo corridor, it also uses a well developed river navigation system and nearly 100 transport lines, connecting east of China to the west coast. It is consistently ranked among the top 10 districts in China with a per capital income of USD 27175, on par with some of the leading countries of the western world.

10000 enterprises produce all kinds of textile products, mainly **Synthetic**. 3 million tones of fibers, 16.5 billion metres of fabrics and 200 million garments generate an export turnover of more than USD 10 billion, accounting for 10% of the textile output of China. It offers a complete product chain from **chemical fibers to polyester fabrics, from dyed and printed fabrics to garments and home textiles.**

29000 companies manage 40000 types of products. There are 1200 permanent overseas representative agencies, 6000 permanent overseas purchasers. It generates an annual freight volume of 4 million tones, has 100000 visitors every day who are covered by a sales network across 187 countries, making it the world's largest textile distribution centre!

Keqiao has invested USD 309 million to launch an e-version called the 'Online China Textile City', aiming to create the largest textile e-platform in the world. It has 620000 online shops and hopes to serve 60% of the global textile enterprises in the near future.

Taking cue, Her Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani has spoken to Shri Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh to provide land and other facilities to set up a mega textile city on the lines of Keqiao. It is believed that NITI Aayog's proposal to build a mega textile city on the lines of the China Textile City in Keqiao district may be accepted by the Andhra Pradesh government. The textiles city would mainly cater to the export market. The process of identifying land, technology and expertise for building the city has already been initiated by the Central Government.

The textiles sector, second largest employer in the country, after agriculture, would get a tremendous boost with this announcement. While the exports of textiles and garments fell by 2.4 % last year on a YOY basis, the recent packages announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi of Rs. 6000 crores is expected to create 10 million additional jobs thus increasing the total no of jobs to over 40 million. The government is also working on a revamped national textiles policy, which is expected to be placed before the Cabinet soon. The draft policy focuses on achieving $300 billion exports and 35 million new jobs by 2024-25.

Officials said that HMOT, along with Shri Chandrababu Naidu and top officials from NITI Aayog, would be visiting China to get a first hand information on the working and structure of the proposed mega textile city that would largely cater to the export market and build a brand for Indian textiles.

These developments are happy tidings for the MMF industry as more than 70% of the textile used in the world is synthetic and the trend is only increasing. All stakeholders should now brace themselves to prepare in earnest to ride the Synthetic Route to Prosperity.

SWIFT – A TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH TOWARDS EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

Introduction

For improving the Ease of Doing Business, several facilitation measures are being taken by the Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC) in last two years. In line with the Budget announcement made by the Union Finance Minister and as part of the "Ease of Doing Business" initiatives, CBEC launched the Customs' SWIFT (Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade) Clearances Project w.e.f. 01st April 2016. A single window is a system where all facilities are available in one place.

The Customs' SWIFT enables importers/exporters to file a common electronic 'Integrated Declaration' on the Indian Customs Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data Interchange (EC/EDI) Gateway i.e. ICEGATE portal. The Integrated Declaration compiles the information requirements of Customs and other Partner Government Agencies (PGAs) like Textile Committee, etc. It replaces nine separate forms required by these 6 different agencies and Customs. With the roll-out of the Single Window, CBEC has also introduced an Integrated Risk Management facility for Partner Government Agencies (PGAs), which will ensure that consignments are not selected by agencies routinely for examination and testing, but based on the principle of risk management.

It will also help the participating agencies in handling their respective work areas more effectively. With this development today, Indian Customs is amongst the few select countries in the world that have functional Single Window clearances, inclusive of multiple PGAs and integrated risk based selection.

Implementation of Single Window is by far one of the most complex systems integration efforts that have been taken-up by the Directorate General of Systems. To introduce the Single Window and the 'Integrated Declaration', IT Systems of both the Government Departments and private sector agencies had to be changed. The whole exercise has been coordinated well and all this was made possible due to unstinting efforts put in by the officers of Directorate General of Systems and Single Window team.

The Single Window system is a crucial implementation of trade facilitation measure for goods' clearances at the country's points of entry and exit. Efficiency in the import and export procedures would save large sums of money for the importers and exporters due to reduced trade-related costs and delays. By requiring all participating Government agencies to publish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and timelines, the Committee of Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary has set benchmarks and goals for all related Regulatory Agencies. In order to work collaboratively with the agencies and industry stakeholders, port and central level Customs' Clearance Facilitation Committees (CCFCs) have been established to simplify and streamline their inter-agency procedures and documentary requirements for import and export of cargo.

As you are aware, the time and cost associated with import and export clearances has been a matter of concern for the Government. In order to reduce the transaction costs and decrease cargo release time, a number of steps have been initiated by the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) in last two years. A significant leap in this direction is the launch of the Customs' Single Window clearances. There was strong willingness and support from all stakeholders for the Single Window project. The Department's outreach program and enthusiastic private sector participation helped the department to launch the project in a timely manner.

How will SWIFT help:

- It will provide a single point interface for clearance of import goods.
- Replaces 9 separate documents with one Integrated Customs Electronic Declaration.
- Facilitates trade by reducing Dwell Time & improving Ease of Doing Business.
- Reduces Documentation & Cost of Clearance.
- Brings 6 participating Government agencies on a single platform.
- Eliminates need for tax-payers to interact separately with these agencies.

SWIFT will indeed go a long way in order to take the new trade facilitation initiatives of the present Government to new heights in times to come.

ANTI - DUMPING DUTY - FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

Anti-dumping duties are for combating "dumping", which means that an exporter is setting prices at such a low point, that they are intentionally losing money in order to harm the domestic producers of the importing country. Anti-dumping measures are independent remedies which may be applied by a Member after an investigation and determination by that Member.

