

Chairman's Pen



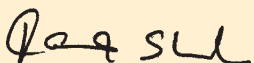
My dear fellow exporters,

It fills my heart with great pleasure to share that Council's Golden Jubilee will be celebrated in New Delhi on 23rd January, 2007 and Hon'ble President of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam has kindly consented to be the Chief Guest on this august occasion. This function will also be attended by Shri Kamal Nath, Minister for Commerce & Industry, Government of India and many other dignitaries besides more than 300 foreign delegates and Indian participants who will be gather to participate in three day India Engineering Meet & Exhibition, scheduled from 22nd to 24th January, 2007. All the former Chairmen and former Executive Directors of the Council will be felicitated on this occasion. This event is a unique in its own way in Council's history and will surely benefit all the Indian companies who have confirmed their participation. I look forward to your whole hearted support from all of you to make this event a grand success.

The office of the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is gradually transforming into a facilitating body for export, working in a more promotional role from the current role of a policy maker. Shri B. S. Meena, DGFT recently said that "we are heading towards making our procedures more comprehensive and transparent." He also informed that the government is working on bridging the last mile gap between the EDI system and the Custom.

However, the silence from the Government on the issue of DEPB is slightly disturbing. Though the DGFT, Shri B. S. Meena has met exporters in two separate meetings, no outcome is known yet on the future of DEPB. The Scheme is likely to be replaced by another suitable and WTO compatible scheme but non-resolution of certain issues is delaying the introduction of new scheme.

Yours sincerely,


(RAKESH SHAH)