

Chairman's Pen



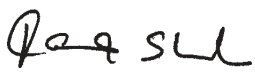
My dear fellow exporters,

The Eastern Region celebrated its 22nd Award Presentation Function on 20th May, 2006 with Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha as the Chief Guest. Mr. Henry Jardine, Consul General, Consulate General of USA and Mr. Simon Wilson, Deputy High Commissioner of British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. On an earnest appeal made by the Chairman, Eastern Region to the Speaker Sir, regarding the hardship being faced by the exporters of the eastern region due to non-refund of VAT Claims, Mr. Chatterjee was very kind to take an immediate action by bringing it to the notice of the Chief Minister, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on the same evening. I would like to put on record our sincere gratitude to him for his kind gesture. We do hope that it will go a long way in bringing about some relief to the exporters from the eastern region.

As you are aware, total exports from India have crossed the target of US\$ 100 billion in 2005-06. The broader goal is to cross 1.50% of global exports by 2009-10. The trend shows that engineering exports will be around US\$ 19 billion in 2005-06. Our Council has set a target of US\$ 30 billion worth of exports by 2009-10, which will be achieved with your relentless efforts.

I would once again like to mention about developing India as a Centre for Engineering Process Outsourcing by making full use of India's intellectual capabilities. The EPO business globally is pegged currently at US\$ 3.5 billion and has the potential to grow to US\$ 10 - 20 billion in next three to five years with a growth rate close to 40 per cent. Development of EPO will in turn propel higher exports of engineering goods. The Council is preparing a roadmap for success in EPO and has already submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and we hope to take this forward from here.

Yours sincerely,


(RAKESH SHAH)