Action taken on issues/suggestions put forth by the members of BoT/CTDP
in meeting held on 6.06.2019

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<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Issues/Suggestions</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Customs to explore the possibility of installing X-Ray Scanners at all major ports to enable faster import/export clearances to reduce transaction costs and congestion. CBIC to assess the total no of container scanners required along with the budgetary requirements and come out with a concrete plan in a defined time frame of 3 months. Possibilities regarding seed capital funding etc. to finance this initiative also to be explored and project status to be informed to the Department of Commerce.</td>
<td>CBIC (i) Presently, 12 Scanners of various types (after excluding 01 Mobile Scanner at JNPT, which has been de-commissioned w.e.f. 01.01.2019) are operational at 08 Ports, namely JNPT (01 Fixed, 01 Drive-through Road), Kandla (01 Fixed), Mundra (01 Mobile, 01 Drive-through Road), Mumbai (01 Fixed), Cochin (01 Drive-through Road), Tuticorin (01 Mobile, 01 Fixed), Chennai (01 Mobile, 01 Fixed) and Krishnapatnam (01 Drive-through Road). All scanners, other than at Krishnapatnam, have been procured and installed by CBIC/DoL. The Drive-through Scanner (Road) at Krishnapatnam has also been installed as per the specifications given by the CBIC. (ii) In the meeting of CoS dated 23.12.2015, it was decided that procurement and installation of various types of Container Scanners would be done by the M/o Shipping. Pursuant thereto, CBIC had projected a requirement of 13 Mobile Scanners, 05 Drive-through Scanners (Road) and 01 Drive-through Rail Scanner to the M/o Shipping. Ministry of Shipping had assigned this work to IPA. IPA took up the procurement work in a phased manner. In the first phase, orders have been placed for procurement of 08 Mobile Scanners, which are under installation &amp; commissioning. The work of installation &amp; commissioning of 04 Drive-through Container Scanners has been awarded to M/s Rapiscan by IPA. (iii) Upon a review taken by the Revenue Secretary, certain proposals were made to the Cabinet Secretariat for expediting procurement. Cabinet Secretariat, vide I.D.No.082/1/1/2016-CA.IV dated 12.04.2019 stated that D/o Revenue and M/o Shipping are in agreement for procurement of Container Scanners through</td>
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Directorate of Logistics (DoR). Hence, D/o Revenue and M/o Shipping were requested to work out a timetable for the timely completion of the procurement of Container Scanners for Major Ports of India. In view of the above decisions of Cabinet Secretariat, following course of action has been agreed between the DoR and M/o Shipping:

(a) Procurement, installation of 08 MXCIS, for which orders have already been placed by IPA, shall continue and be done by IPA/Ministry of Shipping. Tender process in respect of 05 DTSR will be completed by IPA. Post-award work including FAT, SAT etc., will be taken over by CBIC/DoL subject to appropriate provisions being made by the IPA in the letter of award requiring the successful bidders to comply with the directions of the CBIC/DoL. Further, appropriate contractual arrangements for making the successful vendor responsible to CBIC/DoL for in-warranty maintenance and post-warranty maintenance would have to be made. IPA/Ports would remain responsible for payment to the vendors. On 09.07.2019, IPA has issued Letter of Intent for 04 Drive-through Scanner (Road), however, the Contracts are yet to be signed.

(b) The procurement of 05 MXCIS can be taken over and tendered by CBIC/DoL. Ministry of Shipping would provide land (free of any encumbrances) and utilities such as electricity, water etc., free of cost. Tender has been uploaded on e-procurement portal on 27.08.2019. The project will be funded by CBIC. The projected estimate on the procurement has been given **Rs. 206 Crores**.

(c) The 01 DTRS for JNPT shall be procured and installed by CBIC/DoL. In a meeting taken by the Revenue Secretary on 26.04.2019, Member (Traffic), Railway Board has agreed to provide necessary operational support for speedy implementation of the project. JNPT shall provide access road and services up to the site. Tender for procurement has been uploaded on e-Procurement Portal on 15.07.2019. The project will be funded by CBIC. The projected estimate on the procurement has been given **Rs. 94.42 Crores**.

(iv) In respect of Container Scanners at Private Ports, it is submitted that the operators of Private Ports namely Krishnapatnam Port, Pipavav Port, Katupally Port and Hazira Port have been persuaded to procure Drive-through Container Scanners
### 2. A robust online mechanism to establish Track and Trace in the ‘Pharma’ sector to be implemented in three months by Pharmexcil/DoC.

Care to be taken that the new system is user friendly and will take care of the concerns of the MSME sector.

**[Action: JS, EP [Pharma], DoC - 3 months]**

Pharmexcil entrusted the task of developing web portal for authentication of Pharmaceutical exports to C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advance computing) and after mutual acceptance of the ToRs, Pharmexcil had issued the request of the proposal to C-DAC on 13th June, 2019. CDAC developed an outline of the proposed Web Portal which was put up for detailed interaction with the entire cross-section of the industry on 5th August 2019. During this workshop, CDAC team and the industry exchanged notes on the proposed functionalities, data inputs and accessibility by various stakeholders. The complete web architecture was discussed in detail.

Subsequent to the meeting, the proposed outline was circulated among the industry and the inputs for further refinement have been compiled by Pharmexcil and CDAC team. CDAC team visited the manufacturing units to get first-hand overview of the existing coding process. CDAC is expected to provide the blue print of complete Web portal Architecture by second week of September, 2019 which will be used for developing the prototype of the web portal in consultation with Pharmexcil. The status will be reviewed by the end of third week of September, 2019.

### 3. Time cycle for anti-dumping investigations needs to be considerably reduced so that domestic industry concerns are quickly addressed. DGTR to handhold MSMEs to file applications related to trade remedy measures.

**DGTR**

(i) During and since 2018-2019, DGTR has undertaken several steps towards making the organization more efficient and accountable. These include publishing of the Manual of Operating Practices for Trade Remedy Investigations, the Handbook of Operating Procedures of Trade Defence Wing, an updated Frequently Asked Questions and brochures on various Trade Remedial Measures in Hindi and English.

(ii). A **Help Desk** has also been set up in DGTR for providing guidance to
sector industries to file trade remedy petitions as they will not be able to provide the required data, documents etc. Industry chambers also to establish mechanisms and create a framework through which large scale imports which hurt industry can be suitably flagged on time to the Government for redressal through anti dumping, safeguard or other support measures. Directorate General of Trade Remedies to take a comprehensive review and submit a report within 45 days.