1) What is Anti- dumping ?

- An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.

  Dumping is a process where a company exports a product at a price lower than the price it normally charges on its own home market.

2) When does dumping occurs?

- A predatory pricing model wherein exporter prices its goods below what they sell for in their home market.
- When goods are sold to importers in other countries at prices lower than the selling price of comparable goods in the country of export.
- The amount of dumping on imported goods may be offset by the application of "anti-dumping" duty.

3) When does subsidizing occurs?

- When goods imported into the country benefit from foreign government financial assistance.
- The amount of subsidizing on imported goods may be offset by the application of "countervailing" duty.
- Examples of subsidies are loans at preferential rates, grants and tax incentives.

4) What is injury?

- Dumped or subsidized imports are causes of injury.
- Injury may be shown by- reduced prices, lost sales; lost market share, decreased profits, and other such difficulties.

5) What is the purpose of Anti- dumping in international trade?

- Rectify the situation arising out of the dumping of goods and its trade distortive effect.
- An instrument for ensuring fair trade.
- Provides relief to the domestic industry against the injury caused by dumping.

6) What is the difference between Anti dumping duty and Normal Customs duty?

- The objective of Anti- dumping duties is to guard against the situation arising out of unfair trade practices while customs duties are levied as a means of raising revenue and for overall development of the economy.
- Customs duties fall in the realm of trade and fiscal policies of the Government while anti dumping measures are trade remedial measures.
- The object of anti dumping is to offset the injurious effect of international price discrimination while customs duties have implications for the government revenue and for overall development of the economy.
- Anti dumping duties are levied against exporter / country whereas the customs duties which are general and universally applicable to all imports irrespective of the country of origin and the exporter.

7) What are the remedies for Anti- dumping?

- Remedies imposed against dumping are Anti-dumping Duties.
- Remedies imposed against the Subsides are known as Countervailing Duties.
- Safeguard Remedies are in the form of tariffs and quotas.

8) What are other International Trade and Trade-related Organizations?

- World Trade Organization (WTO) - Located in Geneva Switzerland. Website is www.wto.org.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) - Located in Jamaica - Website is www.mfaft.gov.jm.

9) Is there a WTO Agreement on anti dumping?

- On Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 known as the Anti dumping Agreement.

10) What is the legal framework for Anti dumping measures in India?

- Sections 9A, 9B and 9C of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 as amended in 1995,
- The Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995.

11) That is the institutional arrangement in India for Anti dumping Measures against unfair trade practices?

- Administered by the Directorate General of Anti dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD), headed by the "Designated Authority".
- The Designated Authority's function
  - i) to conduct the anti dumping/anti subsidy and countervailing duty investigation,
  - ii) make recommendation to the Government for imposition of anti dumping or anti subsidy measures.
- Anti- dumping duty is finally levied by a Notification of the Ministry of Finance.

12) How to get more information about International Trade and Trade Remedies?

- Consult with a lawyer or other professional who practices in the area of international trade or commercial law or
- Contact the Commission for more details.

13) How long is an investigation?

- Dumping/ Subsidy investigations shall be completed within 180 days (or 305 days with extensions).
- Safeguard investigations shall be completed within 180 days (or 270 with extensions).

14) How to apply for an investigation?

- Applications can be made by or on behalf of the concerned domestic industry to the Designated Authority in the Ministry of Commerce for an investigation of any alleged dumping. The designated authority may initiate an investigation when there is sufficient evidence that dumped imports are causing or are threatening to cause material injury to the Indian industry producing like articles or are materially retarding the establishment of an industry.
- Copies of the prescribed application proforma are available from the Ministry of Commerce. The Ministry requires evidence of the necessary level of support for the application, sufficient evidence that dumping is occurring, and that the domestic industry is being injured.

15) Can the domestic industry seek the help of the Commission in preparing its submission?

- Yes, the domestic industry can seek the help of the Commission in preparing its submission but it is the Responsibility of the affected industry to prepare and submit an application. The Commission will offer advice.

16) What are the parameters used to assess dumping of goods from a country?

- There are two fundamental parameters used for determination of dumping, namely,

  1) Normal Value 2) Export Price

17) What are the essential requisites for initiating an anti dumping Investigation?

The following are essential for initiating an anti dumping investigation:

- Sufficient evidence to the effect that ;
- there is dumping;
- there is injury to the domestic industry; and
- there is a causal link between the dumping and the injury, that is to say, that the dumped imports have caused the alleged injury

18) Who can make an application for initiation of Anti Dumping investigation and imposition of AD duty?

- Applications can be made by or on behalf of the concerned domestic industry to the Designated Authority in the Department of Commerce for an investigation into alleged dumping of a product into India.
- Under the Rules a valid application can be made only by those petitioners/domestic producers who expressly support the application, and account for more than 25% of total domestic production of the like article in question.

19) What is the information required to be submitted by the Domestic Industry for Anti Dumping proceedings?

- Sufficient evidence of dumping in relation to the goods imported from the subject country and the fact that such dumped imports are causing or threatening to cause material injury to the Indian Industry producing the like goods.
- Information relating to the standing of the petitioner/s as domestic industry must be contained in the anti dumping application.
- Application containing the requisite information for the proceedings must be made in the prescribed format devised by the Directorate General of Anti Dumping and Allied Duties and available in the said Directorate.
- Guidelines for filling in the application proforma and for completing the prescribed questionnaire are formulated and incorporated in a user-friendly manner in the application proforma itself.

20) What are the various stages of the investigation process?

An application received by the Designated Authority is dealt with in the following manner:

- Preliminary Screening
- Initiation
- Access to Information
- Preliminary Findings
- Provisional Duty
- Oral Evidence & Public Hearing
- Disclosure of information
- Final Determination
- Time-limit for Investigation Process

21) Who are the interested parties to an anti dumping investigation?

