

Chairman's Pen



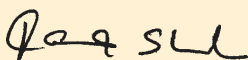
My dear fellow exporters,

The Council will be organising its 18th India Engineering Exhibition (INDEE) in St. Petersburg this week. The 4-day mega event will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia from March 11-14, 2008 in association with Petersburg Technical Fair, organised by M/s. RESTEC Exhibition company, which is one of Russia's top five exhibition companies. At INDEE 2008, the Council will be showcasing the engineering strength of 145 Indian companies belonging to 34 industry segments, which include, among others, electric home appliances and parts, material handling equipments, industrial machinery, food processing machinery, pumps and compressors, forgings, machine tools, aluminium products, defence equipments and supplies, scientific and surgical instruments, automobile and components, castings, cutting tools, ferro alloys, mica and mica products, hand tools, construction and earthmoving machinery, etc. It is hoped that INDEE 2008 at St. Petersburg, Russia will go a long way in bringing the engineering community of both our countries closer and lead to meeting the bilateral trade target of \$10 billion set by the two countries by 2010.

With regard to domestic factors, the Council will be participating at the Steel Consumer Council Meeting to be held on March 17, 2008 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Steel Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. The Council has already forwarded the points for discussion at this meeting in which a comparison of the steel prices escalation in the country vis-à-vis international steel price increases have been made and has suggested a spate of measures for controlling steel prices in the country. According to newspaper reports, the steel ministry had considered a steel regulator but it seems that this idea was dropped on the ground of the fact that steel is not a non-storage item like telecom and power. The Council, in its recommendation, has suggested to strengthen the Price Monitor Committee of the Ministry as well as notify the amendments made in December, 2007 to enable the Competition Commission of India to investigate cartelisation in any industry.

The Council also be placing before the Finance Ministry the post budget memorandum containing the suggestions received from the members, a copy of which also be hosted on the EEPC Website.

Yours sincerely,



(RAKESH SHAH)