

## **RoDs of BoT Meeting held on 2-12-2020**

In his opening remarks, **Shri Amit Yadav, DGFT**, welcomed the delegates and stated that it was the first Board of Trade Meeting in 2020, being held through Video Conferencing, in the backdrop of COVID pandemic, with the principal objective of soliciting inputs from all the stakeholders for the new Foreign Trade Policy to be launched in the year 2021.

In his welcome Address, **Shri Anup Wadhawan, Commerce Secretary**, while welcoming Commerce & Industry Minister, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Ministers from State Governments, Government and Industry delegates, emphasized that the Board of Trade Meeting provides the most representative forum for consultation on trade with representatives from the Government and Industry coming together. While seeking cooperation of the States, he mentioned that their support is crucial to the economic growth, as any event in the country, originates from one of the States. He mentioned that there were visible signs of global economic slowdown following US-China Trade war, slowdown in Europe and US and colossal human loss with consequent impact due to COVID pandemic. Commerce Secretary informed the delegates that in 2020-21 (April-Nov), exports have declined by 17.8 % and imports have declined by 34% as compared to same period of last year. He stated that, if we leave aside the gems and jewellery sector, which involves low value addition, the decline is substantively lesser which indicates that the decline is lesser in high value addition items. The silver lining is the decline in trade deficit due to reduction in imports. He informed the delegates about the recent initiative of the Government on District Export Hub, on the directions of Prime Minister, which envisages that each district should realize its export potential by being a centre of manufacturing excellence as well as taking forward agricultural exports, which would require support of all States/UTs.

**Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry**, in his Address, stated that the recent data points show that we are on the path of recovery. The pandemic also reinforced the risk of global supply chain to be dependent on a single source. Shri Puri said that India provides a cost-effective alternative to the world. He said that Aatamnirbhar Bharat will make India an active manufacturing hub and being a part of the global supply chain. He mentioned that Productivity Linked Incentive programme which will make manufacturing globally attractive, bring in cutting edge technology, economies of scale, and make us part of integrated global supply chain. He noted that substantive

improvement in the country's ranking in the Innovation and Ease of doing Business indices has taken place. The Minister said that attractiveness of India as an investment destination has been acknowledged by the global investors, as indicated by the increased inflow of funds. He said that more needs to be done by the Centre and States together, and the role of States is critical in this regard. India's trade is important part of its economy, and States have to play an important role in promoting decentralized growth. He said that all districts have specialized products which can be promoted for growth.

**Shri Piyush Goyal, Commerce and Industry Minister**, in his Address, said that our mission is to build a stronger nation and achieve transformational goals, together with the States. Acknowledging the very important role of the States in the efforts, he thanked the Ministers and officials from the States for their unstinted support in these endeavours. Commerce and Industry Minister stated that we are looking at a truly genuine single window which can help us expand the ease of doing business. People from all over the world should have confidence that they can come and buy land, get all the necessary approvals, participate in trade and business in India and expand in the manufacturing side as well as services networks in India. He informed that the DPIIT has identified 24 industry sectors which can potentially add Rs.20 lakh crore rupees worth of annual production manufacturing in India. He highlighted the salient aspects of this initiative with regard to the envisaged improvement in quality and productivity standards with industry becoming more cost competitive. He mentioned that our focus is on ease of doing business to encourage investment in India. Shri Goyal called for moving beyond the traditional thinking on trade, which is centred on Government and Government schemes, and move towards support to more free flowing trade. He said that Trade should leverage the country's strengths of quality, cost competitiveness, economies of scale, and by leveraging our comparative advantages like labour. He said that, going forward, we have every possibility, both to achieve the export target of a trillion dollars by 2025 and the GDP target of 5 trillion US dollars.

