

Chairman's Pen



My dear fellow exporters,

I must compliment Shri K. T. Chacko, Director General of Foreign Trade, who in his first public address in Kolkata on April 13, 2006, after the announcement of Annual Supplement to Foreign Trade Policy 2004-05, gave a patient hearing to the enormous concerns of the exporters of the engineering sector. I had the honour to preside over the Question & Answer Session where I took up various bottlenecks that are coming in the way to saddle with our export promotion efforts. Shri Chacko mentioned certain positive steps taken by the Government to reduce transaction cost, simplification of procedures and strengthening of EDI. He particularly mentioned about the un-rebated Service Tax and Fringe Benefit Tax which would now be included for rebate under various export promotion Schemes. Also, all delayed payments will be released to the exporters by the Government with due interest.

I also brought to the notice of Shri K. T. Chacko, DGFT the unilateral increase in port charges at Mundra and also increase in rail haulage charges announced by Concor.

We are now all thrilled to look at Hannover Messe - 2006 which is one of the most colourful mega engineering shows abroad taking place from 24th to 28th April, 2006. You are already aware that your Council has been given a pride of place by the Government of India to be the nodal agency to organize India pavilion and with the strength of 319 participating companies and associations from India along with some State Governments and with full cooperation of various Government Departments/Organisations, it is hoped that your Council will be able to keep the country's flag high.

I am happy to inform you that on 5th of April, 2006, your Council has launched the integrated ERP system in the organisation. This initiative is the first of its kind by your Council amongst other EP Councils. This initiative has been envisaged not only to integrate EEPC's complete functionalities under one roof, but will take our Council towards a new dimension to provide single window services to our members in the next few months. The project is aimed at providing more value added services to our members which will be put in effect before the end of the calendar year where each member of EEPC will be in a position to have 24 hours access to its information repository.

The new Award Scheme for the year 2004-05 is already on the Web.

Yours sincerely,


(RAKESH SHAH)