A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) through Video Conferencing with various Export Promotion Councils on 19th July, 2021 at 11:30 AM as per agenda.

At the outset, DGFT welcomed all the participants to the meeting. The DG informed the objectives of convening the meeting and sought suggestions of the EPCs on various issues like Expansion of Negative list for EPCG scheme, issuance of post dated MEIS/SEIS scrips due to budget constraints, classification of items under ITC(HS) being exported under ‘others’ category, reduction of compliance burden etc. The DG also sought inputs for Foreign Trade Policy Agenda or any product/country specific issues faced by them including SPS/TBT measures. Various other issues like using the Trade commissioners for hand holding, EDI issues, annual updation of IEC, eCoO portal, etc. were also discussed during the meeting. Thereafter, a presentation was given by Invest India showcasing the updates, policy changes and initiatives being taken for enhancing the local manufacturing on 16 identified sectors.

The DGFT requested all the representatives of various Export Promotion Councils to give their suggestions in brief and macro level details to be sent in writing so that they can have much more useful discussion by not repeating the same points and also a large gamut of issues can be discussed.

The following are the suggestions given by the various Export Promotion Councils.

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<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Export Promotion Council and Suggestions made</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>FIEO (Federation of Indian Export Organisations)</td>
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<td>i. Bringing a negative list of capital goods imports under EPCG may not be a good move. Such restrictions will adversely affect exporters who require new capital goods for upgrading or augmenting the production facility. We should look at the aspect as to at what price those machinery</td>
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are available in India and what is the delivery? If the machinery is available in India and delivery time is three years, it is as good as machinery not available in the country. A better approach would be to encourage domestic sourcing by giving domestic suppliers all the benefits of exports on such supply. The export obligation of EPCG Authorisation holders may be reduced to 50% of normal exports obligations, if capital goods are procured indigenously.

(Action : DGFT PC-5)

ii. The Micro and small exporters having MEIS benefits up to Rs 10 lakh may be given MEIS and those entitled to over Rs 10 lakh may be given post dated MEIS scrips. Banks may discount such MEIS scrips at least 90-95% of the face value, at Repo rate plus 50-100 basis points, so that such exporters get Liquidity. However, on or after the post date, such scrips may be surrendered to the Government. Exporters' responsibility should get over once he deposited the scrip with the bank and received the credit. Exporters should not be asked to take back the scrip, on or after the post date, to square the credit availed from the bank as the bank will ask for equal collateral while releasing the MEIS which may be beyond the capacity of exporters to provide.

(Action : DGFT PC-3)

iii. Any tax refund scheme should not be limited by budget allocation or budgetary limitations because as these schemes only refer to refund of taxes/duties cesses already paid by the exporters during the course of exports. For the RoDTEP scheme, the government should not bring any budgetary allocation or budget limitations.

(Action : DGFT PC-3/PC-6)

iv. Since the objective of RoDTEP scheme is to provide complete rebating of exports, the benefits may be extended to Advance Authorisation holders, EOU and SEZ units. They may be given a differential rate of RoDTEP than those applicable to the domestic exporting unit. The RoDTEP Committee may allow 70-75% of the applicable rates to such entities. The denial of RoDTEP benefit to them may not be fair as they do suffer from some of the elements of taxes and duties during production and exports.

(Action : DGFT PC-3)

v. To provide pre-shipment/post-shipments credit to the exporters at the competitive rate that including the interest equalization.

(Action : DGFT PC-4)

vi. As regards the issue of reducing compliance burden, it may be seen that the exporters are applying for number of Advance Licences, EPCG and other schemes. We should move to a single electronic ledger where all the benefit flows to the exporter because whatever imports is making is entering into an electronic ledger and whatever export is making is also entering into that. Based on that and of the standard input output norms or whatever is the yield ratio, the cases can be settled. So if we can issue
a single electronic ledger to an IEC holder and all debiting and crediting can be made into that, it will definitely make the life easier for the exporter. (Action: DGFT EG&TF)

vii. A lot of new exporters require buyers’ details from a specific country. Most of the Missions do not reply to such requests or provide the details which have become obsolete. The commercial Missions may be made more effective by reorienting them or asking them to outsource such services to a third party to serve exporters’ interest. They are also generally found lacking to pursue issues of customs clearances, delay in payments, or fraud which are followed aggressively by their counterparts in India. SPS/ TBT measures applicable in many markets are not in public domain at the precise level. It is equally important that our Indian missions act in a proactive manner to provide the details of the same even when they are at the discussion stage so that industry may be sensitized and pre-emptive actions, if warranted, can be taken by the Government. Since the post of Trade Commissioners in the Mission is budgeted to the Department of Commerce, they should be effectively used to facilitate the country’s exports and intervene effectively as & when asked by the industry. (Action: DoC/MEA)

viii. The shortage of containers is a global phenomena and not exclusive to India, though the intensity varies. It is primarily due to the pandemics which has elongated the entire cycle of container movement with congestion at ports, lack of distribution facility and local lockdowns. Less availability of large ships to evacuate from transhipment ports and lack of order placed for new containers in the first half of 2020 further accentuated it. The sharp increase in “high volume less value" products exports from India like semi finished goods, cereals and other agri products have further aggravated the issue. While few public sector and private entities have entered into the field of container manufacturing, it may take some time and they have to tie up with container leasing companies and shipping lines for selling such containers. In a short period, we may consider the following:
1. Release all containers detained by various agencies by off-loading such cargo in a warehouse.
2. Shipping lines may be encouraged to bring more empty containers in India.
3. Railways may be requested to provide free movement of containers from gateway ports to hinterland, as they did in the past. (Action: M/o Shipping/Concor)

ix. With a view to provide facilitation, FIEO is shortly launching an e-module to provide a platform where shippers can place their requirement of containers and shipping line & freight forwarder can give their competitive quote. The market place will ensure transparency,
2. **Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)**

   A.
   
