

From Chairman's Pen



31st August, 2005

My dear fellow exporters,

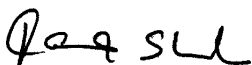
We have again sent a representation to Shri Kamal Nath, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry for keeping recovery proceedings under Section 80HHC of Income Tax Act in abeyance till such time the matter is finally disposed off, since 31st August is fast approaching. We have requested the Hon'ble Minister to take up the matter with the Finance Ministry so that the relevant notification is issued in the interest of the overall exports and exporting community.

Council's Southern Region will be celebrating the organization's Golden Jubilee at the Regional level on 16th September, 2005 in Chennai. With sustained industrial development and excellent export performance, the states of Southern Region have played a very vital role in strengthening the Council's role as an export promotion body and giving it the present shape. To provide better services to its members, Council's new Regional Office in Chennai will also be inaugurated on the same occasion. This will be a state-of-the-art office, equipped with all modern amenities for engineering export promotion.

India's exports during July 2005 notched up a 27% growth at US\$ 7.23 billion compared with US\$ 5.7 billion in the corresponding month of the previous year. Considering the torrential rains in Mumbai, adversely affecting exports from the country, high oil prices and depreciating US Dollar, the growth rate is commendable. Estimates provided by the DGCI&S for the month of July 2005 show that export of engineering goods has grown by 25% among other commodities. Exports during the first four months of the current fiscal increased by 21.4% to US\$ 28 billion compared to US\$ 23 billion exports registered during April to July in 2004-05.

The share of manufactured goods in India's exports has increased to more than 70% in the last three years. The export of manufactured goods covering broad categories such as engineering, chemicals, leather etc. (but excluding petroleum products) registered a growth of 20% during 2004-05 compared to the previous year.

Yours sincerely,



(RAKESH SHAH)