[Action: DGTR - 45 days]

(iii). It is also undertaking Outreach Programmes at various places with a view to disseminate knowledge of various provisions and processes. On 25th June 2019, when a day long Outreach Programme was conducted at Gurugram with support of FIEO one session is being exclusively devoted to provide exposure and training relating to online filing of petitions.

(iv). The e-filing facility for anti-dumping investigations (ARTIS) is likely to be formally launched shortly which would greatly facilitate filling of petitions and response by all stakeholders during the course of trade remedial investigations.

(v). Investigations process has been further streamlined by prescription of updated comprehensive questionnaire formats for filling response by Producer/Exporters and Importers and Domestic Industry.

(vi). A checklist for prima facie scrutiny of applications for completeness of documents was issued which has helped in reducing the issue of deficiency letters and has expedited decisions on initiation as well as investigation leading to expedited final findings.

(vii). As a result of these efforts, there is a sharp decline in the average time taken for completion of investigations – time taken in issue of final findings from the date of initiation, which has come down to 281 days in 2018-2019 as against 407 days in 2017-18.

(viii). However, since trade remedial investigations are a quasi-judicial function, wherein the investigation is undertaken in conformity with relevant Rules, adequate time has to be provided to various stakeholders for filling response which limits the scope of shrinking the time line beyond a point.

(ix). To cater to the difficulties face by micro, small and medium enterprises in availing benefits of trade remedial measures due to lack of awareness about legal procedures and processes, inadequate documentation and / or costs involved, DGTR has written a letter to FICCI, FIEO and CII requesting them to support the MSMEs by providing them with requisite information when approached by the same.

4. On lines of the Textiles sector, steps need to be taken to extend and implement the new scheme, Rebate on DGFT (PC-3)

The draft Cabinet Note on the proposed scheme was circulated to all Ministries/Departments on 17.07.2019. The Department of Expenditure has sought
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<td><strong>5.</strong></td>
<td>DPIIT will work with Industry (including apex industry associations like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, PHDCCI and FIEO) and examine the possibility of organizing a National Industry Investor Summit on lines of the Gujarat Summit. Preferable months to be November or February.</td>
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<td><strong>[Action: DPIIT- 45 days]</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6.</strong></td>
<td>State Governments were requested to work on promotion and facilitation of product-specific clusters for 50 sectors with high manufacturing potential. A formal letter to Chief Ministers of all States/UTs may be sent for identifying and creating such clusters with GOI support. Such clusters will also be marketed by GOI in their promotion plans for attracting foreign direct investment.</td>
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<td><strong>[Action: AS (DPIIT), 3 months - review in 45 days]</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7.</strong></td>
<td>Urgent steps to be taken to boost exports of ‘Organic’ produce. Further,</td>
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the ways of rationalizing the Mandi/APMC fees across States would be examined by the DPIIT.

**[Action: DPIIT, 3 months]**

### 8. APEDA

APEDA to create a portal which will host consolidated information of all FPOs from all over the country. This will help in establishing a linkage between FPOs and the exporters. Necessary dialogue to be initiated with Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (SFAC) and other stakeholders.

**[Action: APEDA, 3 months]**

**DOC**

APEDA has created a Farmer Connect Portal on 10th June, 2019 at APEDA’s website for providing a platform for connecting farmers and exporters. The portal is helping the farmers to identify exporters of their interest for supplying the produce for exports.

The features in the portal are being added to facilitate the FPOs and exporters further. Till now 740 FPOs have already registered at Farmer Connect Portal.

### 9. Ministry of Railways

Ministry of Railways to leverage the railways’ real estate and other assets for creating export infrastructure by exploring the possibility of setting up bonded warehouses at major transit points on vacant railway land to facilitate storage/movement of goods at affordable cost. In addition, 25 railway stations which are less utilized may be identified by Railways where warehousing can be started. Industry can also give suggestion regarding such stations. Ministry of Railways to identify 5 high volume export commodities where freight rate can be
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Top 50 tariff lines, which constitute around 60% of India’s import, to be examined in detail for possible ways to reduce import dependence. A specific action plan for each item to be drawn up in consultation with stakeholders and submitted.</td>
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<td>[Action: Additional DGFT (AS), DoC - 15 days]</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>All FTAs would be studied to analyze the impact of such FTAs on Indian Industry and identify pain points. Action plan to be submitted to find the work around for promoting Indian exports within the agreed framework/agreements.</td>
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<td>[Action: AS (TPD), DoC - 15 Days]</td>
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| 12. | ECGC would fast track the disposal of claims and put in public domain a detailed list of the pending claims including current status, likely date of disposal etc. for better transparency. All claims which are rejected must have ECGC  
In order to fast track disposal of claims, we have strengthened the Regional Claim Processing Centres and also issued necessary instructions in this regard. We have also placed the status of the pending claim on our website which can be viewed by the concerned Policyholder. Claims that are rejected are conveyed to the exporters with detailed explanation of the reasons/grounds due to which the Corporation is
| 13. | States Cell in the DoC to hold meetings with State Governments/State Export Commissioners on pre-announced fixed dates for discussion on issues related to export infrastructure and state specific export strategies. Such meetings should also include participation of GST authorities and exporters to the extent possible.  