   i. Upgradation in Technology plays a very significant role for Apparel manufacturers and exporters are very heavily dependent on imports for machinery. Hence, AEPC does not recommend inclusion of any textile machinery in the negative list under EPCG. *(Action: DGFT PC-5)*
   
   ii. The date of filling the ROSL may extended by one year i.e. up to 30.06.2022 for the shipping bills having LEO date from 1.10.2017 to 6.03.2019. *(Action: DGFT PC-3)*
   
   iii. The exporters are not being able to file applications containing shipping bills with LEO date before 1.10.2017. The last date for filing these is 31.12.2021. Filling of these applications may be allowed at the earliest. *(Action: DGFT PC-3)*
   
   iv. The apparel products like ‘Ladies Tunic’, ‘Kaftan’ and ‘Jumpsuit’ are important export categories but fall in "Others" Category. For these products, new HS codes may be created. *(Action: DGFT PC-2)*

B. Inputs for Foreign Trade Policy Agenda

(i) We may sign Mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) to recognize the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) holders in India for similar facilitation in other major destinations like EU, USA, Japan, Canada, Australia etc. This will reduce time taken for import compliances and entry of goods into the destination country. This will help in recognition of our lab testing by the buyers of the importing country and reduce time and cost of certifications. *(Action: DoC/DGFT PC-2)*

(ii) There are certain country specific issues like:

a. Indian apparel exporters face attestation issues in Argentina. Exporter's needs to get the invoice attested from Embassy of Argentina while exporting to Argentina. The attestation charges are Rs. 14,000 per invoice, the time required by Embassy to attest the documents are 7 working days.

b. It has come to the notice that Indonesia has initiated a safeguard investigation on 1 October 2020 on import of articles of apparel and clothing accessories, India's Apparel exports to Indonesia is very low i.e. USD 5.9 mn. (2020) and there are no Apparel products from India to Indonesia which have witnessed exponential growth. Hence safeguard investigations may not be pursued against India.

c. Peruvian Investigating Authority (INDECOPI), Peru has decided to initiate investigation against all products covered by chapters 61, 62 and 63 for the application of safeguards for import of clothing in Peru. To
protect the interest of our exporters who are exporting to Peru, AEPC had requested for a review of Peru's safeguard investigation against India.

*(Action a/b/c above: DoC)*

(iii) The Trade commissioners should be used for capacity building of the exporters. A list of Trade commissioners with contact details, email id may be provided so that council can collaborate with them for trade facilitation.

*(Action: DoC)*

3. **Chemical and Allied Products Export Promotion Council of India (CAPEXIL)**

   i. Capexil is with the positive exports during this pandemic time but the members are facing difficulties in lease renewals. We should have a inter-ministerial committee, which used to be there in the past, to handle these issues. Lot of the leases are remaining for renewal. This issue should be taken up our top priority so that the mineral sector, which is showing the growth of 40-45%, can be taken care of as this is a major source of export for Capaxcil at this stage of time. Some mechanism should be developed to resolve the issue. *(Action: Ministry of Mines)*

   ii. The Govt. should take care of the issue of anti-dumping duties imposed by the GCC countries like Indonesia for the Ceramic Industry so that the policy support is given to the members. *(Action: DGTR/DoR)*

   iii. A lot of plywood industry is shifting to the neighbouring countries because of non availability of raw materials. In view of the shortage of raw material in the country, Customs duty on import of raw material for wood based and wooden furniture industry be reduced to ZERO. *(Action: DoR CBIC)*

   iv. Value addition in case of export of sawn timber under advance authorization scheme / DER scheme should be reduced from 30% to 15%. *(Action: DGFT PC-4)*

   v. In the 1980s India’s Forest cover was just 8%. Now it is 25%. The Government should think of releasing Timber (main raw material for wood based and furniture industry). *(Action: DGFT PC-2, M/o EF&CC)*

   vi. Under the advance authorization scheme, EO period should be at least 12 months for rubber products. The pre-import condition of natural rubber should be done away with. Port restrictions for import of natural rubber should be removed and it should be allowed to be imported from all ports. *(Action: DGFT PC-4)*

   vii. Inverted duty structure on natural rubber and rubber products should be removed. *(Action: DoR CBIC)*

4. **Shellac & Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL)**
A.

i. Exports of Shefexil’s products have increased by 16.49% in the April-June 2021 period over the same period last year, in US$ terms. However, exports in June 2021 were 2.66% lower than June 2020.

ii. Government has allowed MEIS scheme up to 31st December 2020. MEIS benefit has to be given for exports effected between 1st April 2020 to 31st August 2020 as per original rates and with a ceiling of Rs. 2 crores per IEC for exports effected between 1st September to 31st December 2020. Hence, adequate budget should be made available. (Action: DGFT PC-3)

iii. TMA scheme should be continued with appropriate budget. Guar gum powder (HS Code 13023230) should be included under the scheme. Export of this item, which used to the topmost export item of Shefexil, suffered severe blow in two consecutive years (exports of guar gum fell by over 42% in 2020-21) due to fall in demand in the United States which is the largest importer of this item. Guar meal (HS Code 11061010) should also be included under the scheme. These products are grown in the deserts by the marginal farmers, and support extended to these products would go a long way to protect their interest. (Action: DoC/EP-Agri)

iv. There should be minimum 12 Months validity from the date of issuance of Post dated MEIS/SEIS scrips and all the pending scrips should be issued on or before 31st December 2021 (this should include export effected up to 31st Dec. 2020) this will help exporter get their long pending benefit. (Action: DGFT PC-3)

v. RoDTEP rates should be announced immediately and proper allocation is requested. (Action: DGFT PC-3/DOR)

vi. ‘Several non-timber forest produces (NTFPs) are being exported from India under the ‘others’ category of their respective chapters without specific ITC HS Codes. The annual exports of these uncategorized items are estimated worth more than Rs 5,000 crore. The high value of exports of these items indicates the potential of these items and calls for concerted export promotion measures. However, such actions would not deliver desired results unless each of these items is identified, and their global demand understood and quantified. Exporters of these items are also unable to claim export benefits. Shefexil is the nodal agency for the registration of exports of shellac and gum karaya. It has the required experience and the expertise to handle the international movement of the items under consideration. It is, therefore, proposed by Shefexil that a system of mandatory registration is put in place for these items. (Action: DGFT PC-2)

