

## Chairman's Pen



*My dear fellow exporters,*

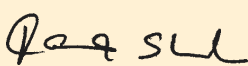
*I am glad to inform you that after many presentations from the Council to the Department of Commerce on the need to halt the declining export trend in the Hand Tools Industry, five tariff lines in the Hand Tools Industry has now been included in the Focus Product Scheme. The Council conveys its thanks to the Department of Commerce for recognizing the tremendous contribution that the Hand Tools Industry has made not only in promoting export, but also in creating employment generation in the country for which it needs to be supported through progressive measures such as the Focus Product Scheme. I hope this will provide the necessary booster for Hand Tools Exporters and they will take necessary steps to reverse the declining export trend in their sector.*

*The confusion with regard to the export duty Notification No. 66/2008-Customs dated 10th May, 2008 continues and the Council has also met Shri Vivek Johri, Joint Secretary (TRU), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, in this regard. Shri Johri has requested that in case of problems related to such confusion being created at the Customs Offices, members may kindly intimate the same by letter to Shri Johri. Members may kindly write to us mentioning the HS Codes on their products on which export duties are being charged by the Customs Authorities and can also write directly to Shri Johri, which can be sent by Fax to him at the No. 011-2309 2031*

*As I had informed to you last week, the Indo-EU Trade Sub-Commission will be held in the month of June 2008. The Council has made a detailed presentation to the Government in this regard highlighting the problem faced by our member exporters on issues such as Visa, technical standards, high certification charges etc. We hope that at the Trade Sub-Commission meeting will discuss threadbare these issues to enable Indian exporters to enhance their links with European Union. Some members have also mentioned to us about the problems faced by them with regard to GSP and GSTP Certification at EIC offices. We have already taken up this matter with the Department of Commerce and we hope that steps would be taken to streamline this process.*

*I would also like to inform you that the Council has submitted an application for the World TPO Awards 2008 for the best TPO from a developing country category. This is, indeed, a prestigious award and TPO's from various parts of the world apply for the award. We have presented an excellent document along with our application to justify why EEPC should get the award in this category and we hope that with your blessings, the Council will be able to achieve this milestone.*

*Yours sincerely,*



(RAKESH SHAH)