The interested parties to an anti dumping investigation include:

- Domestic producers of the like product in the importing country.
- Exporters or the foreign producers of the product subject to investigation or their trade or business associations.
- Importers of the product under investigation
- Government of the exporting country/ countries.
- Industrial users of the product are provided opportunities for submitting information which is relevant to the investigation.

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INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (IIP) (APRIL-JULY 2015-16)

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) declined by 2.4% in July, 2016 over the index of July, 2015.
- The Cumulative overall growth of IIP registered decline of 0.2% during the period of April-July 2016-17 as compared to the same period of the previous year.
- The Index of Industrial production for the month of July 2016 for Textiles sector grew by 2.3% as compared to July 2015. The cumulative growth in Textiles Sector during April-July 2016-17 over the corresponding period of 2015-16 has been 2.9%.
- The index of manufacturing sector has declined by 3.4% during the month of July 2016, while the cumulative growth during April-July 2016-17 over the corresponding period of the previous year has declined by 1.4%.

The Statement below gives the Quick Estimates of growth rate of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) at 2 digit level of National Industrial Classification (NIC-2004) for the period of April-July 2016-17, along with the cumulative growth rates over corresponding month/period of the previous year:

Industry code	Description	Percentage growth					
		April '15	July'15	April '16	July'16	Apr-July 2016-17	Apr-July 2015-16
17	Textiles	4.4	-0.6	3.4	2.3	2.9	1.0
18	Wearing apparel	10.1	21.7	1.0	-16.2	-2.7	18.2
15-36	Manufacturing	5.1	4.7	-3.1	-3.4	-1.4	4.0
	General	4.1	4.2	-0.8	-2.4	-0.2	3.5

Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI) www.mospi.nic.in

Attention: Members

INDIAN TRADE CLASSIFICATION (HS) CODES FOR MAN-MADE FIBRE TEXTILES

A detailed ITC HS Code Book for Indian Man-made Fibre Textiles is available with the Council. The Book contains Chapter-wise (54 to 63) HS Codes for the following Products.

- Fabrics
- Yarns
- Made-ups
- Fibre

The Book is available for ₹ 115 (including Service Tax), which can be obtained from the Head office or Regional Offices of the Council at Delhi and Surat on payment by cash or on the receipt of Demand Draft (in favour of "The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai) for the requisite amount. Please add ₹ 50/- for mailing charges, if you require the Book through courier.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

DGFT

Sr. No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
(1)	Public Notice No 31/2015-20	09.09.2016	One additional Pre-Shipment Inspection Agency (PSIAs) in terms of Para 2.55(d) of HBP 2015-20 in Appendix 2G.	Making additions in Appendix 2G of Appendices and Aayat Niryat Forms of Foreign Trade Policy, 2015-20 with immediate effect.	http://dgft.gov.in/Exim/2000/PN/PN16/PN3116_english.pdf
(2)	Public Notice No. 30/2015-2020	08.09.2016	Notification of procedure to be followed in cases of incorrectly issued simultaneous benefits of Zero Duty EPCG and SHIS in FTP 2009-14 by the Director General of Foreign Trade in exercise of powers conferred under Para 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020.	DGFT had received references from Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and various exporters, on the subject of incorrectly issued simultaneous benefits of Status Holder Incentive Scheme (SHIS) and Zero Duty EPCG Authorization under Foreign Trade Policy 2009- 14.	http://dgft.gov.in/Exim/2000/PN/PN16/pn3016_English.pdf
(3)	Public Notice No. 27/ 2015-20	31.08.2016	(A) Amendment in HB of Procedures 2015-20 for incorporating Procedures under Special Advance Authorization Scheme (B) Amendment in Appendix-4J relating to Export Obligation Period under Special Advance Authorization Scheme for export of Articles of Apparel and Clothing Accessories under Chapter 61 and 62 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import.	Procedures for Special Advance Authorization Scheme and Amendment in Appendix-4J relating to Export Obligation Period under Special Advance Authorization Scheme for export of Articles of Apparel and Clothing Accessories under Chapter 61 and 62 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import	http://dgft.gov.in/Exim/2000/PN/PN16/PN%20No.27%20(E).pdf
(4)	Trade Notice No. 15/ 2016	31.08.2016	Special Advance Authorisation Scheme for export of Articles of Apparel and Clothing Accessories	Applications for grant of Special Advance Authorisation Scheme for export of Articles of Apparel and Clothing Accessories can be tiled online through DGFT website: http://dgft.gov.in/.	http://dgft.gov.in/Exim/2000/TN/TN16/Trade%20Notice%20No.%2015.pdf
(5)	Trade Notice No. 14/2015-2020	24.08.2016	Constitution of Grievance Redressal Committee	For speedy redressal of grievances of trade and industry pertaining to FTP & related procedure, it has been decided to constitute a Grievance Committee at the level of HQrs. & Zonal RAs, This Committee shall meet once in every quarter in DGFT Hqrs & once in every month at Zonal RAs.	http://dgft.gov.in/Exim/2000/TN/TN16/Trade_Notice_14_dated_24.08.2016.pdf

