

Chairman's Pen



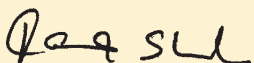
My dear fellow exporters,

The empowered committee of State Finance Ministers has decided to make VAT structure uniform all over the country. States will now emulate the Centre's uniform tariff codes structure for Excise and Customs. This is a welcome move and would bring uniformity and standardization in the VAT structure.

We now have a new Secretary in our parent ministry. Senior IAS officer G. K. Pillai has assumed charge as the new Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Shri Pillai, a 1972 batch officer of the Kerala cadre, has succeeded Shri S. N. Menon who retired from services on 30th September, 2006. Prior to this appointment, he was Special Secretary in the same ministry. He is India's chief negotiator at WTO and I am sure, we will be enriched from his vast experience in various spheres.

Steel manufacturers are contemplating an increase in steel prices across the board very soon. Average increase for flat products is likely to be in the range of Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1,000/- per tonne while for long products it could be around Rs. 500 per tonne. The prices are going up due to spurt in demand, both from Government projects and private sector. We have to watch the impact of rise in steel prices on our exports.

Yours sincerely,


(RAKESH SHAH)