

Chairman's Pen

My dear fellow exporters,

The DGFT had called for a Sectoral Review of the engineering sector. As per the DGCI&S data, engineering exports fell by 30% during April-October, 2009 though the rate of decline has fallen. On a conservative estimates, it was felt that engineering sector exports would be in the range of US\$ 32.5 to US\$ 33.5 billion for the year 2009-10 which implies a decline of 15 to 20% over US\$ 40 billion that was achieved in 2008-09.

EEPC India also took the views of twenty-two Panel Chairpersons about the prospect of exports during the period January-March 2010. Most Panels were not very optimistic about this quarter though some Panels felt that January-March 2010 would be better than the October-December 2009 quarter.

The Panel Chiefs also provided some broad policy measures that need to be taken in the short period to help exporters stabilize their export operations. In particular, there was a suitable demand for a Technology Upgradation Scheme for various Panels. EEPC India has conveyed this to the DGFT and Department of Commerce who have said that the Technology Upgradation Fund is not within their domain but in the domain of Ministry of Industry. The DGFT has also suggested that members take the zero duty EPCG Scheme for Technology Upgradation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aman Chadha'.

(AMAN CHADHA)