**Action:** AS (States Cell), DoC – 15 days | States Cell,(DoC)  
Vide O.M. dated 7th June, 2019, Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary / EA level officers in the Department of Commerce have been appointed as Nodal officers for each State/UT with an objective to coordinate the efforts of respective States in the field of export promotion. The Nodal Officers have been requested to hold regular bi-monthly meetings of the Export commissioners and other State Government officials with exporters from their respective State / UTs. It has been further requested that the meetings be time-tabled on a nominated day of the month.  
As per an initiative launched by DOC, Commerce Secretary leads of officials from Dept of Commerce, DGFT, Customs, other Ministry representatives, etc for convening meetings with the State/UT Government officials to discuss export facilitation measures and to sensitize the States on the need to promote trade related infrastructure. This meeting, jointly chaired by the Commerce Secretary and the Chief Secretary of the State, discusses specific issues related to exports from the state, including issues of taxation/levies, power, water, road/rail connectivity, concerns raised by the stakeholders etc. Further, to the extent possible, Commerce Secretary has undertaken 28 visits to various States/UTs till date, the last visit being to the state of Manipur on June 19-20, 2019. |
|---|---|
| 14. | DPIIT/DoC to evolve a ranking framework to evaluate the State | State Cell,(DoC)  
Department of Commerce had undertaken a study titled as LEADS – Logistics Ease
| 15. | A formal communication to be sent to all States for setting up of a nodal agency for Agriculture Export Policy and other aspects relating to agri exports. Communication to go from CIM to the CMs of various states. | DOC  
The matter is being pursued with the State Governments. 23 States have already designated nodal agencies for agricultural exports. State-specific action plans to promote have been prepared by APEDA. Meetings have been held/are being held with the State Governments for vetting and finalization of action plans. Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have finalized their respective plans.  
DoC, in association with NABARD, organized a consultative meet on Agri Export promotion on 9th August 2019 in Mumbai. Commerce Secretary, Secretary Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Additional Secretary Department of Agriculture cooperation and Farmer’s Welfare (DAC&FW), Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries (DoF), Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce (DoC), |
| Governments for facilitation provided by them to industry for manufacturing, exports and logistics support. | Across Different State, capturing and presenting customer’s assessment of the Logistics services provided in the State by all service providers including the State and Central Agencies and the private sector. A sub-national logistics performance ranking across the States was prepared based on the stake holders’ perception of their logistics efficiency including transport infrastructure and other logistics aspects relating to documentation, information exchange, single window platforms, payment mechanisms, digitization, etc. The LEADS report was released in the 3rd Trade Council Meeting held on 08-01-2018. The Report has been circulated all States/Union Territories requesting them to apprise their action plan to address the issues pertaining to them and the assistance that Doc could provide to address the logistics bottlenecks highlighted in the Report.  
NITI Aayog is also in the process of preparing an Export Preparedness Index to rank all states on their export readiness, for which inputs have been provided by Doc to NITI Aayog.  
DPIIT  
Quality Control of India was requested to develop a framework along with Terms of Reference for ranking of States in terms of support provided to industry in the area of manufacturing, exports and logistics.  
In response, a Note on Ranking Framework of States on ‘Support to Industry Index’ has been received from QCI on 8th July, 2019. The note is currently being examined.  
**[Action: AS (States Cell), DoC and DPIIT- 45 days]** |
senior officials from State Governments, DGFT, NABARD, APEDA, Commodity Boards and Banks participated in the meeting. Issues related to agricultural exports and the role of State Governments in promoting agri exports were discussed in detail.

| 16. | DPIIT will encourage States to leverage public procurement by implementing Make in India Public Procurement Order. |
|     | DPIIT (i). Letters written to State Governments to formulate guidelines at State level to provide preference to locally manufactured goods and services in public procurement:- |
|     | • CIM requested Chief Ministers of States (DO letter dated 14.06.2019, 23.10.2018 and 05.01.2018) |
|     | • Principal Secretary to PM to Chief Secretaries of States (DO letter dated 02.11.2018) |
|     | • Cabinet Secretary to Chief Secretaries of the States (DO letter dated 30.08.2017) |
|     | (ii) States of Manipur and Nagaland have already issued notifications for providing preference to domestic industry on lines of Public Procurement (Make in India) Order. |
| 17. | EEPC suggestion to provide steel to MSME Engineering exporters at international prices, from the domestic steel suppliers, under the Advance Authorization scheme to be examined by DGFT. |
|     | DGFT A meeting of Hon’ble CIM and Steel Minister was held. A solution has been worked where Advance Authorisation holder/ ARO/ Invalidation will be supplied steel on FOB export prices. M/o Steel will issue necessary instruction in this regard. |
| 18. | To examine the leverage available with Exim Bank for export lending in line with the international norms and suggest regulatory and other changes which need to be put in place for enhanced credit penetration and |
|     | EXIM 1. Exim Bank primarily provides medium / long term export credit (more than 1 year) for export of goods and services from India, particularly project exports and large value supply contracts. Exim Bank is more suitable to provide medium / long term export credit in foreign currency, as, unlike a majority of the commercial banks and other financial intermediaries, it has the ability to raise medium / long
capacity.

[Action: Exim Bank - 7 days]

term foreign currency resources from the international capital markets at benchmarks rates, primarily on account of its Sovereign holding.

2. Project exports are a measure of a nation’s economic development and the Bank plays the role of coordinator and facilitator for the promotion of project Exports, covering overseas industrial turnkey projects, civil construction contracts, supplies as well as technical and consultancy service contracts. The size of project export contracts being secured by Indian companies overseas has been steadily increasing, which is reflective of their competence and execution capabilities.

3. It is important to note that Project Exports have multiplier effects across a range of industries from a single project. For example, construction of an overseas railway line by an Indian project exporter on Engineering, Procurement, Construction (EPC) basis requires supply of cement, steel, signaling equipment, rolling stock, labour and skilled manpower (including managers / technicians / supervisors) from India. A thermal power generation project is usually given to an experienced player on EPC basis, resulting in multiple orders to engineering sub-suppliers and assemblers, steel and other metals, engineering services, construction services, etc. Similarly, for railway projects etc.

4. Such Project Exports Provides further fillip to the “Make in India” initiative of the GOI, besides enhancing the manufacturing and services sector and in turn generating local employment. For e.g., the Bank has supported 22 projects under the Buyer’s Credit under National Export Insurance Account (BC-NEIA) and 9 projects under Commercial Buyer’s Credit, aggregating USD 3.03 bn, which have led to generation of employment for 8,234 personnel in India, and 17,522 personnel overseas.

5. Further, Project Exports also help in reducing the trade deficit while encouraging capital flows towards financing of Current Account Deficit (CAD). During the period 2013-14 to 2016-17, Project Export experienced a gradual increase, and correspondingly, the CAD, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of GDP, witnessed a linear decline. A similar linear increase in foreign exchange reserves is also visible during the same period.