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

CBEC - CUSTOMS

Sr. No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
(1)	Notification No. 115/ 2016 – Customs (NT)	26.08.2016	Representation by National Association Of Container Freight Stations (NACFS) bound and bank guarantee insurance, cost recovery.	Making regulations to further amend the Handling of Cargo in Customs Areas Regulations, 2009.	http://www.cbec.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2016/cs-nt2016/csnt115-2016.pdf
(2)	Notification No. 114/ 2016 – Customs (NT)	26.08.2016	Setting up of Container Freight Station (CFS) by M/s Visakha	CBEC makes amendment in the Notification No. 78/ 2014- Customs (NT) dated 16th September, 2014 by substituting the following:- " Port of Visakhapatnam etc.	http://www.cbec.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2016/cs-nt2016/csnt114-2016.pdf
(3)	Notification No. 46/2016-Customs	23.08.2016	Seeks to further amend Notification No. 96/2008-Customs dated 13.08.2008	In the said notification, in the Schedule, after Sr.No.33 the following entry shall be added, namely:- Sr.No. – Name of Country "34 – Republic of Guinea-Bissau"	http://www.cbec.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2016/cs-tarr2016/cs46-2016.pdf
(4)	Circular No. 43/ 2016- Customs	31.08.2016	Rebate of State Levies Scheme 2016 (ROSL Scheme) on Export of Garments	The Government of India has decided to adopt a mechanism wherein the rebate of State levies on garment exports is provided based on a budgetary allocation of the Ministry of Textiles under a scheme in which the Department of Revenue/ CBEC handles disbursement along with the extant Duty Drawback.	http://www.cbec.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2016/circ43-2016cs.pdf
(5)	Circular No. 40/ 2016- Customs	26.08.2016	Guidelines on safety and security of premises where imported or export goods are loaded, unloaded or stored.	CBEC has issued revised guidelines on safety & security of premises where imported or export goods are loaded, unloaded, handled or stored. It has been specifically provided that imported goods or export goods which are hazardous in nature shall be stored at the approved premises of the customs cargo service provider(CCSP) in an isolated place duly separated from other general cargo etc.	http://www.cbec.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2016/circ40-2016cs-revised.pdf
(6)	Circular No. 38/2016-Customs	22.08.2016	Guidelines regarding Provisional Assessment u/s 18 of the Customs Act, 1962.	As per the Customs (Provisional Duty Assessment) Regulations 2011, when provisional assessment is ordered, the assessee (importer or exporter) is required to (1) Deposit about 20% of the differential duty (2) Execute a bond (3) Provide surety or security or both, for the bond as deemed fit by the Proper Officer. Now Board has taken some decisions which are given in the Circular.	http://www.cbec.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2016/circ38-2016cs.pdf

NOTICE

CBEC - CENTRAL EXCISE

Sr. No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
(1)	Notification No. 31/ 2016-Central Excise (T)	24.08.2016	Amends Notification No.22/2003-Central Excise dated 31.3.2003.	The Government has now amended this notification to bring into effect the removal of mandatory warehousing.	http://www.cbec.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/excise/cx-act/notifications/notfns-2016/cx-tarr2016/ce31-2016.pdf

MUMBAI CUSTOMS

Sr. No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
(1)	Public Notice No. 107/2016	12.09.2016	Examination/ Inspection of goods under import without Delivery Order	It has been decided by Mumbai Customs decision to reduce the cost/dwell time of clearance of cargo, the inspection of the goods will be allowed by the Customs Officers without any insistence of Delivery Order.	http://www.mumbai-customszone 1.gov.in/Site/PublicNotice.aspx?id=2249& mode= download
(2)	Public Notice No. 100/ 2016	02.09.2016	Communication of queries raised with regard to Drawback through SMS & e- mail	Facility for communicating the queries raised with regard to drawback claims in the EDI system through SMS and e-mail communication is being introduced from 06.09.2016 by the Drawback Section of this Custom House as a measure of trade facilitation.	http://mumbaicus-tomszone1.gov.in/site/PublicNotice.aspx?id=2245& mode=download
(3)	Public Notice No. 97/2016	31.08.2016	Indirect Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2016	Attention is invited of all importers, Customs Brokers and the member of the Trade to Indirect Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2016 & ITDR Scheme Rules, 2016 as notified by Notification No. 29/2016-CE (NT) dated 31.05.2016.	http://mumbaicus-tomszone1.gov.in/site/PublicNotice.aspx?id=2244& mode=download
(4)	Public Notice No. 91/2016-17	11.08.2016	Launch of special drive from 11.8.2016 to 11.11.2016 to resolve pending issues in drawback.	A large number of Drawback Shipping Bills lying pending in the ICES 1.5 queue for want of reply from the Exporter for queries raised for some deficiency.	http://mumbaicus-tomszone1.gov.in/site/PublicNotice.aspx?id=2234& mode=download

SAHAR AIR CARGO CUSTOMS

Sr. No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
(1)	Public Notice No. 34/2016	03.09.2016	Procedure for for Removal of Export General Manifest (EGM) Error	In order to facilitate quick removal of EGM Errors in the EDI System, henceforth Error L i.e., LEO Error will be removed by the Batch Officer posted in Export Shed.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/pub-lic_notices/2016-17/public_no-tice_34_2016_17.pdf

