

Chairman's Pen



My dear fellow exporters,

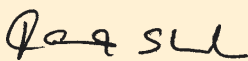
Let me, at the outset, wish you all a very Happy Deepawali and hope that the ensuing year will bring peace and prosperity to you and your family members.

This week, the Council will be making a series of representation to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. On November 13, 2007, a meeting has been called by Shri Rajeev Kher, Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce that would discuss various issues including effects of Rupee appreciation, issues pertaining to RTAs, Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers, Export Performance of various Engineering Panels as well as different CVD and Anti-dumping cases faced by engineering exporters.

Subsequently, on November 14, 2007 EEPC will be joining FIEO for a meeting that has been called by Shri G. K. Pillai, Commerce Secretary which will look at the pressing problem of Rupee appreciation and what can be done to help exporters mitigate the severe adverse impact of sharp Rupee appreciation. The Council has been representing to the Government that the Rupee appreciation will directly lead to nearly 16 lakh workers being unemployed in the engineering sector, as per our survey of June 2007. The Council will further update this survey given that the Rupee has further appreciated since then. I do hope that as a consequence of these interactions with Senior Government Officials, some efforts will be made by the Government to lessen the impact of Rupee appreciation on Indian Exporters.

The Council will also be meeting with the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance in the month of December to highlight the pre-budget suggestions for 2008-09 and various fiscal measures that can be taken to promote engineering exports from the country. It is, indeed, critical for the Government to now wake up to the effects of Rupee appreciation, given that the Industrial Production for September 2007 has also dipped considerably while it is possible to look at these phenomena as one month happening, this is, however, not a very good sign for such a booming economy. I do hope that Government will take necessary steps to promote domestic production and export growth for strengthening the Indian economy.

Yours sincerely,



(RAKESH SHAH)