6. One, of the key challenges faced by the Bank in fulfilling its mandate as the GOI’s policy driver and India’s Export Credit Agency, for the boosting large value exports from India, stems from the Leverage Norm imposed on the Bank, which is
7. **Leverage Norm:** Business growth for Exim Bank is a function of its ability to borrow by leveraging its equity. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prescribed a leverage multiple of 10 times of the Bank’s Net Owned Funds (NOF) for borrowings that can be raised by Exim Bank, a ratio which is not prescribed for any commercial bank. This limit greatly restricts the Bank’s ability to grow its business and carry out its core mandate of supporting exports from India. By way of contrast, the Exim Bank of China’s leverage multiple as of end 2014 was 79.46 times. However, Exim China’s leverage came down to 9.76 times as its Net Worth increased mainly on the back of the increase in share capital; the paid-in capital for Exim China increased from 5 billion RMB (USD 800 mn) in 2014 to 150 billion RMB (USD 21 bn) in 2015. Korea Exim Bank is allowed a leverage multiple of 30 times, and EDC Canada is allowed 15 times, though their actual leverage positions are significantly lower at 5.4 times and 4.5 times respectively, on account of their large capitalization.

8. **Majority of the current headroom available for growing the Bank’s business, based on the present NOF position, is taken up by the Policy Business, viz. (a) Lines of Credit (LOCs) to overseas governments at the behest of the GOI; (b) Buyer’s Credit to overseas Governments / parastatals under the National Export Insurance Account (BC-NEIA); and (c) Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS) of the GOI, under which the Bank has sanctioned a Credit facility of USD 1.60 bn for the Maitree Power Project at Rampal, Bangladesh. The Bank’s ability to support other exports out of India therefore gets severely restricted on account of the lower headroom.

9. **Considering the limited resources available with the GOI for further substantial capitalization of Exim Bank, and given the ownership structure of the Bank and its mandate / nature of business, a higher leverage norm (of say, 20 times) may be considered. In this regard, necessary directions may be provided by the GOI to the RBI for amendment in the existing regulations applicable to Exim Bank.**

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**19. EPCs to broad base their membership base to include micro and small enterprises and create specific modules to impart export knowledge and skill development to MSMEs. All EPCs to have a reasonable membership fee**

**SHEFEXIL**

(i) SHEFEXIL is conducting various outreach programmes in the upcoming months to educate and encourage MSME exporters. These programmes aim at making MSME exporters aware about – current scenario of international trade, opportunities available in the international trade, how to reduce transaction cost, relevance of new technologies including block chain, digitalization and government
structure and new MSME exporters should not be charged a fee which is more than Rs 1000/- per annum with equal privileges as available to other exporters.

[Action: Chairman of all EPCs/JS (EPC), DoC - 7 days]

initiatives towards electronic documentation, use of Free Trade Agreements etc. These programmes will be held at an identified industry clusters related to SHEFEXIL products. The details of some clusters are as under:

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<th>Product cluster Name</th>
<th>Place of product cluster</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shellac and Non Timber Forest Produce</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Jharkhand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bamboo</td>
<td>Assam, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh</td>
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i. In case of SHEFEXIL, currently there are two products which are primarily related to MSMEs and they are;
   a. Shellac & Lac based products
   b. Bamboo

ii. Bamboo products are largely found in North East Region of the country and currently SHEFEXIL is charging Rs. 1000/- as a membership fee for the member exporters of North East Region.

iii. In case of Shellac and Lac based product exporters, the membership fee is Rs 2,500/- . Considering the size of the council and number of member exporters under the purview of SHEFEXIL a fee of Rs. 2,500/- is reasonable. If we charge a fee lower than this amount we may suffer on account of revenue. The fees currently charged are not higher which kindly note.

CHEMEXCIL
During the 2nd Meeting of the Committee of Administration (CoA) of Chemexcil for the year 2019-20 held on 30th August, 2019; it was resolved that any new MSME member (Entity must submit udyog adhar certificate issued by MSME) desires to take membership of Chemexcil it will be charged Rs. 1000 as Membership fees and Rs. 500 as one time entrance fees. GST shall be charged extra as applicable from 1st October-2019.

CAPEXIL
In the CoA meeting held on 27.08.2019; this issue was discussed and it was decided
to charge Rs. 1000/- for new MSME Exporters & after that normal membership fee will be charged.

PLEXCONCIL
During 352nd CoA meeting of PLEXCONCIL held on 14th August, 2019 at Mumbai; the Committee of Administrators (CoA) liked the idea, however committee felt that the reduction in membership fees for the MSME members to Rs. 1000 would make it difficult to manage the day to day workings of the council. The CoA, however, suggested that this fee may be made applicable to the new MSME members who want to get into exports. Such MSMEs can register by paying Rs. 1000 in the first year but once they start exporting then the regular membership fees as applicable to others will be charged to them.

EEPC
To Broad base membership to include MSMEs - EEPC India has a strong MSME representation in its membership base. At present, it has 12900 members, out of which 7183 members belong to the MSME sector. This means 55.7% percent of its members belong to the MSME sector.

Further, to provide incentive to MSME sector, at the last Working Committee meeting of EEPC held on 30th August, it was decided that new MSME exporters will be charged Rs 1000/- per annum with equal privileges as available to other exporters for the first year. Also to promote exports from Jammu and Kashmir, Rs 1000 will be charged for any new exporter from the State irrespective of its scale of operations for the first year.

Creating specific modules to impart export knowledge and skill development to MSMEs - EEPC India is regularly organizing and conducting Seminars on Export Awareness, Exporter Mobilization, Workshop and Training programme on specific export related issues, on utility of participating in major engineering exhibitions/events, on capacity development, etc. in its efforts to impart export knowledge. In addition, skill development efforts are also regularly undertaken by way of
Workshops on specific skill related issues including diverse subjects like Special fabrication techniques, surface treatment and coating, use of alternative/smart materials and waste management, Industrial design, Quality control techniques, etc. EEPC India is also operating a Technology Centre at Bengaluru while another is ready for operation in Kolkata. The focus here is totally on MSMEs and to provide them with facilities like 3d modeling, Reverse engineering, simulation and Prototype development, Pattern making etc.

**GJEPC**
In this regard, it may me mentioned that we are putting this proposal up in the next CoA meeting for a decision with regards to starting a new membership category in these lines and will come up to you for approval after the same for due implementation.

**Pharmexcil**
Pharmexcil has conveyed that this matter would be discussed in the next meeting of Committee of Administration of the Council. As on 31.3.2019, there are 4496 members who are registered with Pharmexcil. Details of Pharmexcil members and their fees is as under:

1) Small Scale – 1859 (Membership Fee Rs. 10,000/- + GST)
2) Merchant Exporters - 2280 (Membership Fee Rs. 12,000/- + GST)
3) Large Scale - 357 (Membership Fee Rs. 36,000/- + GST)

In order to encourage micro and small enterprises(MSME) in Pharma sector, Pharmexcil in compliance to the directions of Hon’ble CIM has decided to fix the entry fee for first time exporters as Rs 1000/- per annum thereby reducing it from the existing rate of Rs 11,800/- per annum”.