### **Issues raised by State/UT - Ministers/Government**

**1. Arunachal Pradesh – Sh. Tumke Bagra, State Minister for Commerce and Industry**

- i. The border trade from Pangsau Pass through Land Custom Station Nampong to be included as Border trade point for trade between India and Myanmar.  
**(Action – DoC)**

- ii. Border Haats between the border of India and Myanmar may be finalized, at the earliest. **(Action – DoC)**
- iii. Integrated Check Post at Pangsau Pass may be setup on the model of ICP at Moreh. Government of India is also requested to take up a road project from Pangsau pass to Tenai to be fully funded by GoI as it is between Tamu to Kalemeyo between Manipur and Myanmar. **(Action – DoC/LPAI-MHA)**
- iv. An Export oriented Industrial Park may also be set up in Arunachal Pradesh to support local industries. **(Action – DoC)**
- v. Financial assistance may also be provided to set up international integrated domestic trade centre and integrated common facility center with various facilities for the local industries in a feasible location. **(Action – DoC)**

**2. Assam – Sh. Chandra Mohan Patowary, State Minister for Commerce and Industry**

- i. Land Customs Stations in Assam (Sutarkandi, Golokganj, Mankachar, Darranga), may be developed to help farmers of Assam for exports of fruits and vegetables etc. **(Action – DoR)**
- ii. Many items are restricted for export/import from land ports. More items may be included to benefit Assam and the North Eastern region **(Action – DGFT)**
- iii. Need to revisit import/export duty of some items such as Limestone which Bangladesh imports from India, manufactures cement and exports it to India. Likewise, for plastic also the raw material is imported by Bangladesh from India and finished goods are sent back to India. While raw materials are imported at lower duty for finished goods, the import duty is high in Bangladesh. **(Action – DoR)**
- iv. Tamo-Moreh area Trilateral Highway must be completed at the earliest. Request Ministry of Commerce and Industry to take the issue with MEA to complete the 3 pending bridges to finish this project. This will benefit the whole North Eastern Region. **(Action – MEA/DoC)**
- v. A specific Industrial Policy for the North Eastern Region may be prepared to attract industries and investment and promote exports from the NE region. **(Action – DPIIT)**

**3. Bihar – Deputy Chief Minister Smt. Renu Devi**

- i. To assist the Commerce and Industries Department of the State to formulate the State Export Strategy since the report prepared by FIEO is incomplete. **(Action – DoC/DGFT)**

- ii. ICD with dry and cold chain storage facilities and container depot facilities may be developed in major Districts of the State. Greenfield dry port facilities may also be developed in the State since it is a landlocked State with contribution from both the State and Central Government. **(Action – DoR)**
- iii. For agricultural products, air Cargo facilities may be started in Darbhanga, Muzzafarpur, Patna, Gaya etc. **(Action – MoCA)**
- iv. FIEO office in Patna may be started even though the land was provided but still nothing has moved on it. **(Action – DoC)**
- v. For setting up Textile park in Bihar, 25-50 acre land is not available therefore, this requirement may be reduced. **(Action – M/o. Textiles)**
- vi. Varanasi to Kolkata Highway from Bihar may be started at the earliest. Frequency of Domestic flights from Bihar may also be increased. **(Action – MoRTH)**
- vii. Land may be provided to the Bihar Government near the big ports in Maharashtra or Orissa to build godowns for storage of goods for exports. This will promote exports of products like Litchi, Makhana, Mango etc. from Bihar. **(Action –States Cell, DoC/M/o. Shipping)**

