

## From Chairman's Pen



6th October, 2004

*My dear fellow exporters,*

*In my previous column, I had mentioned about the Interactive Meeting of exporters with the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry in Kolkata on 23rd September, 2004. We had very fruitful interactions with the Hon'ble Minister and various points pertaining to engineering exports were taken up for discussion.*

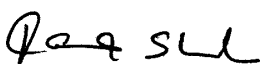
*As you know, Council had the Annual General Meeting on 27th September, 2004 in its new premises in Kolkata. The interior decor part is going on and expected to be ready by early October 2004. The new building will be inaugurated ceremoniously at a fixed date and intimation will be published in this bulletin.*

*I had earlier mentioned about Council's 50th year of services starting from 21st September, 2004 to the exporting community and the Nation. With a view to celebrate the august occasion in a befitting manner, a Golden Jubilee Committee has been formed. The 1st meeting of this Committee took place immediately after the AGM where official from Ministry of Commerce was present apart from other members. Various issues were taken up for discussion so as to organise series of programmes throughout the Golden Jubilee Year on all India basis so as to enable the members to take part in these celebrations actively. I solicit your wholehearted cooperation to make the Celebrations a success.*

*In the afternoon, we had an interactive session with Shri S. Nandwani, Jt. DGFT in Kolkata where exporters in Eastern Region were present. Apart from various issues which I have been representing to the Government particularly in regard to VAT, alternative WTO compatible DEPB Scheme, benefit out of 80 HHC under II, reduction in transaction cost, stability in steel and pig iron prices, I have also urged upon the DGFT to consider Engineering as the Focus Sector, as it has propelled the country to have earned the coveted position in the world industrial scenario as one of most industrialized Nations. Moreover, this sector is the biggest net foreign exchange earner and has the contribution of 16% to the overall exports of the country.*

*However, the Interactive Session with Shri Nandwani was highly fruitful inasmuch as series of queries from the participating exporters were clarified by him. Shri Nandwani was generous to have frequent sessions of this nature with the exporters and assured all help to the exporting community.*

*Yours sincerely,*



**(RAKESH SHAH)**