(2)	Public Notice No. 33/2016-17	26.08.2016	Indirect Taxes Resolution Scheme, 2016	Attention is invited to the Notification No. 29/2016-CE (NT) dated 31.05.2016 issued by CBEC.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2016-17/public_notice_33_2016_17.pdf
(3)	Public Notice No.31/2016	18.08.2016	Removal of mandatory warehousing requirements for EOUs, STPIs, EHTPs etc. Amendment to Notification 52/2003-Customs dated 31.03.2003	Attention is invited to Notification No.44/2016 Custom dated 29.07.2016 and Circular No. 3512016 Customs dated 29.07.2016 issued by CBEC regarding removal of mandatory warehousing requirements for EOUs, STPIs, EHTPs etc. Amendment to Notification 52/2003-Customs dated 31.03.2003. In view of the condition of warehousing having been dispensed with, the following procedure will now be followed at 100%EOU Section, A.C.c. Sahar	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2016-17/public_notice_31_2016_17.pdf
(4)	Public notice No.32/ 2016-17	17.08.2016	Implementation of "Service Delivery Excellence Model" called "Sevottam" in General Commissionerate of Air Cargo Complex.	Members are hereby informed that the Disposal of SAD Refund Claim Service has been added in the implementation of SEVOTTAM.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2016-17/public_notice_32_2016_17.pdf
(5)	Facility Notice No. 10/2016-17	09.09.2016	Introduction of SMS based SAD Refund Information System (S-RIS)	With a view to create a responsive, taxpayer friendly and to enhance probity & accountability in the tax administration, the CBEC has introduced a plethora of measures for facilitation of genuine trade. With the recent push towards reducing the pendency of refund claims and quick disposal thereof, Mumbai Air Cargo Complex has decided to leverage information technology to track and intimate the present status of such claims to the importers.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/facility_notices/2016-17/facillity-notice-10-2016-17.pdf
(6)	Facility Notice No. 08/2016-17	18.08.2016	Non-receipt of Bank Realization Certificates	This Public notice has been issued to sensitize all the members that in case their figures in the list given in the Facility Notice 08/2016-17 dated 18.08.2016 then they should immediately contact Sahar Air Cargo Customs.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/facility_notices/2016-17/facillity-notice-08-2016-17.pdf

JNCH CUSTOMS

Sr. No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
(1)	Public Notice No. 120/2016	09.09.2016	Action Plan to reduce Litigations	The Customs Department has filed an application for withdrawal of 04 cases from High Court and 162 cases from CESTAT, of which 03 cases from High Court and 162 cases from CESTAT have already been ordered as withdrawn.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2016/PN_NO_120.pdf

(2)	Public Notice No. 121/2016	08.09.2016	Compliance of Handling of Cargo in Customs Areas Regulations, 2009 by Port Terminals, CFSs, Shipping Lines and Transporters to reduce the dwell time for clearance of imported / export goods.	Members of Trade including all persons responsible for receipt, storage, delivery, dispatch or otherwise handling of imported goods and export goods in any capacity in a Customs area is invited to the Handling of Cargo in Customs Areas Regulations, 2009 as amended by Notification No. 96/2010 dated 12.11.2010.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2016/PN_NO_121.pdf
(3)	Public Notice No. 119/2016	06.09.2016	Guidelines regarding Provisional Assessment under Section 18 of the Customs Act, 1962.	Attention is invited of the members to the Circular No. 38/2016-Customs dated 22.08.2016 regarding guidelines on Provisional Assessment under Section 18 of the Customs Act, 1962.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2016/PN_NO_119.pdf
(4)	Public Notice No. 116/2016	31.08.2016	Guidelines on safety and security of premises where imported or export goods are loaded, unloaded, handled or stored	The guidelines contained in Annexure-A of CBEC circular No.4/2011 dated 10.1.2011 stands modified to the above extent, vide Board circular No.40/2016-Cus dated 26.08.2016.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2016/PN_NO_116.pdf
(5)	Public Notice No.114/ 2016	25.08.2016	Regarding non levy of Anti Dumping Duty while filing online Bills of Entry.	Members of the Trade/ CHA are requested to make correct declaration regarding leviability of Anti- Dumping Duty in the Bills of Entry filed under self assessment procedure.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2016/PN_NO_114.pdf

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Sr. No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
(1)	RBI/2016-17/59	01.09.2016	Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) structure – unbundling of charges	A reference is invited to our circulars DPSS.CO.PD.No.2361/02.14.003/2011-12 dated June 28, 2012 and DPSS.CO.PD.No.27/02.14.003/2012-13 dated July 04, 2012 wherein directions pertaining to merchant discount rates (MDR) for debit card transactions were issued. 2. It has been brought to RBI's notice that in many instances charges for merchants are bundled and a composite fee is levied on merchants irrespective of the type of card used. This practice hinders adherence to the extant regulatory mandate. Further, this not only disincentivises merchants from accepting cards but also gives them scope to indiscriminately pass on the costs to the customers in the form of surcharge	https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10591&Mode=0
(1)	RBI/2016-17/37	11.08.2016	Priority Sector Lending status for Factoring Transactions	To increase liquidity support for the MSME sector, it has been decided that factoring transactions on 'with recourse' basis shall be eligible for priority sector classification by banks, which are carrying out the business of factoring departmentally.	https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10549&Mode=0

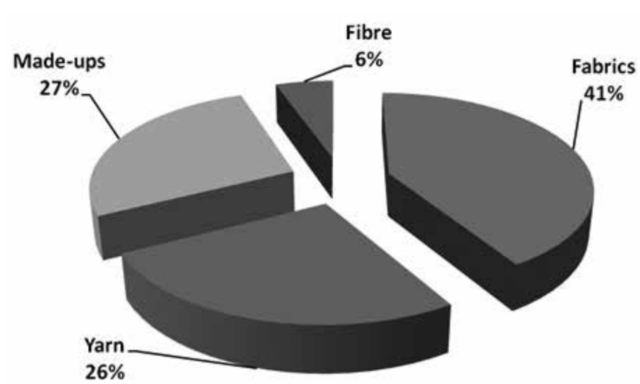
EXPORTS OF INDIAN MAN-MADE FIBRE TEXTILES DURING APRIL – AUGUST 2016-17

Exports of Indian MMF textiles during April-August 2016-17 were US$ 1776.57 Million against US$ 2018.20 Million during the same period of the previous year witnessing a decline of around 12% (SOURCE: Port Data)

Value in US$ Mn

	April-August 2016-17	April-August 2015-16	Grw/decline (%)
Fabrics	733.52	827.80	-11.39
Yarn	465.89	534.75	-12.88
Made-ups	481.59	529.19	-9.00
Fibre	95.58	126.47	-24.42
Total	**1776.57**	**2018.20**	**-11.97**

