

## Chairman's Pen



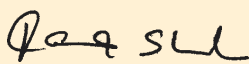
*My dear fellow exporters,*

*It was with great distress we learnt the sad demise of our Former Chairman Dr. B. V. Bhoota who was also a Special Invitee to the Working Committee of the Council. Dr. Bhoota was the Chairman of the Council from 1972 to 1974, and had contributed immensely towards the promotion of engineering exports from the country. On behalf of the engineering community, I would like to convey our sincere condolences to Mrs. Urmila Jain, the bereaved daughter of Dr. Bhoota. We pray to the Almighty to give Mrs. Jain and other family members the strength to bear this irreparable loss.*

*Members have also intimated to the Council that they are facing a number of hardships with regard to claiming Service Tax refund as per the various notifications issued beginning October 06, 2007. The Council has made a detailed representation to the CBEC in this regard seeking clarification on the various inconsistencies with regard to the various notifications issued by the Board on service tax refund.*

*I am also given to understand that some exporters are facing problems with regard to the import of samples through courier. We had taken up this matter with the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, who have issued clarification to the effect that import of bonafide commercial samples are exempt up to the prescribed monetary limit of Rs. 75,000/- in value (raised to Rs. 1 lac in 2008-09) or 15 units in number within a period of 12 months under Notification No. 154/194-Customs, dated 13.07.1994 as amended. For this purpose, the importers must specifically claim the benefit of the above notification and if the Customs Authorities assess the same to the contrary, they must request for issue of "speaking order" u/s 17(5) of the Customs Act, 1962 to enable the importers to represent their case before the appropriate Appellate Forum. Those members facing problems in this regard may contact the Council so that a copy of the letter received from Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance can be forwarded to them.*

*Yours sincerely,*



(RAKESH SHAH)