vii. There should not be any requirement of IEC. PAN and GSTIN should be
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<td><strong>5.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC)</strong></td>
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| i.  | Although RoSCTL has been extended till 2024, the issue of cap needs to be addressed due to the current raw material prices of yarn.  
*Action*: DGFT PC-3 |
| ii. | We should have preferential tariff agreements with major importing countries like USA, EU whereas Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh are having tariff preference than India.  
*Action*: DoC |
| iii. | From April 2018, EU countries are insisting to get separate certificate called CE marking certificate for export of home textile items like pot mittens, oven glove etc. to EU as these products are considered as protection equipment in industry products for which around Rs.75,000/-Rs.1,00,000/- has to be paid towards testing and CE mark certification charges per design. The CE certification requirement differs from buyer to buyer. We can request to remove the CE marking certificate for home textile goods as the products are being manufactured with same recommended standard of input materials.  
*Action*: DoC |
| **6.** | **Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC INDIA)** |
| i.  | The issue of availability of Container and Ocean freight needs to be taken care of.  
*Action*: M/o Shipping and CONCOR |
| ii. | There is no relief to our exporters particularly to MSME regarding pricing of steel in the local market. The issue needs to be addressed.  
*Action*: M/o Steel |
| iii. | India is trying to put up more and more FTAs with countries like UK and EU. USA should also be included since US is the biggest trading partner with India especially for engineering goods.  
*Action*: DoC |
| iv. | Put up some measures in the FTP about the containers and ocean freight problems. The FTP should have something for shipping.  
*Action*: DGFT PC-2 |
| v.  | Some dedicated container ships should be brought to India for shipments to East Coast of USA and west coast of USA, that will go a long way to develop Engineering sector.  
*Action*: M/o Shipping and CONCOR |
| vi. | To take up the matter with appropriate authority about the protectionist stance taken by US and EU countries such as the Section 232 tariff on Indian steel and EU quota.  
*Action*: M/o Steel |
| vii. | The delay in RODTEP announcement and pending MEIS compensation have been affecting the exporters.  
*Action*: DGFT PC-3 |
| **7.** | **Wool & Woollens Export Promotion Council (WWEPCI)** |
| i.  | Textile and related machinery and Capital goods should not be included in the proposed negative list of the EPCG. Technology upgradation |
through high-tech machines is required for enhancing competitiveness of the Textiles sector. These machines which are not produced in India. *(Action : DGFT PC-5)*

ii. Exports must be considered as a strategic and high priority area. Export Incentives should not be restricted by Budget constraints. *(Action : DGFT PC-3)*

iii. Status Holder Incentives for duty free imports should be brought back for Star Exporters. This will boost exports. *(Action : DGFT PC-3)*

iv. New RoSCTL rates should be updated immediately on the Customs Portal for effective ease of doing business for exporters. *(Action : DoR CBIC)*

v. The proposed issuing of post dated MEIS scrips discounted through banks is welcome. But it must be leveraged well so that the exporters are not faced with undue delay for want of documents etc. *(Action : DGFT PC-3)*

vi. For IEC updation, extension may be given upto September 30th, 2021. *(Action : DGFT PC-2)*

vii. Resolve high freight and container shortage issue at the earliest. Ocean freight has increased 3 to 4 times recently, as a support measure some sort of subsidy measure to be considered for reducing the burden of exporters in the covid-19 period. *(Action : M/o Shipping and CONCOR)*

8. **Services Export Promotion Council(SEPC)**

   i. Budget should be allocated for pending SEIS benefits. *(Action : DGFT PC-3)*

   ii. Compilation of data for services is very difficult and a lot of overlap is happening. To resolve this, we should have CPC version 2 instead version 1 for any SEIS like scheme in future which should be aligned with GST service accounting code. *(Action : DoC, EP-Services/DGFT PC-3)*

9. **PEPC (Project Exports Promotion council of India)**

   i. We strongly suggest that the EPCG Scheme should continue as the Scheme would help MSMEs and other industries. However, EPCG licence should be Issued to Manufacturer Exporters. Invalidate for imports (except goods not manufactured in India) and issue Invalidation Letter to domestic manufacturers, under Deemed Exports. Domestic manufacturers, if required, can import inputs (RMs & components) under Advance Authorisation or drawback. Reduce the export obligation to 75% of the normal EO. *(Action : DGFT PC-5)*

   ii. Regarding the suggestion of issuing post dated Scrip for the year 2020-21 and discounting with banks. Suggest that a scheme should be worked with banks with a reduced rate of interest. The funding should be
for a period of One year. (Action: DGFT PC-3)

iii. Project Exports is going to be a big opportunity for every Indian exporter. However, today we have various challenges in terms of funding, local taxation & rules, logistics, high shipping cost, availability of labourers, travelling, Visas, etc. Project Exports involves, Design, engineering, manufacturing, supply and services and the challenges are numerous. Hence, suggest that the Foreign Missions especially in the developing and underdeveloped countries should partner with the Indian Project Exporters by providing local supports like; visas, local laws and taxation, support in collecting last payment, etc. Similarly, Exim Bank and ECGC together should come out with suitable funding mechanism under Buyers Credit/NEIA. Projects Exporters (only for registered projects as per PEM Rules of RBI) should be given 2% additional incentives compare to other exports. This is can be given by way of Scrip. (Action: DoC, DGFT PC-2, ECGC, RBI)

iv. In the new FTP, we strongly suggest a separate Chapter should be created for Project Exports Schemes. (Action: DGFT FTP Cell/PC-2)

### 10. CHEMEXCIL (Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council)

**i.** Chemicals should be included in the PLI scheme. (Action: DPIIT)

**ii.** Some basic chemical raw materials like feedstock Acetic Acid (HS code: 29152100) has different Customs duty structure for import from different countries. The duty should be rationalized. (Action: DoR CBIC)