PRODUCT SHARE



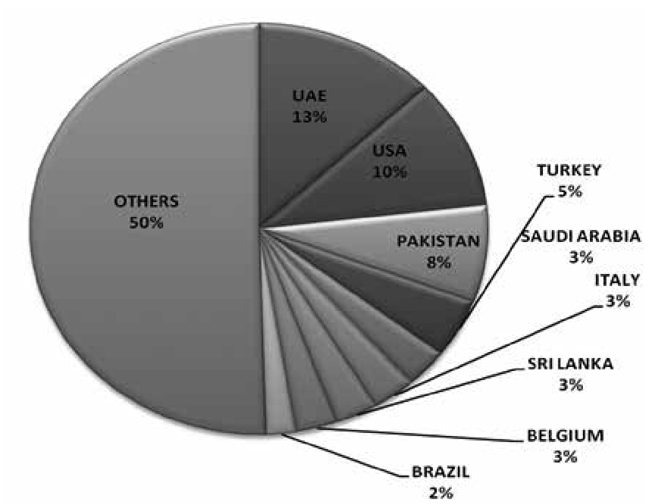
HIGHLIGHTS

- Overall exports in April-August 2016-17 declined by 11.97% as compared to the same period of the previous year.
- Exports of Fabrics dominated with 41% share followed by Yarn 26%, Made-ups 27% and Fibre 6% in the Indian MMF textile exports.
- Share of the value added segments like fabrics and Made-ups have increased to 68% of total exports.
- However, all the four segments witnessed decline in export like fibre (-24.42%), yarn (-(-(-12.88%), fabrics (-11.39%), and made-ups (-9%).
- In the fabrics segment Polyester Filament Fabrics (US$ 213.25 Mn) remained the top exported product in India's MMF textile exports followed by Synthetic Filament Fabrics (US$ 186.29 Mn) and Polyester Viscose Fabrics (US$ 115.14 Mn) during April-August 2016-17.
- In case of MMF yarn exports, Polyester Filament Yarn was the leading item with exports worth US$ 205.80 Mn followed by Polyester Spun Yarn (US$ 49.63 Mn) and Polyester Viscose Yarn (US$ 46.73 Mn).
- In Made-ups, exports of Bulk Containers was the leading item with exports worth US$ 112.74 Mn followed by Muffler and Shawls/Scarves worth US$ 66.65 Mn and US$ 46.46 Mn respectively.
- Polyester Staple Fibre (US$ 40.96 Mn) was the leading item in the MMF category followed by Viscose Staple Fibre (US$ 39.63 Mn) and Acrylic Staple Fibre (US$ 8.15 Mn).
- Exports of Viscose Spun Fabrics and Polyester Spun fabrics which accounted for share of nearly 1% in the Indian MMF fabrics exports, have witnessed excellent growth of 47.58% and 17.60%.
- UAE was the leading market for Indian MMF textiles during April-August 2016-17 with 13% share in total exports followed by USA 10% and Turkey 5%.
- Neighbouring country Pakistan has emerged as the 3rd largest market for India's MMF textile export with a share of 8% during April-August 2016-17.
- Leading markets with positive growth are China (60.54%), Canada (14.30%) and Korea Dem Rep (11.16%)
- Other major markets during April-August 2016-17 were Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Italy, and Belgium

with share of 3% each in the Indian MMF Textiles exports.

- Senegal with a share of nearly 1% in the Indian MMF Made-ups export has grown by 383.54%.
- UAE and USA were the leading market for Indian MMF Fabrics and USA was also leading market for Indian MMF Made-up during the period.

MMF EXPORT COUNTRY SHARE



PRODUCT-WISE EXPORT PERFORMANCE APRIL–AUGUST 2016-17

Value in USD Mn

Products	April-Aug 2016-17	April-Aug 2015-16	Net Change	% Change
FABRICS (Woven+non-woven+knitted)				
Polyester Filament	213.25	227.75	-14.5	-6.37
Synthetic Filament	186.29	219.47	-33.18	-15.12
Polyester Viscose	115.14	150.76	-35.62	-23.63
Polyester Blended	76.55	79.44	-2.89	-3.64
Synthetic Non Specified	43.53	40.75	2.78	6.82
Synthetic Cotton	17.03	19.28	-2.25	-11.67
Polyester Cotton	16.64	16.07	0.57	3.55
Polyester Wool	15.81	17.59	-1.78	-10.12
Polyester Spun	13.63	11.59	2.04	17.6
Viscose Spun	6.11	4.14	1.97	47.58
Nylon Filament	5.94	7.3	-1.36	-18.63
Synthetic Blended	4.31	9.51	-5.2	-54.68
Viscose Blended	3.98	4.91	-0.93	-18.94
Other Fabrics	15.29	19.25	-3.96	-20.57
Total Fabrics	**733.5**	**827.81**	**-94.31**	**-11.39**