#### **4. Gujarat – Shri Saurabh Patel, State Minister for Commerce and Industries**

- i. Ceramic sector is growing fast even during these testing times. The Certificate of Origin is issued by only few chambers, it is requested to include more associations, such as Morbi Chamber of Commerce from Gujarat to issue COO to reduce time and charges. **(Action –DGFT )**
- ii. Customs may be directed to reduce time taken for checking goods before exporting. The inspection of goods by Customs takes a lot of time and there is a need to look to reduce time and resources required for exports. **(Action – DoR)**
- iii. National Highway from Morbi to Mudra is not in good shape and urgent repair may be required. **(Action – MoRTH )**
- iv. Surat requires a full fledged Foreign Post office which includes all Customs processes at one place. **(Action – DoR)**
- v. Courier agencies are not allowed in Custom offices in SEZs and they are routed only through CHAs. The issue of allowing couriers may be considered. **(Action – DoR)**
- vi. There are reports of Tax Evasion/ Under invoicing for Mosquito Racquets imported from China. Lot of tax evasion is going on in this sector. The domestic manufactures are getting affected. Mis-declaration is also another

issue at the ports which leads to tax evasion. Customs may be asked to look into it. **(Action – DoR)**

- vii. TMA is given to Agricultural products. It can be introduced for other labour intensive sectors. **(Action – DGFT/DoC)**
- viii. Import of items which are restricted, may be allowed in cases where out of the total export, import of such items is only 3-4 percent. **(Action – DGFT)**

## **5. Karnataka** *(On the basis of inputs recd.)*

- i. Establishment of US Consulate at Bengaluru: The state accounts for 41% share in the country's services exports including IT and ITeS. Currently professionals have to travel to Chennai to obtain US Visa. Recognised as the 'Silicon valley' of the Country, housing the US Consulate in Bengaluru will provide fillip to the Service Sector. **(Action : MEA)**
- ii. Allocation of separate HS Code for Bengaluru Rose Onions : This issue has been raised earlier Board of Trade meeting too. **(Action : DGFT)**
- iii. Development of Gherkin Seeds within the country: Gherkin being 100% exportable plant produce and is extensively grown in Karnataka. The seeds are currently being imported. Gherkin has not been considered as a mandate crop for Research and Development and local seeds to be developed by IIHR. **(Action – Ministry of Agriculture)**
- iv. Establishment of Indian Institute of Packaging in Karnataka: A team from Ministry of Commerce visited Bengaluru, Belagavi and Hubballi to explore the infrastructure facility to set up IIP on a temporary basis. **(Action – DoC)**
- v. The Inland Container Depot that was established at Desur, Belagavi has stopped functioning since October 2019 and it was informed that the new ICD would be established at Sambra, Belagavi. Request to consider establishment of ICD at Sambra. **(Action – DoR)**
- vii Upgradation of Hubballi Air Cargo as International Air Cargo hub: **(Action – MoCA)**
- viii) Establishment of Air Cargo facility at Kalaburagi Airport: Kalaburagi is strategically located in the North Karnataka region and is neighbouring Telangana and Andhra Pradesh with a huge potential of exports of goods from the region. **(Action – MoCA)**
- ix) Establishment of Spice Parks at Haveri and Shivamogga **(Action – DoC)**
- x) Establishment of Marine Export facility at Kulai, Dakshina Kannada under TIES scheme of Government of India: **(Action – DoC)**

xi) Engineering Industries - Offshore Warehouse facility - Shipping liners be requested for resolution of this issue. **(Action – DoR)**

xii) Plastic Industries: Supply of polypropylene - Basic raw material requirement for plastic components from MRPL is a big challenge/bottleneck, with inadequate support from MRPL. **(Action – DoC)**

**6. Madhya Pradesh:** Shri *Rajvardhan Singh* Dattigaon, Hon'ble Minister for Industry Policy and Investment Promotion:

- i. Madhya Pradesh being located in central India requests for a dedicated multi modal park which could connect all places in India **(Action – DoC)**
- ii. To set up Cold Chain and warehousing facilities for agri products in State. **(Action – MoFPI)**
- iii. Establishing a certification facility for organic products besides an APEDA office which would benefit agricultural activities. **(Action – DoC)**
- iv. Establishment of Inland Container Depot. **(Action – DoR)**
- v. To improve Air cargo facility at Bhopal for exports **(Action – MoCA)**