**iii.** Restrictions for import of alcohol for chemical industry should be removed and it should be made freely importable. Restore Concessional Rate of Duty on Import of Denatured Ethyl Alcohol (Ethanol) under Customs Tariff Heading 22072000. There are other such chemicals like Bisphenol-A etc. (Action: DGFT PC-2, DoR CBIC)

**iv.** Iran do not accept payments in dollars and accepts payments in Euro. But our bankers do not accept payments in Euro. The issue may be resolved. (Action: RBI)

**v.** Inverted duty structure issue faced by Oleo-chemicals sector should be resolved. (Action: DoR CBIC)

### 11. Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs (EPCES)

**i.** Action taken statement on the issues discussed in the previous meetings with EPCs should be there. We should be made aware of Government’s effort in resolving exporters issues raised in previous meetings. Otherwise, we discuss more or less same issues in every meeting. (Action: DGFT Coordination)

**ii.** Invest India can help in attracting investment into vacant land and office
space laying in the SEZ’s and popularize the advantages of investing in EOU’s & SEZ’s.  

(Action : DPIIT, Invest India)

iii. There should not be any uncertainty about budget in the incentive schemes. Once incentives have been decided by the government, they should be honoured and they should be paid. There should be policy certainty and stability in this so that exporters can price their export properly.  

(Action : DGFT PC-3)

iv. MEIS/SEIS post-paid bond should be issued, so that the exporters can get finance from the bank, and it will certainly help in liquidity.  

(Action : DGFT PC-3)

v. RoDTEP should cover all exports, whether SEZs, EOU, DTA or against advanced authorization. SEZs/EOUs should not be discriminated against. Exports from SEZs and EOU should also get the benefit of ROSTCL on textile items. DGFT should take it up with M/o Textiles. On one hand SEZs and EOU are deprived of benefits of MEIS because of closure of MEIS scheme, they are also not covered yet under the RoDTEP schemes. This is highly unfair and unjustified.

(Action : DGFT PC-3)

vi. We welcome classification of “Others” as it will lead to better information and statistics.

vii. Under the FTP, we strongly support continuation of EOU scheme. We have given our views to the Ministry in detail. We don’t want disruptions as EOU is one of the oldest scheme and they are in the area of manufacturing. We need the benefits under MOOWR scheme to be provided to EOU too. NFE linkage should be done away with in the EOU scheme. We will submit a detailed proposal for launching EOU 2.0 in the new FTP.  

(Action : DGFT PC-6)

viii. Our request of having no customs duty/ or customs duty on duty foregone principle for supplies made to DTA by SEZ units should be immediately resolved. India is importing many such products and if such products are manufactured in India, no customs duty or reduced duty should be applied. India is importing such finished goods under FTA on zero customs duty. SEZs will substitute such imports. This will promote Made in India or Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative of Hon’ble Prime Minister.  

(Action : DoC SEZ Division)

ix. Rationalisation of charges by SEZ Online should be immediately announced. There has been agreement with all stakeholders for 50% reduction in charges. In fact it should be free as DTA exporters and importers donot pay anything for using ICEGATE. SEZ units should be encouraged and not put to disadvantages vis-à-vis DTA exporters.  

(Action : DoC SEZ Division)

tax. Our application for issuing Certificate of Origin should be approved so that we can start issuing eCoO to our members.  

(Action : DGFT PC-2)
xi. SEZ exporters are finding it very difficult to update IECs. Annual updation of IECs should be relaxed. (Action: DGFT PC-2)

xii. Approvals /Processes in EOUs should be made online by SEZ online or otherwise. (Action: DoC SEZ Division)

12. CLE (Council for Leather Exports)
   i. There should be a clarity on the export promotion schemes and percentage of incentives to be given on those schemes to enable the exporters to quote prices. (Action: DGFT PC-3)
   ii. EPCG scheme should be continue without any negative list for the leather and footwear sector as the industry is using imported machines due to lack of availability of locally manufactured machines. The Govt. should consider to re-look to maintaining the average EO as all the industries have gone through a very difficult time due to the pandemic. (Action: DGFT PC-5)
   iii. Post dated MEIS scrips would be helpful to the industry as it would bring liquidity back to the industry. (Action: DGFT PC-3)
   iv. Duty Free Import Scheme (DFIS) of Customs should be restored to help the leather goods industry. (Action: DoR)
   v. Leather export of around 250 millions is going in ‘others category’ alone. So this items being exported in this category should be more specific. (Action: DGFT PC-2)

13. IOPEPC (Indian Oilseeds & Produce Export Promotion Council)
   i. The CIS country has asked for the areas free from parasitic weed 'striga spp' and from India side we are not able to get that area free from striga spp. We are providing the produce free from striga spp but they require area free from striga. Eurasian Economic Union has require additional declaration (stating that Peanuts and Sesame seed are produced in region that free from Striga spp., Callosobruchusspp, Caulophiluslatinasus, Trogoderma granarium) in the phytosanitary certificate (PSC) for export to Eurasian Economic Union. As the seeds of Striga are very tiny (dust like) and can spread readily via wind and water, and in soil via animal vectors it may not be technically sound to issue a declaration to the effect that the consignments of groundnut/sesame seeds being shipped from India for export were produced in ‘areas’ which is free from Striga. Rather, a declaration in the phytosanitary certificate that the “Consignment” is free from Striga spp., Callosobruchusspp, Caulophiluslatinasus, Trogoderma granariumstrigga would be a technically sound proposition. The Indian exports of groundnut and sesame seed have suffered a lot on account of this additional declaration required in phytosanitary certificate. The issue needs to be taken from our side with CIS countries or India should declare area free from striga spp. (Action: Plant Quarantine M/o Agriculture)
   ii. For exports of groundnuts to Vietnam, the registration of processing unit
is compulsory. The registration is given after joint inspection by audit team comprising of officials of APEDA and NPPO subject to rectification of Non-conformity reported by the audit team. We would like to highlight that many groundnut processing units who have applied for renewal of their registration with NPPO, have still not received any response. Even after repeated follow-ups, NPPO is not able to appoint personnel in this regard. This could be due to shortage of staff at NPPO/APEDA. Since the validity of registered unit is only for 1 year, the exporter is required to submit the application afresh by providing all the necessary documents and has to chase the officials for conducting audit and receiving registration certificate. In order to facilitate Ease of Doing Business, the validity of unit registration needs to be extended to 3 years instead of 1 year at present.  