**20. DoC to examine and work on the possibility of creating and promoting a single exclusive India brand in the Textiles sector, to begin with.**

**AS(BSB), DoC**
A meeting was held by Secretary Textiles on 21 Aug 2019, with a few stakeholders, to discuss the proposal to brand Indian textiles globally. While the need for branding was unanimous, Ministry of Textiles was of the view that a broader consensus may be needed from the industry for an ambitious branding exercise, for which a bigger meeting would be scheduled. Meanwhile, IBEF has been
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| **21.** | Increasing the availability of data loggers at the Customs ports for the temperature sensitive pharmaceutical exports to be examined. **[Action: CBIC, 45 days]** | CBIC  
As per condition no. 5(1)(i) of Handling of Cargo in Customs Area Regulations, 2009, custodian has to provide the following to the satisfaction of Commissioner of Customs.  
I. Infrastructure, equipment and adequate manpower for loading, unloading stacking, handling, stuffing and destuffing of containers, storage, dispatch and delivery of containers and cargo etc.  
II. Such other facilities as the Commissioner of Customs may specify having regard to the custody and handling of imported or exported goods in a customs area.  
Accordingly all the field formations were sensitized vide letter dated 10.07.2019 (Copy enclosed) to ask the custodians to provide adequate number of data loggers at the Customs ports for the temperature sensitive pharmaceutical exports. |
| **22.** | An inter-ministerial mechanism consisting of Commerce, Agriculture and Food Processing to be set up to identify domestic ‘agricultural surplus’ on a regular basis and suggest ways of using such surplus in manufacture and export of agricultural value-added products. **[Action: Ministry of Agriculture, 30 days]** | DAC  
In this connection, it is suggested that an inter-ministerial Committee (IMC) be set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Commerce to identify domestic ‘agriculture surplus’ on a regular basis and suggest ways of using such surplus in manufacture and export of agriculture value-added products. |
| **23.** | Hold interactions with the Textile sector to implement ‘Fibre to Fabric’ policy. **[Action: DoC, 45 days]** | DoC  
In order to discuss the concerns of the EPCs in entire value chain of Textiles a meeting notice dated 25.8.2019 was issued to Textiles EPCs so as to discuss the implementation of “Fibre to Fabric” policy. However the EPCs responded that they could not frame any inputs with respect to the said policy. Another intervention in |
[Action: DoC, 30 days] this regard was made and all Textiles EPCs viz. AEPC, CEPC, WWEPC, ISEPC, HEPC, EPCH, PDEXCIL, SRTEPC, TEXPROCIL were requested that a comprehensive presentation highlighting the production of different segments of Textiles, export/import data, duty related issues, support required by the sector may be submitted to this Department. All the EPCs mentioned above have submitted their respective presentations which have been complied accordingly. Inputs from Ministry of Textiles is being collected with respect to issues raised by EPCs in their presentations. A comprehensive meeting in this regard is being planned. Additionally, with respect to Man Made Fibre, Department of Commerce has been participating in meetings convened by CEO, NITI Ayog and has provided its required inputs. The final report of the same is being finalized.

24. The concept of deemed approval for establishments, which currently require annual renewal of licenses will be explored in consultation with States. [Action: DPIIT, 30 days] DPIIT The issue was examined in the Department on several occasions and it has been observed that recurring requirement of renewals of registrations, clearances / NoCs and licences imposes a heavy burden on business. Entrepreneurs are required to devote their energy and time in this activity again and again while the objectives of renewal can be fruitfully achieved by an efficient inspection regime. Elimination of renewal requirement will help in reducing the time and cost for compliance.

As a result, DPIIT has already included this recommendation in the State Reforms and States / UTs have already been advised to “Eliminate the requirement of Renewal of registration under the Shops and Establishment Act”.

State Reforms have also mandated States / UTs to provide auto-renewal of Consent to Operate (CTO) under The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, based on self-certification / third-party certification. As per the latest assessment completed for 2017-18, 20 States have implemented this reform.

Under the proposed National Policy on EoDB, all Ministries will be advised to identify the licenses / registration granted by it to businesses and eliminate the requirement of renewal of the same. Where any Ministry believes that a renewal is
essential to meet the regulatory objectives, it should justify the continuation of renewals. Even in these cases, periodicity of renewal should not be less than 5 years to reduce the burden on businesses. Any such renewal should be continued only after obtaining approval of the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Note for the same has been approved by Hon’ble CIM and inter-ministerial consultation is ongoing.

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| 25. | Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to identify 50 sectors for focused consultation with industry and develop a specific action plan to develop these sectors.  
[Action: DPIIT, 45 days] | DPIIT  
List of Sectors were identified for consultation –  
i) Electronics, Telecom, Electrical  
ii) Capital goods, Auto & auto components, Electric mobility  
iii) Mining, Metals, Foundry  
iv) Textiles & Handlooms, Leather & Footwear, Toys, Sports goods, Gems & Jewellery  
v) Retail trade /FMCG, E-Commerce  
vi) Tourism , Real estate, Construction  
vii) Health , AYUSH, Pharmaceuticals, Medical devices  
viii) Paper, Rubber, Cement , Glass  
ix) Agriculture, Food processing, Bio-technology  
x) Hydrocarbons, Chemicals, Petrochemicals  
xii) Renewable energy, Power  
Meetings to be chaired by CIM were proposed tentatively for 16-19 June 2019. Meetings are yet to be scheduled. |
| 26. | DGFT to examine the issue of enhancing the 6 month EO period on Rubber under Advance Authorisation scheme.  
[Action: DGFT – 15 days] | DGFT  
The issue was examined in consultation with Plantation Division, DoC and Rubber Board. It has been decided not to extend EO period in view of sensitive nature of the sector to protect domestic growers. |
| 27. | Examine why courier exports are limited to Rs 5 Lakhs whereas no limits have been imposed on the Postal exports.  
[Action: DGFT - 15 days] | DGFT (PC-3)  
The matter has been examined and the issue put up to the CIM on file, examining the various aspects. A letter to JS Customs dated 14.06.2019 has been sent and a reminder has been sent in July and August, 2019. The inputs from the Customs are awaited. |
<p>| 28. | To examine the issues raised by AEPC and Pharmexcil regarding the caution | The issue has been taken up with D/o Financial services and RBI. RBI extended the date till 30.09.2019 |</p>
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| Listing of exporters, particularly MSMEs, by the RBI. In such cases, the AD banks are not updating data or are not able to distinguish between free samples / non commercial items in the EDPMS which leads to automatic caution listing of even genuine exporters.  

