

## Chairman's Pen



*My dear fellow exporters,*

*Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram and Hon'ble Commerce Minister Shri Kamal Nath will be meeting the Chairmen of Export Promotion Councils on 21st December, 2006. I shall keep you informed on the outcome of the meeting.*

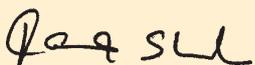
*The Southern Region Export Award Presentation Function for the year 2004-05 was held at Chennai on 14th December, 2006. Prof. K. Anbazhagan, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu was the Chief Guest and presented the awards to meritorious exporters. He informed that VAT is being implemented in Tamil Nadu from 1st January, 2007 onwards and it would help the traders. On this occasion, Shri M. Saikumar, I.A.S., Additional Export Commissioner & Zonal Joint Director General of Foreign Trade delivered the keynote address. He said that for the first time, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, have gone beyond export-import and geared the Foreign Trade Policy towards increasing employment generation and expansion of manufacturing activities.*

*Council's Eastern Region also concluded its Export Award Function for 2004-05 on 18th December in Kolkata. Shri Nirupam Sen, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce & Industry, Government of West Bengal presented awards to meritorious exporters. In his address he said that the State Government will try to revive its board of trade to promote exports from the state, which has become non-functional for many years. He also informed that the Central Government has also given in-principle clearance for the proposed single product SEZ project in the state. Issues like late refund of VAT to export houses, which are not 100% Export Oriented Units were also raised on this occasion.*

*The Union Ministry of Steel has constituted a Steel Price Monitoring Committee (SPMC) constituting the members from the user industry, top management of producers and ministry representatives. The committee is expected to monitor and analyse prices and make a note on any artificial escalation of prices.*

*I wish all of you Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year. May the coming year be very bright and prosperous to all of you.*

*Yours sincerely,*

  
**(RAKESH SHAH)**