

**Chairman's Pen**

*My dear fellow exporters,*

*The Union Commerce, Industry & Textile Minister Mr. Anand Sharma announced the amendments of the Foreign Trade Policy (2009-2014) on October 13, 2011. Given their constraints, Mr Sharma and his team did a wonderful job in extending the helping hand to the exporting community. A new Special Bonus Scheme was introduced to provide special assistance to specified sectors for 6 months as special assistance. The support is given to Engineering, Pharmaceutical and Chemical sectors and covers 50 products. Some of the major items under Engineering are cast article of alloys steel and stainless steel, hand tools, gas compressors, motorcycles and goods vehicle.*

*A Special Focus Market Scheme has also been introduced with a view to increase the competitiveness of exports with a geographical targeting. The scheme would provide additional @1% duty credit when exports are made to these countries. This duty credit is over and above the duty credit granted under FMS i.e. if a item covered under FMS is exported to the countries listed under SFMS, then the total duty credit would be available @ 4%. In addition, the list of items under FPS has been expanded to include 130 new additional items. These items are mainly in the sectors of Chemical/Pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Handicrafts, Engineering and Electronics sector. Important engineering items like other Ferro-chromium, insulated conductors, vending machines, lithographic plates, and biomass gasifiers, fittings for doors and windows made of brass, name sign plates have also been included in the list. The items covered under FPS are entitled to get duty credit scrip @ 2% of FOB value of exports.*

*Similarly, the list of items under MLFPS has been extended to cover new items to specified countries. It has been decided to extend MLFPS for exports of Agricultural Tractors > 1800cc capacity which would now be eligible for duty credit for exports made to Turkey. Sugar machinery & high-pressure boilers would be eligible for Brazil, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania and Egypt. The scheme has also been extended to all existing MLFPS Countries for printing inks, writing ink etc. The items covered under MLFPS are entitled to get duty credit scrip @ 2% of FOB value of exports. Some measures to reduce transaction costs too have been introduced in the new amendments.*

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aman Chadha'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

(AMAN CHADHA)