**7. Meghalaya:** Shri Sniawbhalang *Dhar, Hon'ble* Commerce & Industries Department, Transport Department, Urban Affairs Department, Municipal Administration Department

- i. Setting up a new border haat and for according approval to the proposal for one more land custom station in the State. **(Action – DoC/LPAI-MHA)**
- ii. Road infrastructure in the state is very bad and infrastructure needs to be improved. **(Action – MoRTH)**
- iii. To set up a Trade Centre to help boost exports. **(Action – DoC)**

**8. Mizoram** (*on the basis of Inputs*)

- i) Capacity building on Export-Import procedures and modalities and handholding of the officials from Department of Commerce. **(Action – DoC)**
- ii) Consultancy and transaction advisory support for handholding the state in the preparation and implementation of the State Export Plan and District Export Promotion Plan. **(Action – DoC)**

**9. Odisha :** Shri Dibya Shankar Mishra, Hon'ble Minister of State (Industry)

- i) To develop riverine sea port and support new one coming up in Astaranga. The private sea ports in Gopalpur and Dhamra need to be upgraded as they have lot of opportunities. **(Action – DoR)**

ii) Need for Air cargo hubs and port as these two can only help realize the dream of trillion dollar export by 2025. **(Action – MoCA)**

iii) In Paradip, the major seaport in Odisha, there is 85 kilometres of trucks waiting outside Port trust area which needs to be reduced, which will help in improving export movement. **(Action – DoR)**

iv) To set up Niryat University for achieving 1 trillion export target providing education through IT and electronics. **(Action – DoC)**

**10. Punjab:** Shri Manpreet Singh Badal, Hon'ble Minister *(and inputs received)*

- i. Implementation of Eastern dedicated corridor as well as Western dedicated corridor is delayed and the sooner it gets completed the better it is for trade. **(Action – DPIIT)**
- ii. CONCOR and other inland freight container corporations have made cartels and charge excessively, this issue needs to be redressed. **(Action – Railways)**
- iii. Revival of Indo Pak border trade through Attari border at Amritsar and the need for a dry port at Attari. **(Action – DoC)**
- iv. Bilateral negotiation with Iran or even trilateral negotiations with US administration to increase basmati rice exports from Punjab. **(Action – DoC)**
- v. There is a small link of 40 KMs between Atari and Wagah through Makhu and Zira which needs to be connected by Railways and Government of Punjab is in the process of acquiring the land for Railways so as to have access to the Western Freight corridor.
- vi. Improvement of Air cargo infrastructure at Amritsar for perishable cargo. **(Action – MoCA)**
- vii. GOI should leverage import quotas for horticulture products to South East Asian countries specially Punjab oranges and keenu, which could be a game changer for Punjab, as it tries to change its dependence on agriculture, from cereals to grain, berry, fruits and vegetables. **(Action – DoC)**
- viii. Implementation of SAFTA customs duty rates uniformly, for all member countries (especially Bangladesh & Pakistan) for Bicycle & Bicycle parts, (which fall under SAFTA non sensitive list). **(Action – DoC)**
- ix. RoSTCL - The last date for claiming benefits is one year from the date of export, therefore MOC&I is requested to intervene and expedite the online system on priority. **(Action – DGFT)**