(Action : APEDA/DoC)

iii. As per the present HS Classification, Sesame seed has been placed under HS code- 12074090. This common H.S. Code is used for export of hulled sesame seed and natural sesame seed. The sesame trade does not get the actual information on quantity and value of exports of hulled sesame seed and natural seed and is unable to take appropriate export decisions based on real information. We would like to highlight that as sesame seed constitutes about 50% of the exports basket of oilseeds, fixation of separate HS Code codes for hulled and natural sesame seed should be given priority. Fixation of separate HS Codes for hulled and natural sesame seed will go long way in providing important information to exporter community and will give boost to exports of sesame seed from India.  

(Action : DGFT PC-2)

iv. Allow exporters to file their TMA Assistance claims for quarter ending on 30th June’ 19 and 30th Sep’ 19 by 30th September 2021. The exporters were unable to file their claims for these two quarters due to the complete Lockdown.  

(Action : DGFT PC-6)

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<th>14. The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL)</th>
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| i. Online filing of export returns under para 2.96 (b) should be reinstated which has been recently deleted. At Plexconcil we have more than 600 HS codes and we will not be able to do any analysis for any export product without the exporter filing the online quarterly export returns. Such analysis is required by Dept. of Commerce & other ministries from time to time as regards trade agreements, DGTR proceedings, fixation of NTB barriers etc. At plexconcil we also distribute Top Exporter awards and without details of exports from individual exporters it will be difficult to ascertain the winners.  

(Action : DGFT PC-2) |
| ii. Suggestions for FTP had been submitted earlier, some of them are:  
(a) Description under SION should be aligned with HSN codes as it creates confusion & mismatch at customs at the time of import |
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<th>(Action : DGFT PC-4/All NCs)</th>
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<td>(b) Customs should cancel LUT automatically once EODC is issued by DGFT. Exporters should not be asked to submit documents again for cancellation of LUT. (Action : DGFT PC-4)</td>
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<td>(c) For the benefit of those exporters who import Duty free raw materials after completing exports, validity of imports should be increased by an additional 6 months. (Action : DGFT PC-4)</td>
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<td>(d) We request to discontinue publication of ratified norms. New SION norms are applied for new products which have been developed after investing in R&amp;D. Once the new norms are published, any other exporter can take benefit of it and export that product at lower costs as they have invested in R&amp;D, thereby discouraging the exporter who invested in R&amp;D. (Action : DGFT PC-4/All NCs)</td>
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<td>(e) If a manufacturer wants to install an efficient machine by replacing an inefficient machine under EPCG, he has to maintain average export obligation in addition to additional export obligation, it is difficult for him to maintain average EO and also export additional quantity. Some provision should be there to encourage him to replace old machines to maintain his exports. (Action : DGFT PC-5)</td>
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iii. No machines should ever be stopped from being imported. Specially by including plastic processing machines in the negative list will only benefit the machine manufacturers and not the processing industry. Large numbers of machines are being imported from China mainly due to Equivalent quality not available in India or Indian prices of machines are very high. A quality finished product requires a high quality Machine to be at a reasonable cost and it is very necessary for exports.

iv. After the new software & online system has been adopted, some issues are being faced:

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<td>(a) If Invalidation has been taken for procuring inputs domestically and later on due to any reason an amendment is required to partially cancel the invalidation and re credit the partial value back to imports, such facility is not there in the new software.</td>
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<td>(b) After the online system, If the license is sent for revalidation and DGFT approves it as well and gets updated at ICEGATE as well, still on the Customs portal the license shows an “alert: and license cannot be used. Licenses for imports are expiring due to this and exporters are at a great loss. (DOR)</td>
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<td>(c) After the new software, individual CIF value is appearing against</td>
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each product to be imported. Earlier only individual quantity was shown and consolidated CIF value of import was shown which enabled price fluctuations to be taken care of. So this should be reinstated.  

(Action : DGFT PC-4)

v. Those AA where exports have been completed, Imports should be allowed for upto 36 months under current circumstances due to covid lockdowns, high sea freight rates on import cargo and heavy price fluctuations. This will enable the exporter to import goods when prices stabilize.  

(Action : DGFT PC-4)

vi. PLI scheme should be made available for polymers also.  

(Action : DPIIT)

15. **Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESCEPC)**

i. As regards expansion of negative list under EPCG it was informed that the electronic industry is very heavily dependent on the specialized equipment, which are the core for any industry to be successful and not available in India. However, a discussion can be taken on what can be put in the negative list.  

(Action : DGFT PC-5)

ii. Availability of the incentive and sufficient allocation of resources to make export incentives schemes meaningful has to be there which is actually the key for any exporter to be successful in the international market. The quantum of the incentive is also to be such that the exporter do not face any uncertainty going forward and they are assured of the continued support that they will get the incentive. So in this regard, we would request that the export incentive should be notified on all the tariff lines for the electronic items which are falling in chapter 84, 85, 90 and 91 with no caping as such.  

(Action : DGFT PC-3)

iii. On the issue of alternative script. We welcome the initiative taken by DGFT. And we have understood that it has to be between the industry and the bank. But a clear policy and clear advisory should be issued to the bank to avoid any discretion.  

(Action : DGFT PC-3)

16. **TEXPROCIL (The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council)**

i. To cover Cotton Yarn and Fabrics under the RODTEP scheme.  

(Action : DGFT PC-3)

ii. To remove the Customs duty on Cotton that was imposed in the Union Budget for 2021-22 as it is increasing the cost for the entire value chain of textiles & clothing. Only those varieties of cotton that are not being produced in India are being imported.  

