

## Chairman's Pen



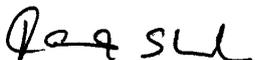
*My dear fellow exporters,*

*The Annual Supplement 2006 to Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 has just been announced. I must compliment the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Kamal Nath for taking some forward looking and focused policy initiatives. The decision to pay interest for delayed payment of refunds and EDI initiatives undertaken are, indeed, steps in the right direction and would bring relief to exporting community. The decision of the Government to factor in the un-rebated Service Taxes and Fringe Benefit Tax in various duties neutralizations scheme is also a welcome step. The Government has also encouraged exporters of auto components sector by permitting import of new vehicles for auto component manufacturers for Research and Development. The merger of Advance Licence and DFRC Schemes in the shape of 'Duty Free Import Authorisation Scheme' will also make the scheme more friendly specially for the engineering sector. There had also been further initiatives taken by the Government for exports under focus product and focus market and I would like to have your valued feedbacks on these issues.*

*In the previous number, I mentioned about Afro-India Reverse BSM and Indo-ASEAN Reverse BSM being organized by your Council during end March in different cities of India. The events have since taken place as scheduled. Around 70 foreign delegates participated in the Meets and had useful interactions with more than 185 Indian exporters. The Meets concluded with a happy note. An initial estimate reveals firm order booking worth US\$ 2.70 million and enquiries to the tune of US\$ 20.25 million.*

*We are grateful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Smt. Shiela Dikshit for gracing the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of EEPC, Northern Region held on March 30, 2006. Her words of encouragement had really enthused all the exporters.*

*Yours sincerely,*

  
(RAKESH SHAH)