- x. Increase the budget for MAI Scheme so as to allow the exporting entities to participate in four exhibitions in a financial year from the two presently. **(Action – DoC)**
- xi. IGST paid on exports is to be refunded on submission of proof of exports. The refund against refund applications, whether filed online or in physical form, are often delayed as a result of which liquidity of the exporters is badly affected. Section 56 of the CGST Act provides for payment of interest on refunds delayed beyond 60 days from date of filing. The GST refund process should be made more effective so that the exporters do not wait longer for their GST refunds. **(Action – DoR)**
- xii. The Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (TUF) specifies the names of the machines which are eligible to be imported under it so as to avail the incentives under TUF as well as Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCS). However a number of latest machines and technologies are not covered under the TUF list. The TUF scheme should be implemented for all machines and technologies which are not available in India. **Action – M/o. Textiles)**
- xiii. TIE - There are four projects presently running under TIE Scheme in the PSIEC and the State government intends to utilize the scheme for more industrial clusters. However due to financial constraints of the State it is requested that the GOI share of grant should be raised to 75% from the present 50%. **(Action – DoC)**
- xiv. Exporters while applying visa simultaneously for many countries, face inordinate delays when their passports get stuck in one embassy. Some countries like Poland have a system of issuing two passports at a time to Exporters. MEA is requested to consider this. **(Action – MEA)**
- xv. Sharing/Leakage of commercial data (including personal data) hampers sale strategies in overseas markets. Competitors / customers/dealers are able to view all this data and such data leakage causes difficulties while negotiating with potential foreign customers. As such, there should be proper guidelines / regulations imposed on customs/freight forwarders preventing them from sharing confidential business data and should attract stringent punishment for data privacy violations. **(Action – DoR)**
- xvi. Expedite the Air Cargo infrastructure development at Chandigarh International Airport. **(Action – MoCA)**



**11. Tamil Nadu:** Shri T.S. Sampath, Hon'ble Minister:

- i. Govt. of Tamil Nadu is ready to acquire 'Salt land' which can then be used to set up export oriented units. **(Action – DoC)**
- ii. Tamil Nadu seeks support to set up a leather export park – **(Action – DPIIT)**
- iii. SEZ – duty exemption be extended to contractors **(Action – DoC)**
- iv. Filing of applications for SEIS and MEIS has stopped which needs to be looked into to help exporters. **(Action – DGFT)**

**12. Telangana** *(on the basis of Inputs) :*

- i. Improve export data traceability for agricultural produce/other products manufactured in state of Telangana. It is almost impossible to know the specifics as to which state and/or farm they are originating. It would also enable us accomplish Govt of India's ODOP/districts as export hub objectives. **(Action - DGCIS/DoC/DoR)**
- ii. Incentivise exports to clear customs in respective state /CFS **(Action – DoC)**
- iii. Availability of containers, reduces costs to exporters **(Action – DoR)**
- iv. Attract higher investments into the logistics sector **(Action – DoC)**
- v. Reduce gap between exports and Imports **(Action – DGFT)**
- vi. Reduces load on JNPT and other ports **(Action – Ministry of Shipping)**
- vii. Increases demand for local warehousing be addressed **(Action – D/o. Food/DoC – Logistics Division)**
- viii. Offers last mile connectivity benefits in the State. **(Action – MoRTH)**

**13. Rajasthan** *(on the basis of inputs)*

- i. To encourage small exporters by providing working capital – GST to be reduced to 0.25% on semiprecious gem stone. Import duty on precious and semi-precious stone be reduced from 7.50% to 2.50%. **(Action – DoR)**
- ii. GST on guar gum to be abolished like done on soyabean. **(Action – DoR)**
- iii. Notification regarding export of mustard oil in packing of 5 litres needs to be done away. **(Action – D/o. Food )**
- iv. GST refund to international tourists scheme needs to be implemented immediately **(Action – DoR)**

- v. Import duty on gold and silver to be reduced to 4% from 12.5%. **(Action – DoR)**
- vi. Rajasthan Export Promotion Council to be notified multi-sectoral council and may be allowed to issue RCMC and CoO. **(Action – DGFT)**
- vii. Setting up of National Institute of Design at Jaipur. **(Action – DPIIT)**
- viii. To develop artificial jewellery manufacturing hub at Jaipur and NCR. **(Action – DoC)**
- ix. To allocate 150 crores fund for gem bourse. **(Action – DoC)**
- x. ECGC coverage to all exporters and manufacturers. **(Action – DoC)**