Products	April-Aug 2016-17	April-Aug 2015-16	Net Change	% Change
YARN				
Polyester Filament	205.8	290.89	-85.09	-29.25
Polyester Spun	49.63	36.85	12.78	34.68
Polyester Viscose	46.73	40.36	6.37	15.78
Viscose Spun	45.3	27.73	17.57	63.36
Polyester Cotton	44.04	55.59	-11.55	-20.78
Viscose Filament	20.88	22.36	-1.48	-6.62
Acrylic Spun	15.62	14.11	1.51	10.7
Synthetic Spun	9.55	12.82	-3.27	-25.51
Polyester Wool	9.5	8.63	0.87	10.08
Artificial Spun	4	3.36	0.64	19.05
Synthetic Non Specified	3.16	5.83	-2.67	-45.8
Other Yarn	11.65	16.24	-4.59	-28.26
Total	**465.86**	**534.77**	**-68.91**	**-12.89**
MADE-UPS				
Bulk Containers	112.74	131.93	-19.19	-14.55
Muffler	66.65	99.87	-33.22	-33.26
Shawls/Scarves	46.46	54.02	-7.56	-13.99
Motifs	34.72	31.46	3.26	10.36
Fishing Net	16.4	19.04	-2.64	-13.87
Blanket	12.03	16.52	-4.49	-27.18
Bed Linen	9.46	9.02	0.44	4.88
Bed sheet	7.94	7.78	0.16	2.06
Rope	7.14	7.68	-0.54	-7.03
Dress Material	5.45	6.89	-1.44	-20.9
Dish-cloths/Dusters	5.1	4.56	0.54	11.84
Braids	4.27	5.1	-0.83	-16.27
Sacks and Bags	4.13	8.08	-3.95	-48.89
Tulles	3.98	3.33	0.65	19.52
Curtains	3.29	3.38	-0.09	-2.66
Other Made-ups	141.82	120.52	21.3	17.67
Total	**481.58**	**529.18**	**-47.6**	**-9**
FIBRE				
Polyester Staple	40.96	49.58	-8.62	-17.39
Viscose Staple	39.63	54.42	-14.79	-27.18
Acrylic Staple	8.15	12.69	-4.54	-35.78
Other Fibre	6.82	9.77	-2.95	-30.19
Total Fibre	**95.56**	**126.46**	**-30.90**	**-24.43**

* Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container (HS Code 63053200)/big bag/bulk bag or Super Sack is a standardized container in large dimensions for storing and transporting dry, flowable products, for example sand, fertilizers , and granules of plastics, most often made of thick woven polyethylene or polypropylene, either coated or uncoated.

** Other Made-ups include Tents, Sails, Rags, Embroidery (without visible ground) & Accessories.

LEADING MARKETS

Value in USD Mn

Sr. No.	Country	April-Aug 2016-17	April-Aug 2015-16	Net Change	%Grw/ Decline
1	UAE	229.51	299.52	-70.01	-23.37
2	USA	181.47	239.33	-57.86	-24.18
3	PAKISTAN	134.64	181.92	-47.28	-25.99
4	TURKEY	82.83	86.3	-3.47	-4.02
5	SAUDI ARABIA	54.12	58.8	-4.68	-7.96
6	ITALY	54.06	56.77	-2.71	-4.77
7	SRI LANKA	53.17	57.59	-4.42	-7.67
8	BELGIUM	51.53	51.51	0.02	0.04
9	BRAZIL	38.13	40.43	-2.30	-5.69
10	HONG KONG	35.87	30.78	5.09	16.54
11	NETHERLANDS	35.6	36.81	-1.21	-3.29
12	GERMANY	34.75	38.35	-3.60	-9.39
13	EGYPT	31.98	22.47	9.51	42.32
14	SPAIN	30.91	37.28	-6.37	-17.09
15	KOREA, DEM REP	29.29	26.35	2.94	11.16
16	CANADA	22.86	20	2.86	14.30
17	FRANCE	21.29	23.1	-1.81	-7.84
18	CHINA	19.73	12.29	7.44	60.54
19	VIETNAM, DEM	19.4	24.81	-5.41	-21.81

MAJOR MARKETS FOR MMF FABRICS

Value in USD Mn

Country	April-Aug 2016-17	April-Aug 2015-16	Net Change	%Grw/ Decline
UAE	154.82	198.01	-43.19	-21.81
USA	77.17	121.29	-44.12	-36.38
PAKISTAN	54.56	50.73	3.83	7.55
SRI LANKA	40.69	46.12	-5.43	-11.77
HONG KONG	27.53	25.61	1.92	7.5
SAUDI ARABIA	24.61	29.3	-4.69	-16.01
VIETNAM, DEM	16.95	20.04	-3.09	-15.42
SPAIN	15.26	16.4	-1.14	-6.95
EGYPT	14.55	19.23	-4.68	-24.34
COTE D IVOIRE	13.25	10.02	3.23	32.24
ITALY	13	14.24	-1.24	-8.71
KOREA, DEMO REP	11.86	11.63	0.23	1.98
SENEGAL	10.54	6.99	3.55	50.79
BELGIUM	10.54	8.28	2.26	27.29
IRAQ	10.41	6.8	3.61	53.09
CHINA	10.04	2.69	7.35	273.23
KUWAIT	10.01	9.96	0.05	0.5
MAURITIUS	7.42	5.81	1.61	27.71
NIGERIA	7.17	7.89	-0.72	-9.13
GERMANY	7.11	5.41	1.7	31.42
SINGAPORE	7.04	7.7	-0.66	-8.57

Country	April-Aug 2016-17	April-Aug 2015-16	Net Change	%Grw/ Decline
SUDAN	6.8	7.14	-0.34	-4.76

MAJOR MARKETS FOR MMF YARN

Value in USD Mn

Country	April-Aug 2016-17	April-Aug 2015-16	Net Change	%Grw/ Decline
TURKEY	76.8	74.87	1.93	2.58
USA	34.31	74.35	-40.04	-53.85
BRAZIL	34.18	36.15	-1.97	-5.45
PAKISTAN	26.09	22.06	4.03	18.27
BELGIUM	23.71	22.24	1.47	6.61
EGYPT	17.82	15.77	2.05	13
COSTA RICA	14.74	10.39	4.35	41.87
KOREA,REP	11.83	12.91	-1.08	-8.37
MOLDOVA,REP	10.85	9.41	1.44	15.3
KOREA, DEM REP	10.74	11.25	-0.51	-4.53
NETHERLANDS	8.75	11.95	-3.2	-26.78
GUADELOUPE	8.11	11.54	-3.43	-29.72
SRI LANKA	7.86	7.4	0.46	6.22
ARGENTINA	7	5.21	1.79	34.36
PERU	6.99	13.11	-6.12	-46.68
JAPAN	6.52	6.33	0.19	3
SAUDI ARABIA	6.5	8.48	-1.98	-23.35