(Action : DoR CBIC)

iii. Request to re-instate the facility of DFIS for duty free imports of trimmings & embellishments and other specified items which were allowed against exports of Cotton Made ups and Garments at the rate of
1% and 5% respectively of the fob value of exports in the preceding year. This facility has been removed in the Union Budget for 2021-22. (Action : DGFT PC-4)

iv. Products falling under HSN 9404 should be covered under the RoSCTL scheme and the same rates applicable to Made ups should also be made available for “Products covered under 9404”. (Action : DGFT PC-3)

v. To take steps for removal of NTBs in Countries like Colombia, Mexico, EU, UK, Egypt, Morocco and Turkey by engaging in dialogue with these countries. (Action :DoC)

vi. To remove Anti dumping duty on Spandex Yarns almost 40% of garments use it to impart stretchability and enhance value and meet the requirements of fashion. Currently, Sunset Review is in progress. (Action :DoR CBIC)

vii. The negative list of machineries for textiles under the EPCG scheme should be kept bare minimum as many of the machines are not available domestically and even if available there are delayed deliveries upto 3 years and more. Further the textile industry is currently in the throes of modernisation and upgradation of technology. (Action : DGFT PC-5)

ix. ECGC Ltd charges premium on the exporters and also recovers the premium paid by the bank on export finance from the exporters. Request to take up this issue with ECGC Ltd. (Action :ECGC)

x. Many exporters have not mentioned scheme code 60 while filing shipping bills under the RoSCTL scheme. As a result they are unable to apply online for scrips under the scheme. Request to please allow such exporters the benefit of RoSCTL as all other necessary details are mentioned on the relevant shipping bills. (Action : DGFT PC-3)

xi. MEIS should be kept open ended as it used to be. Since the MIES has already been discontinued, the actual amount required can be calculated and funds should be made available accordingly for clearance of all pending claims under the scheme. This is important especially considering the fact that exporters have till date not received the benefits under the RODTEP scheme since the implementation of the scheme on January 1, 2021. (Action : DGFT PC-3)

xii. To engage in dialogue with Turkey for the removal of Additional duty of 20% on Textiles from India in addition to the normal duty of 8% since this duty is not in line with WTO requirements. (Action :DoC)

xiii. To make the Advance Authorization Scheme more popular and effective. The Advance Authorization as well as materials imported under the scheme should be made transferable after the fulfilment of the export obligation. Also the value addition under the scheme should be reduced from 15% to 5% considering he uncertain and difficult situation.
prevailing in the export markets making exports difficult.  

(Action : DGFT PC-4)

xiv. The online facility on the DGFT portal for Certificate of Origin related to exports to ASEAN countries is working very well. However, at times, Customs department in the importing countries especially China do not accept the digital Certificate of Origin and insist upon the original. This issue may be taken up with the importing countries under ASEAN so that all the countries accept the digital certificate of origin without insisting upon the original.

(Action : DoC)

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<tr>
<th>17.</th>
<th>Powerloom Development &amp; Export Promotion Council(PDEXCIL)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i.</td>
<td>To increase the time limit to 3 years under para 5.04 (a) of HBP 2015-20 in line of Spare parts so that exporters can submit the Installation Certificate without any penalty.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Action : DGFT PC-5)</td>
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<td>ii.</td>
<td>clearance at customs. Automatic enhancement of duty saved in EPCG is also requested, since fees for enhanced value will make payment at the time of redemption.</td>
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<td>(Action : DGFT PC-4)</td>
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<td>iii.</td>
<td>Server of DGFT is very slow. IEC and pan card have lot of mismatch so it should be made simple as a one time effort. While applying for new IEC the documents to upload limit is just one MB. When an exporter reduces its document and submits on DGFT website the fonts become so small so it is not accepted, so it should be 2 MB at least.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Action : DGFT EG&amp;TF)</td>
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<td>iv.</td>
<td>IEC updation of all exporters should be extended upto September 2021.</td>
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<td>(Action : DGFT PC-2)</td>
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<td>v.</td>
<td>RCMC of all EPC should be made mandatory and compulsory for exports.</td>
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<td>(Action : DGFT PC-2)</td>
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<td>(Action : DGFT PC-2)</td>
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<td>vii.</td>
<td>Fix suitable RoDTEP rates for the entire textile value chain viz. Manmade Fibre, yarn, Fabrics &amp;Made-ups, with at least 8 to 10%. Benefits of RODTEP may be extended to EOU/SEZs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Action : DGFT PC-3)</td>
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<td>viii.</td>
<td>Nepal textile trade should be considered as local trade and not exports.</td>
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<td>(Action : DGFT Export Cell)</td>
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<th>18.</th>
<th>Gem Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)</th>
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<tr>
<td>i.</td>
<td>Shipping bills are not reflected in EDPMS, imports at different customs location and Bill of Entry thereof from ICEGATE are not getting reflected in IDPMS Portal of RBI due to some error in filing of complete details in the EDI system of Customs and members are not able to make import payments. Therefore, we would request DGFT to look into the matter and try to resolve them at the earliest.</td>
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</table>
ii. Streamlining the procedures for gem & jewellery exhibitions are of prime importance as we cannot send the products on sample. We are trying to organise the show in Dubai, for that we are in touch with the Embassy and Emirates. *(Action : DGFT PC-4)*

iii. Re-introduce of para on Diamond Imprest Licence. CPD is the one product where we have competitive advantage over China. If this policy is reintroduced this will benefit our exporters as raw materials are not mined in India. *(Action : DGFT PC-4)*

iv. Bank guarantee to the nominated agencies should be released immediately after export of jewellery and exporter may be allowed to submit LUT to customs as it is the cash guarantee for our products which blocks the working capital of our member exporters. *(Action : DGFT PC-4)*

v. Commerce ministry has given the steep targets of exports and we are hopeful that we will achieve those targets as diamond trade is booming and gold jewellery has shown positive sign last month. Would request DGFT to facilitate the raw materials to our exporters. *(Action : DGFT PC-4)*

vi. A para on E-commerce Policy for G&J sector may be introduced in FTP. *(Action : DGFT PC-4)*

vii. As per recent amendment under Rule 89(4) of CGST Rules, 2017 which states that the value of export supply is not more than 1.5 times of the value of like goods domestically supplied by the same or, similarly placed supplier, because of this significant amounts of refund of GST are stuck thereby impacting the capability of trade to undertake further exports. *(Action : DoR CBIC)*