**[Action- DGFT – 45 Days]** |   |
| 29. To examine the issue related to Veterinary certificate/ NOC from animal quarantine and Customs at the time of export of wet and raw hides in the leather sector  

**[Action- DGFT – 45 Days]** | Under examination in consultation with CLE and D/o Animal Husbandry |
| 30. To work out the strategies for boosting organic exports through implementation of standards allowed in organic agricultural exports, handholding required for such businesses and to assess the need of R&D in the sector.  

**[Action: JS (Organic products), DoC, 45 days]** | **DOC**  
APEDA has undertaken substantial steps to boost export of certified organic products. The initiative includes continuation of equivalence with EU, Switzerland for and conformity verification of accreditation under USDA-NOP. Mutual recognitions with potential countries such as Korea, Taiwan were initiated. Both sides have verified each other’s organic system and are at the stage of entering into mutual recognition agreements. Canada has also assessed India’s organic system for conformity verification of CBs by APEDA. Renewal of accreditation of CBs, their surveillance and monitoring was carried out for ensuring smooth export of certified organic products.  
Promotional activities such as development of additional CBs from potential states as well as organizing buyer seller meets and participation in specific organic events within India and overseas are organized for boosting export of certified organic products. Capacity building of stakeholders was also undertaken for enhancing |
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<th>area and Certification Bodies for strengthening export of certified organic products.</th>
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| 31. | To organize a regular annual exhibition event like the one held in Gandhinagar in 2018 where all EPCs exhibited their products under one roof. Export products can also be showcased in hired premises abroad with the objective of promoting Indian exports and Indian brand | DOC  
Textiles India 2017, the mega textiles trade fair, was held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The event showcased the value chain in the textile industry and had B2B, B2G and G2G meetings with international buyers, international and domestic exhibitors and domestic visitors. With regard to organize a regular annual exhibition event like the one held in Gandhinagar and showcase exports products in hired premises abroad, Textiles EPCs have been requested to provide their inputs on the same. With regard to showcasing export products abroad proposal regarding opening of handicraft stores in premium markets (Orchard Road in Singapore, Oxford Street London, New York) is under consideration. It has been gathered that the past experience with respect to display centre abroad has invariably resulted in gross mismanagement and financial embezzlement by the private players entrusted with the responsibility to run these centers. These facilities therefore should be setup with the exporters’ contribution. Government may help in a limited way by providing travelling assistance to small exporters to these locations. |
<p>|   |   | [Action: JS (MDA,MAI), DoC, 45 days] |
| 32. | DPIIT to interact with Ministry of Skills Development &amp; Entrepreneurship to work out strategies to impart soft skills including language skills to service professionals like nurses etc who have great demand in other countries, but not being tapped because of lack of language skills. | [Action: Secretary, DPIIT, 30 days] |
| 33. | Ministry of Railways to examine the issue of high rail freight costs for exporters in Durgapur-Asansol-Burdwan industrial hub, who want to |   |</p>
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<td>use railways to send the products to the Kolkata Port.</td>
<td><strong>[M/o Railways, 45 Days]</strong></td>
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<td>34. DPIIT to look into the issue of allowing any individual who is the creator of an innovation to file for application for IPR (Patents, Trademarks)</td>
<td>DPIIT Any individual who is the creator of an innovation can file application for patent in regard to his/her innovation. Further, the fee payable by individual applicants is also lower as compared to applications by other applicants such as corporates. <strong>[DPIIT- 45 Days]</strong></td>
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<td>35. Customs to examine the issues raised by GJEPC including the issue wherein gems/jewellery, sent abroad for exhibition purposes and reimported to India, are levied with IGST.</td>
<td>CBIC/Customs To address this issue a Circular No. 21/2019- Customs dated 24.07.2019 vide F.No. 450/131/2017-CusIV has been issued by CBIC.</td>
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1. (Issues) Difficulty faced in relation to Cut and Polished Diamond (CPD) exported- on account of variation in dimensions- (Status) The matter is being examined by CBIC in consultation with PCCCC, Mumbai for revisiting their office note dated 22.04.2019.

2. (Issues) Difficulty faced in relation to import of Rough Diamond (RD) – on account of variation in valuation- (Status) CBIC is examining the international practice on disclosure norms with respect to import of RD in countries such as Belgium and Israel.

3. Denial of CVD Exemption on unsold jewellery re-imported back- A clarificatory Circular No. 17/2019 dated 19.06.2019 has been issued. The matter stands resolved.

4. No IGST exemption on unsold jewellery re-imported back- A circular No. 108/27/2019-GST dated 18.07.2019 has been issued clarifying the concept of supply/non-supply for the goods taken abroad for exhibition/consignment basis. The matter is thus resolved.

5. Increase in BCD on CPD from 2.5% to 7.5% - The issue has been examined by TRU-I, CBIC during budget exercise and has not been found feasible to accede. |

**[Action: Member [Customs], CBIC, 15 days]**
6. Blockage of ITC on account of inverted duty structure- Refund of accumulated credit on input services is not allowed as a conscious policy (section 54 of the Central Tax Act refers). This issue was discussed in the GST Law Committee & was not agreed to. Therefore, carving out a special dispensation for diamond sector may not be feasible within the framework of the law.

Reduction of GST rates on job work services will result in inversion of duty structure for the job workers on account of GST payable on most inputs and input services used for job work @ 18% and will lead to accumulation of credit in the hands of the job worker. The issue was also discussed in the meeting of Committee on Exports (CoE) held 18.07.2019. The action will be taken as per decision of the CoE.

7. Exclusion of Diamond India Limited from List 34 to Notification No. 50/2017- Customs- The issue was discussed in the meeting of Committee on Exports (CoE), held on 18.07.2019. The action will be taken as per decision of the CoE meeting.