#### 14. **UT of Andman & Nicobar Islands**

- i. Declaration of all ports in Andman & Nicobar Islands as Customs Ports **(Action – DoR)**
- ii. Declaration of all the Ports in Andaman & Nicobar Islands as Plant Quarantine Ports **(Action – Ministry of Agriculture)**
- iii. International Air Connectivity – Start of International flights from Veer Savarkar Airport, Port Blair to increase tourism and trade activities **(Action – MoCA)**
- iv. Notification of ports of Ranong and Phuket of Thailand, ports of Lankavi, Lumut and Klang of Malaysia, North ports of Indonesia to improve trade between these Islands and neighbouring South East Asian Countries **(Action – Ministry of Shipping)**

#### 15. **Manipur (on the basis of inputs)**

- i. EXIM financial services at the designated banks especially on the Myanmar side are not fully operational. **(Action – DFS)**
- ii. A FOREX Cell at RBI Imphal is required to facilitate border trade. **(Action – RBI)**
- iii. ICP at Moreh still does not have e-visa facility. The matter was also raised in the last Board of Trade Meeting. **(Action – DoR)**
- iv. Govt. of Myanmar should be encouraged to improve trade facilities as well as banking infrastructure especially in the areas bordering Manipur. **(Action – DoC)**
- v. Land Customs Station at Moreh lacks EDI (Electronic Data Interchange). **(Action – DoR/LPAI-MHA)**
- vi. Lack of Transit Permit for goods imported from third countries via Myanmar. **(Action – DoR)**

- vii. Introduction of travel card for persons residing within 16 Km of the international boundary. **(Action – MEA)**
- viii. Transport subsidy by road for raw material and finished products should be revived under NEIDS. **(Action – DoC)**

## **Chambers/EPCs**

### **16. Shri S.K. Saraf, FIEO**

- i. District Export Hub will be successful only by active involvement of district collector. **(Action – DGFT)**
- ii. Under land laws – industrial plot buyer needs to be absolved for any future land rate enhancement and litigation and the seller should be made responsible. **(Action – DoC)**
- iii. Class II Tier cities have large private forest land which is owned by the Government, it should be made available to industry. Trees may be planted at the designated land and the available land be utilized for industrial development. **(Action – MOEF)**

### **17. Dr. Dinesh Dua, Pharmexil**

- i. Port congestion needs to be eased. **(Action – Ministry of Shipping)**
- ii. Faceless customs clearance needs improvement **(Action – DoR)**
- iii. Freight issue needs to be sorted out as the prices have gone up by 50%. **(Action – DoR)**
- iv. RoDTEP should cover Pharma sector. All data has been submitted to RoDTEP Committee – abolition of MEIS will be harmful to the industry. Embedded taxation is also a cause of concern. **(Action – DGFT/DoR)**

### **18. Shri Govind Lele, Laghu Udyog Bharti**

- i. Third party invoicing in imports facing severe problem under faceless assessment by Customs. **(Action – DoR)**
- ii. Great potential for North East states to export to Nepal and Bangladesh. But high import duties in those countries is affecting exports. Also imports are coming from those countries with lower duties affecting our economy. **(Action – DoC)**

- iii. Plastic pricing going up heavily around 200-300%. Pricing in PVC & other materials is causing trouble to MSMEs. This needs to be addressed. **(Action – DoC)**

**19. Ms. Sangeeta Reddy, FICCI**

- i. Drawn attention on detailed Report on Ease of Doing Business FICCI is doing. **(Action – DPIIT)**
- ii. RoDTEP scheme should be modified, at the earliest. **(Action – DoR).**
- iii. As part of State Export Strategy – 600 districts products ODOP virtual platform is being launched. **(Action – DGFT/DoC)**