19. **PHARMEXCIL (Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India)**

   i. The exports are becoming unviable due to the non availability of containers and significant hike in the trade charges. *(Action : M/o Shipping, Container Corporation of India)*

   ii. As MEIS was available to the exporters availing Advance Authorisation, EOUs and SEZ, RoDTEP scheme should also be available to them. *(Action : DGFT PC-3)*

   iii. Working capital of the industry is blocked due to inverted duty structure of GST on inputs of APIs and flip formulations which are 18% and 12%. The issue should be resolved. *(Action : DoR/CBIC)*

   iv. Due to reduced weighted deductions for R&D expenses from 150% to 100% during 2016 to 2020 under section 35 of the Finance Act, various initiatives like Make in India and spirit of innovation are discouraged which are extremely essential for Pharma industry. *(Action : DOR)*

   v. Pharma industry is heavily dependent on import of pharmaceutical
machines due to extreme regulations being imposed by different countries, any expansion of negative list under EPCG would impact our capability for excellence.  

**20. The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC)**

i. Grant status to the silk industry as triple weightage which was available to it in the earlier policy. 

*Action: DGFT PC-3*

ii. Extend TMA to the silk as silk is also an agricultural product. 

*Action: DoC EP-Agri*

iii. ODOP (One District One Product) facility should be extended to other states also. 

*Action: DGFT Export Division*

iv. Allow to hold EP activities under MAI scheme specially to NAFTA countries because silk is being sold to NAFTA countries and they only can hold the goods. 

*Action: DoC*

v. Exhibition goods should be cleared without imposing import duty. 

*Action: DOR*

vi. Visa should be granted to exhibition people so that they can reach the exhibition ground on time to show case their products. 

*Action: MEA*

vii. Interest equalization schemes should be extended beyond 31st March 2022 automatically so that people can take advantage. 

*Action: DGFT PC-4*

viii. We are not receiving the current data export data through DGFT website. Export data should be provided through all the export options, because we are having only two months older data from that particular site. 

*Action: DGFT DGCIS*

ix. Restoration of duty free import for embellishment which has been dismantled during the last budget. 

*Action: DoR/CBIC*

**21. The Sports Goods Export Promotion Council (SGEPC)**

i. The exporters are not in a position to commit the long term orders due to three reasons: One is the high logistics cost at the moment, second is the non announcement a RoDTEP rates and third is a liquidity crunch which we are facing because of the long pendency of MEIS. 

*Action: M/o Shipping and DGFT PC-3*

ii. Interest should be added in the post dated MEIS scrips because when the exporters get it discounted from the bank, they would again need to pay the interest cost on it, despite the fact that it only overdue for more than a year. However, small exporters cases should be released in full. 

*Action: DGFT PC-3*

**22. Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC)**

i. The GST refund is a biggest issue with the industry. Duty Drawback is also being delayed. 

*Action: DoR*

ii. When we submit a document for the shipping under the HSN code 57 there comes two percentages 12% and 5%. 5% is for the handmade
carpets and 12% for the machine made carpets. There is no clarity to what they use 5% and to what they use 12%. The website of customs should be updated in this regard. (Action : DoR)

iii. There should be separate HSN for machine made carpets & hand made carpets/other floor coverings under chapter 57. (Action : DGFT PC-2)

iv. We have huge exports with Turkey which has increased import duty on hand made carpets from 55% to 78% whereas, India is being flooded by the machine made carpets from Turkey and import duty in India is only 20%. So India should increase import duty on machine made carpets as India has a potential to increase production of machine made carpets. (Action : DoR / CBIC / DoC)

v. RCMC of CEPC should be mandatory for the exporters of Handmade Carpets and other floor coverings which was there upto 2002 and removed in the FTP thereafter. (Action : DGFT PC-2)

23. Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)

i. We have been able to achieve growth of 1.62% in Rupee terms in this challenging scenario of COVID. It is stagnant from last two years.

ii. We may lose business around 25 to 35% in future if DFIS for duty free import of essential embellishment, trimmings and tools for handicrafts sector under Sl. No. 229 of Custom Notification No. 50/2017-Dates dated 30.06.2017, which has been withdrawn w.e.f. 31st March 2021, is not restored because a lot of items are out of our basket for export. Like for lamps, we need imported components for 110 volts of wire to connect otherwise exports will suffer. For costume jewelry, we need to import visual components having specific color or specific packaging as per buyer specifications from their specified manufacturers or country. (Action : DoR CBIC)

iii. Our industry is saved due to online sale. Special provision may be made in the foreign trade policy for overseas warehousing for B2B E-commerce (Bulk Shipments) in order to encourage for B2B e-commerce. Since the goods will be placed in an overseas warehouse and would be sold as per the orders received from the buyers, the payment would be received in a staggered manner hence special concessions for such exporters with respect to partial settlement of BRCs may be made. Separate clearance should be made for re-import of unsold and rejected inventory. The digital integration of multiple interfaces such as CBIC, Department of Posts, DGFT and GSTN for facilitating e-commerce exports would have to be undertaken. (Action : DGFT PC-2)