8. Implementation of Baba Kalyani Report on Special Economic Zones (SEZs)- This report has no specific Gems & Jewellery matter but contains general recommendations for SEZs as a scheme and a Committee has been formed in CBIC under the chairmanship of Member (Cus) for holistically examining the report.

9. Reduction of Import Duty on Precious Metals Gold and Silver from 10% to 4% - The issue was examined in the budget and the duty has been increased from 10% to 12.5% on Gold and Silver.

10. Re-start of Replenishment Scheme for Precious Metals Gold and Silver- The matter has been examined in CBIC and file is under submission for obtaining approval of Finance Minister.

11. Diamond dollar Bills should be treated like export, not as domestic transactions- Para 4.50 of FTP 2015-20 already provides for such facility.

36. To co-ordinate with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to assess the possibility of extending long term, preferably 10 year agreements with the sugar units which can produce ethanol. This would help them secure loans.

DPIIT

A meeting was held in DPIIT on 01.07.2019 to discuss ‘Long term purchase agreement by Oil Marketing Companies to boost ethanol consumption in the country’ with the representatives of M/o Petroleum & Natural Gas, D/o Food & Public Distribution and D/o Financial Services under the Chairmanship of Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Additional Secretary, DPIIT. Explosives Section vide letter dated
| Financials for the capital investment required for the industry. | 16.07.2019 have forwarded Record of Discussion of the meeting to Department of Food and Public Distribution (D/o F&PD) and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (M/o PNG) for necessary action, followed by two reminders dated 29.07.2019 and 29.08.2019. However, response in this regard is still awaited from M/o P&NG and D/o Food and PD. |

| [Action: DPIIT, 45 days] | CEO, GeM |

37. Examine the possibility of supply to the private sector on GeM portal. Target for procurement though GeM portal is Rs. 2 lakh crore in current FY. Create a framework to penalize and blacklist companies who do not supply the order after winning the bid. |

| [Action: CEO, GeM /JS(DoC)- 7 Days] | 1. GeM has examined the same and submitted a concept note to hon’ble office. It is technologically possible to do, but necessary mandate and policy approval for GeM to do the same has to be obtained. Further action will be taken based on the decision taken by minister. |

| | 2. CIM has given a target of Rs. One Lakh and GeM is working on achieving this target. A detailed action, Plan is prepared and submitted to hon’ble minister office for further guidance. |

| | 3. In the letter and spirit of paperless, contactless, cashless nature of the online e-marketplace public procurement platform providing services, GeM has developed various online mechanisms for monitoring the performance of vendors. GeM already has enabled online incident management to penalize the Vendors dishonoring the contract after winning the bids. As per GeM business analytics reports out of total procurement done (Value wise) through Bid/RA, only 1.28% contracts has been cancelled due to non-delivery of goods/services after bid/RA award. Details of system inbuilt mechanisms are as under:- |

| 1. Online Incident Management Module/policy: | 

Online incident management module/policy is developed and functioning since 01.06.2018 and is updated periodically based on feedback received from users. System driven online Incident management module for both pre-contract and post contract incidents, where in buyers and sellers can raise incidents through the system and actions is taken on a timebound manner as per the SLAs and the action taken is transparently published in the portal. |

| (i) Pre- Contract: | -Crowd source from users to build a sane Market Place (erroneous/better catalogs, price, specs etc), including misleading/inaccurate |
information provided by Sellers during registration or during participation in bids.

(ii) **Post-Contract:** Bring the Buyer and Seller (Contracting parties) to directly but transparently engage in resolving issues relating to performance, execution of contracts on the terms and conditions stipulated in the contracts.

The detailed IM policy is available on the GeM Website. Action is taken online as per the IM policy. The disciplinary action taken against the vendors/buyers are published in the portals and there is provision for escalation as well. ([https://gem.gov.in/incidentmanagement](https://gem.gov.in/incidentmanagement)).

## 2. Online Vendor Rating filter on Marketplace:

Online Vendor rating module/policy is developed and functioning since 18.01.2018 and is updated periodically based on feedback received from users.

System inbuilt Online vendor rating module has mainly four Core Parameters i.e. Coverage (Weightage – 5%), Timely Delivery (Weightage – 40%), Quality of Order fulfillment (Weightage – 35%), Reliability (Weightage – 20%) & Incident History. Final vendor rating is calculated based on the weighted average of the four parameters and the negative impact of incident history.

Vendor rating filter launched in April. It will facilitate buyers to put vendor rating filter according to their requirement from low rated to high rated vendor (1-5). This will reward outstanding performers and will provide objective rationale to disqualify list poor performance vendor. This will cultivate competition amongst vendors and improve their performances.

## 3. Provision of e-PBG:

While creating bids as per GFR, can ask for Performance security for contract value Rs 30 lac & above for Goods and Rs 5 lac for Service contracts (2-10% of order value). Seller must submit requisite e-PBG which will automatically be validated by system and upload on GeM before award of contract which will be valid for two months beyond warranty period.

If the Seller fails or neglects to observe or perform any of his obligations under the
contract including non-supply of goods/services, it shall be lawful for the buyer to forfeit either in whole or in part, the Performance Security furnished by the Seller.

### 4. Incident History of vendor on GeM Marketplace:

GeM has the functionality to report/show incident history of vendors on marketplace. For direct purchase below Rs 25000/- as per GFR Rule 149, buyers have the option to select any available supplier meeting requisite quality, delivery period & specifications. Incident history on marketplace will give buyer an option to select vendors who are reliable, excellent performer, providing good quality goods/services & no or less incidents reported against them.