**20. Shri Abhay Sinha, SEPC**

- i. SEIS is facing a lot of issues. Alternative scheme to SEIS is being drafted and will be shared soon. **(Action – DGFT)**
- ii. Request for new SEIS notification for disbursement of SEIC for the year 2019-2020. **(Action – DGFT)**
- iii. Follow up with State Governments on setting up of Services State Centre in every state is being done. **(Action – TPD, DoC)**

**21. Shri Elian Sait, Seafood Exporters Association**

- i. Request for release of MEIS benefits, at the earliest. **(Action – DGFT)**
- ii. Cap of Rs.2 crores is a major concern as most of exporters are MSMEs. **(Action – DGFT)**
- iii. RoDTEP scheme to be launched immediately. **(Action – DoR)**
- iv. Early concluding of FTA negotiation with EU **(Action – DoC)**
- v. EIA is already issuing certifications, therefore, no need for allowing FSSAI for certification. **(Action – DoC)**
- vi. Lack of availability of container from Shipping companies for exports **(Action – Ministry of Shipping)**
- vii. Move to shift MPEDA to Fisheries Ministries needs to be stopped. **(Action – DoC)**

## **22. Shri Vikramjit Sahney, SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

- i. Production Link Incentive Scheme with 10 products should also have some sort of concessional funding for investment for which sovereign wealth fund may also be tapped. **(Action – DEA/NITI Aayog)**
- ii. RoDTEP scheme should cover broader range of products. **(Action – DoR)**
- iii. Expedite FTA/PTA with US/EU/S Africa. **(Action – DoC)**
- iv. Trade with Iran through Asian Clearing Unit to promoter bilateral trade. **(Action – DoC)**
- v. Import of Fertiliser from Iran and CIS countries be promoted. **(Action – DoC)**

## **23. Indian Association of Tour Operators (*on the basis of Inputs*)**

- i. To continue SEIS for the tour operators:- Under the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, a provision is made for the tour operators to get SEIS benefits every year on their foreign exchange during 2015-20. It is recommended that SEIS should be continued 2021-26. **(Action – DGFT)**
- ii. Pending SEIS for Financial Year 2019-20 be announced:- **(Action – DGFT)**
- iii. Increase of SEIS percentage in Foreign Trade Policy – 2021-26 to 15% during off season and 10% during season **(Action – DGFT)**
- iv. Under EPCG Scheme requirement of incremental Foreign Exchange Earnings needs to be removed for import of Vehicles **(Action – DGFT)**
- v. Value based tourist inflow incentives for MICE Tourists. **(Action – Ministry of Tourism)**
- vi. Tax Refund for Tourists (TRT) Scheme on shopping. **(Action – DoR)**

**In his concluding remarks** Hon'ble MOS, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri stated that the session was very useful and beneficial to all the members of Board of Trade. Representation of State Governments at Ministerial level has added value to it. He thanked Hon'ble Ministers from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Punjab for attending this important meeting of Board of Trade. He informed that all the suggestions made by the members of Board of Trade have been noted for follow up and requested the members to furnish written submissions also. As regards border trade with neighboring countries– improving infrastructure – Land Ports Authority

which is under MHA proposes to upgrade roads infrastructure with neighboring States. The proposal is in final stages and we will push it for early implementation.

On the issue of domestic connectivity, he informed that after lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020, it was informed that we will be back to pre-covid level by the end of December, 2020. He also informed that Krishi Udan Scheme for cargo is likely to be started soon. Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced Krishi Udan Scheme in which 100 new airport will be included and on existing airports facilities will be upgraded for assisting farmers in transporting agricultural products.

As regards the issue of long queue of trucks at Paradeep Port, the Minister informed that the same is not acceptable. We will work in coordination with State Governments to improve the road infrastructure. As regards the suggestions to conclude FTAs, it has to be borne in mind that in FTA/PTA there is element of give and take. We need to engage more for enhancement of bilateral trade. The issue of shifting of MEPDA to Fisheries Ministries needs to be discussed thoroughly. He concluded by thanking all participants for their active interaction.

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