iv. Interest Equalization Scheme on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit may be extended beyond 30th September 2021 in the new FTP. (Action : DGFT PC-4)
| v. | There are many handicrafts items at 8 digit HS level on which preferential duty access is granted to India pertaining to handicrafts sector. The removal of GSP benefit would impact the exports of handicrafts to USA and the exporter has to bear increased duty of 3% - 6% on these items. The Govt. should pursue with USA for the restoration of GSP benefit for handicrafts items.  *(Action : DoC)* |
| vi. | The Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) may be extended to Handicrafts on incremental exports value for the exporters with turnover of Rs. 10.00 cr and above. This will help the exporters to increase their exports and will boost overall growth of the sector.  *(Action : DPIIT)* |
| vii. | The procedure to issue of Certificate of Origin (CoO) in case of export made under various trade agreement with countries like Japan, Chile, Korea, Sri Lanka etc may be simplified and mechanism may be developed as EU REX System.  *(Action : DGFT PC-2)* |
| viii. | Maintaining original Export Obligation (EO) of 6 times of duty saved amount is enough when export sector is reeling and bleeding. Block year fulfilment of 50% in first 4 years and 50% in next 2 years should be done away with and No block year fulfilment should be imposed to the handicrafts sector.  *(Action : DGFT PC-5)* |
| ix. | The ongoing pandemic has disrupted the Exim logistics across the globe due to which the exporters are facing shortage of containers and are frequently subjected to additional charges such as repositioning charge imposed by shipping lines and freight forwarders. This is an additional cost which the exporter has to bear hence increasing the transaction cost for them. Under the new FTP, the Government may consider establishment of a Regulatory Authority for Shipping lines and freight forwarders through enactment of the Parliament to control and monitor the pricing, terms & conditions and other provisions relating to the shipment of goods.  *(Action : DGFT PC-2/FTP Cell)* |

### 24. The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council (SRTEPC)

| i. | Indian Textile Engineering Industry (TEI) largely depended on foreign technical/technical-cum-financial collaborations, and indigenous development is not significant. It is suggested that imports as well as domestic procurement of capital goods under the EPCG Scheme should not be restricted. There should not be any negative list of capital goods.  *(Action : DGFT PC-5)* |
| ii. | Timely refund the duties and levies paid by the exporters is a must. For example, refund of IGST, Duty drawback, RoSCTL, etc. should be immediate. There should not be any concerns on the Budgetary issues in refunding these duties and levies as these are already collected from the
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| **iii.** Rectify the Inverted Duty Structure existing in the MMF textile Segment. This issue has been pending since a long time. It is blocking working capital and resulting in liquidity crunch. It is suggested to introduce a uniform 5% GST rate for entire value chain in the MMF textiles segment.  
**Action:** DGFT PC-3, DoR CBIC |   |
| **iv.** Entire MMF textile value chain to be covered under the PLI Scheme and threshold limit of the PLI Scheme be fixed at 20% and include entire MMF textile value chain under the Scheme.  
**Action:** DPIIT |   |
| **v.** Double weightage to be given for the smaller exporters while considering merits for status as Star Export Houses.  
**Action:** DGFT PC-3 |   |
| **vi.** Conclude the potential FTAs with EU and the UK.  
**Action:** DoC |   |
| **vii.** The entire MMF textile value chain should be included under the RoDTEPScheme and should be considered with at least 6% rate.  
**Action:** DGFT PC-3 |   |
| **viii.** Due to lack of extended specification of the HS codes and diversifications of the textile products, there are many products which are being traded under the “others” category. The systematized data about which are the products going under the “others” category is recorded by the Customs. With the help of these data with the details products, it is urgent to formulate further extended and specific ITC HS codes.  
**Action:** DGFT PC-2 |   |
| **ix.** The Govt. should introduce special policy support in the Foreign Trade Policy to encourage the recycled fibre and sustainable textiles.  
**Action:** DGFT FTP Cell |   |

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<tr>
<th>25. TELECOM EPC (Telecom Equipment &amp; Services Export Promotion Council)</th>
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| **i.** In telecom sector, exporters exporting goods worth small amount face unsecured mode of payment. Therefore, it is suggested that a portal, such as Alibaba of China, may be made available to such small exporters for secured payments. Such transactions can also be facilitated using Gem Portal, Indiamart or through EXIM bank.  
**Action:** DoC |   |
| **ii.** Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) has planned BharatNet Project which stipulates the Public Private Partnership (PPP) on Build-Operate and Transfer model for the project. Further, it is also learnt that the aforesaid project doesn’t stipulate the Preference to Make India products/ EPC project. The circumvention of PPP-MII Orders, wherever Government fund are involved such as in PPP/ Viability Gap Funding/ World Bank Funding etc. models, will adversely affect the domestic telecom equipment/ product manufacturing industry and in-turn, the |   |
vision of Hon’ble Prime Minister in respect of ‘अत्म-निर्भर भारत’ and ‘Vocal for Local’.  

 iii. Due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, now-a-days the cost of shipping has become exorbitant, as the container cost have gone up, which is impacting specially the export orders booked while such costs were normal.  

 iv. After Covid-19 pandemic, raw material, such as Copper, Aluminum, Steel, plastic etc. prices have gone up by 50% to 150% over the pre-covid prices. The exporters of these raw material are charging, the telecom industry, the import parity plus the import duty which is increasing the cost of finished telecom products (cables, wires etc.). It is recommended that wherever, the prices of raw material have increased from 50% to 150%, the BCD may be made 0% so that there is no increase in export prices.  

 v. The Export Promotion Councils may be allowed to access the product-wise, company-wise and consignment-wise data of import and export, at par with the data commercially provided by some of the websites, using DGCIS website.  

 vi. 80% of telecom products are imported under ‘Others’ category. TEPC is analysing and is in the process of preparing the proposal for creation of the new tariff lines for telecom products. The consignment-wise details will also help in analysing the cases of circumvention of the Basic Custom Duty (BCD) under ‘Others’ category.  

 vii. Our members are facing some NTB issues e.g.USA is using HSN code 8544 for optical fibre and Optical Fibre cable. A BCD of 0% is levied on OF/ OFC under HSN Code 8544 whereas for the same items under HSN Code 90011000 many of states of USA levy BCD @6.7 %. It is requested to look into the matter and see if BCD can be 0% for both the HSN Codes.  

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
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<th>Issue</th>
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<td>DGFT (PC-3)</td>
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