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<th>38.</th>
<th>To initiate an enquiry regarding reported violation of Trademarks, e.g. fake Bisleri water bottles sold at Qutub Minar and to study the patent laws for bringing sanctity of such regulations</th>
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<td><strong>[Action: JS (Sri Rajiv Aggrawal, DPIIT), 30 days]</strong></td>
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**JS(RA), DPIIT**

- All IPRs, including Trademarks like Bisleri, are private rights.
- MsKashmiraSawant (Legal Head) & MrKadeer Khan (Head, Corporate Affairs) of M/s Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd on 11.06.2019 were advised to take legal action: no written response received.
- Meeting held with “Federation of All India Packaged Drinking Water Manufacturers’ Association” on 13.06.2019.
- To spread public awareness regarding fake products, Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), DPIIT organized a NukkadNatak near Qutub Minar, New Delhi on 14.06.2019, which was well received.
- Following authorities have been requested to take action:
  - Principal Secretary (Health and Family Welfare), Delhi
  - Director General of Health Services, Delhi
  - Chairperson, FSSAI
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| 39 | To take action for enabling provisions in the SEZ Rules, so that all single product SEZs may be made multi product SEZs in consultation with Revenue Department. The SEZ Division may also examine the possibility of revising the land norms for special category states, based on the request of Uttarakhand for setting up SEZ units.  
[Action: AS(BBS), DoC, 45 days] |
| 40 | To examine the financial health of all EPCs by studying their balance sheets and to examine the feasibility of making EPCs financially independent  
[Action: JS(R), DoC- 7 Days] |
| 41 | To re-conciliate data related to re-imports for diamond sector/ cut and polished diamonds/ Gems and Statistics Division, DGFT  
Prior to 2017-2018, any re-imports (identified by searching keyword “re-import” in the database, as there is no classificatory field available in the customs
Jewellery sector and correct past figures for correct comparison and to evolve a correct methodology  

[Action: DGFT/DGCIS, 10 days]

Declaration to identify re-imports were included in Nations total imports but excluded from respective ITCHS chapters by assigning code under chapter 99: “Items not elsewhere classified”, with 8-digit code as 99930020. It is also to be observed, that, for those transactions, the country of consignment of these import transactions was reported as ‘IN’, which are invalid and therefore automatically assigned code for unspecified country. The same was not happened for re-export, as re-exports were retained in the respective ITCHS chapters, and not transferred in chapter 99, as a result, chapter-wise trade deficit was minimal because export (incl. re-export) was obvious at higher end.

In the year 2017-18, it was decided that, the practice of treatment of both re-export as well as re-import would be same, i.e. all have to be retained in the respective chapters, as reported by Customs. The same was also discussed with DGFT in a meeting held on March 08, 2018 at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.

Accordingly, w.e.f. April, 2017, re-imports were included in chapter 71. As soon as the transactions were started reporting in the respective chapters, the issue of “unspecified country” comes into picture and various agencies raised the issue, that the huge amount of Diamonds etc. (ITCHS: 71023910) was imported from “unspecified countries”. The matter was taken up with the Customs Authority and it was resolved at their end by providing appropriate country code (instead of ‘IN’), and from 2018-19 onwards, such issues are not available.

In view of the above, it is clear, that, the figures are not comparable at all, as 2017-18 figures contain (chapter 71 + issue of “unspecified country”), and 2018-19 figures contain (chapter 71 + correct “country of consignment”). The issue of re-import from any country for the year 2017-18 was obviously a subset of such “unspecified country”, which cannot be identified at this end for comparability and thus there were under-reporting in 2017-18.

It is also to be noted that, from 2019-20, such kind of comparability issue will also not arise, as the current base (2018-19) are free from such impurities.

| 42. | To review the incentives for import of capital goods scheme and suggest measures for promoting Make in India in Capital Goods Sector. | DGFT  
A meeting was taken with D/o Heavy Industry. They already have a scheme for enhancing competitiveness in Indian Capital Goods Sector. |
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<td><strong>43.</strong></td>
<td><strong>To study all state invest Mitra portals and explore the feasibility of one having one single centralised portal.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>[Action: DPIIT– 15 Days]</strong></td>
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<td><strong>44.</strong></td>
<td><strong>To study and Reform APEDA and APMC acts and exhorting the states to rationalize the fees and engage with the respective State Government.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>[Action: JS, DoC – 10 Days]</strong></td>
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<td><strong>45.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Concerns of Exporter relating to Revenue department to be forwarded Shri Raj Kumar Barthwal, Member CBIC, with suggestion on the specific solution.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>[Action: DGFT, 7 Days]</strong></td>
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<td><strong>46.</strong></td>
<td><strong>The issues related to the motor vehicle movement between Assam and Bangladesh for exports need to be resolved in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs to boost exports from NE, the issue has been raised by the State of Assam</strong></td>
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<td><strong>[Action- AS (BSB),DoC - 15 Days]</strong></td>
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<td>Niti Aayog has directed the State Governments to reform their respective APMC acts. Accordingly, 18 States/UT have amended their APMC acts for Establishment of private market yards. 19 States/UT have amended their APMC act for direct purchase of agriculture produce from agriculturist by processor/bulk buyer/bulk retailer/exporter etc,.. Further 20 States/UT have amended APMC acts for Contract Farming Provisions.</td>
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<td>BBIN Motor Vehicle Agreement has been ratified by India, Bangladesh and Nepal while Bhutan is yet to ratify it. However, in April 2017, Bhutan conveyed its consent for the BBIN MVA to enter into force for Contracting countries which have ratified it. Bhutan suggested that if the other 3 countries, i.e. Bangladesh, India and Nepal desire to implement the Agreement, such implementation of the BBIN MVA may be commenced. Subsequently, consensus has been built on the Protocol for movement for Passenger Vehicles while the Protocol for movement for Cargo Vehicles has been tabled and is in the process of internal consultation in the countries. Ministry of External Affairs was requested earlier to engage with Nepal</td>
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<td>47.</td>
<td>To review the SAFTA agreement for trade with Bangladesh or to initiate a FTA with Bangladesh.</td>
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<td>A detailed analysis of India’s trade with the neighbouring countries under SAFTA, including Bangladesh, has been carried out. It has been noted that any review/amendment in provisions of SAFTA, including amendment in Rules of Origin, change in Sensitive List or introduction of any measure for inhibiting trade might be difficult to carry out, in view of India’s trade surplus, close relations with neighbouring countries and no present movement in the meetings under SAFTA framework.</td>
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<td>In the meeting of the Commerce Ministers of India and Bangladesh held during the visit of Commerce Minister to India to Bangladesh in September 2018, both Ministers agreed that a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) covering goods, services and investment would provide a sound basis for substantial enhancement of trade and commercial partnership. They directed their officials to undertake a joint study on the prospects of entering into a bilateral CEPA. Both countries have identified respective organisations for the Joint Study. The Terms of reference for the Joint Study are being finalised.</td>
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| 48. | To take up the matter related to counting of deductible income received by Pharmexcil from members for conducting exhibition abroad by the Income tax authorities in Telangana, with the Revenue Secretary. |
|     | Action- Secretary, DPIIT, 45 days |

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