MAJOR MARKETS FOR MMF MADE-UPS

Value in USD Mn

Country	April-Aug 2016-17	April-Aug 2015-16	Net Change	%Grw/ Decline
USA	84.92	101.46	-16.54	-16.3
SAUDI ARABIA	67.31	92.37	-25.06	-27.13
ITALY	29.97	28.69	1.28	4.46
UAE	24.5	18.5	6	32.43
GERMANY	21.64	13.15	8.49	64.56
NETHERLANDS	18.43	16.77	1.66	9.9
SPAIN	14.16	18.77	-4.61	-24.56
CROATIA	13.33	16.13	-2.8	-17.36
CANADA	12.73	8.47	4.26	50.3
FRANCE	12.38	14.78	-2.4	-16.24
BELGIUM	11.07	12.03	-0.96	-7.98
SENEGAL	7.93	1.64	6.29	383.54
HONG KONG	7.41	3.84	3.57	92.97
AUSTRALIA	7.33	10.63	-3.3	-31.04
BENIN	7.17	15.62	-8.45	-54.1
KOREA, DEM REP	6.5	3.06	3.44	112.42
NIGERIA	6.37	7.27	-0.9	-12.38
UNITED KINGDOM	6.29	8.81	-2.52	-28.6

SRTEPC holds its 62nd Annual General Meeting in Mumbai

(Continued from Page 1)

Chairman said that the issues regarding the GST should be debated by the Empowered committee and the GST Council, so that there is clarity on the issues likely to be faced by textile exporters.

Setting up of Centre of Excellence

The Chairman pointed out the Ministry of Textile in the last few months have been taking steps to bring about positive changes in the industry which is encouraging. The SRTEPC Chairman said that the National Textile Policy is being announced on 6th October, 2016 and will come into effect from January, 2017.

He stated that the city that will host the Centre of Excellence and the organization responsible for the functioning has not yet been declared. However, he said product development could begin in the Centre of Excellence.

Export Promotion Programme

The Chairman assured that the Council would chalk its Export Promotion Programme for the year 2016-17 taking into consideration the MSMEs in the MMF textile industry. He said that around 70% of the exporters in the MMF textile industry are MSMEs and it would be the endeavor of the Council to cater to them. He mentioned that these MSMEs were situated in different parts of the country especially West, South and Central India and therefore the Council will have to look into the needs of these MSMEs. He assured the members that whenever the Council prepares the promotional programmes for the year 2016-17, it will be prepared keeping in mind the 70% MSME exporters and their requirements.

Reverse Buyer Seller Meet

The Chairman informed that the Council had oganised “Source India”, Surat (RBSM) during 13-14 August, 2016 which was a successful event. The Council had invited 100 buyers and 100 members participated in the event. The Council has plans of organizing the RBSM every year but it is not necessary the Ministry of Textiles gives its approval to hold the same. He said that still the Council will try to hold the RBSM is Surat at least for 2-3 times continuously.

Shri Rajvanshi informed the members that the Council has completed the E-voting process for approval of some amendments in Articles of Association.

The Chairman said that the presence of MMF exporters in the Ministry of Textiles is very less whereas Cotton exporters are well known in the Ministry. He urged the members that whenever they are in Delhi to make it a point to visit Ministry of Textiles and at least meet a Director level officer there. This will make the presence of MMF Textiles Exporters felt.

SRTEPC MEMBERS DIRECTORY

The Chairman also informed that during the year, the Council to commemorate its 60th year had brought out a Members Directory. He mentioned that the Directory has detailed information about members and is a useful reference book and a sourcing guide for the industry, importers, buying houses and agents. He said that each member of the Council should have a copy of the Directory as this would be beneficial to them.

Thank you!

Shri Anil Rajvanshi took the opportunity to place on record his gratitude to everybody in the Ministry and said that the textile industry has been on the path of recovery in the last 6-7 months.

5000 MEMBERSHIP MARK

Shri V. Anil Kumar, Executive Director, SRTEPC in his speech expressed satisfaction that the Council had crossed the 5000 membership mark and said that it is the Council’s endeavor to further strengthen its membership base.

The Executive Director further declared the names of the members elected to the Committee of Administration for the year 2016-17.

The Executive Director also said that the textile industry is gearing up for the GST in April 2017. He assured the members that the Council would look into the implications of GST to the textile industry especially MMF textiles and take up matters with the Ministry in case of difficulties faced by the exporters as far as burden of taxes are concerned.

Vote of thanks

Proposing a vote of thanks, Shri Sri Narain Aggarwal, vice Chairman thanked Shri Anil Rajvanshi. He also thanked the former Chairmen of the Council for their active involvement and whole hearted support and guidance to all the activities of the Council.

He thanked the members of the Committee of Administration for their august presence and for their continued contribution to the deliberations of the Council. He said that the Council is indebted to them for their sincere association in all its activities and look forward to their dedicated involvement to take its functions to greater heights.

View of the members at the Annual General Meeting

The Vice Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to the member-exporters of the Council for their presence at the Meeting and their participation in the various activities of the Council which ensures its success. He looked forward to their continued support for the activities of the Council.

He also placed on record his gratitude to Shri Anil Kumar, Executive Director, the dedicated officers and staff of the Council on this occasion and appreciated their whole hearted involvement in accomplishing various activities of the Council.

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