

From Chairman's Pen



15th September, 2004

My dear fellow exporters,

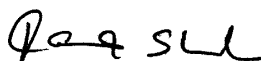
You have already seen the new Foreign Trade Policy announced by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry on 31st August, 2004. This is, no doubt, an encouraging policy that would not only double the India's share to the global trade to the extent of 1.5% but also open the employment opportunities in the country. I compliment the Hon'ble Minister for announcing the dynamic foreign trade policy that would in the long run help the exporting community.

Reduction of transaction cost and exemption of exports from service tax and other duties/taxes are no doubt the key factors helping exporting community substantially. Council has all along been making representations to the Government in favour of these issues. I also welcome the new Scheme SERVED FROM INDIA, free trade and warehousing scheme, concession granted to EOU and creation of common facility centre.

The Ministry has taken bold step in offering grant for legal assistance in contesting anti-dumping and countervailing measures taken by the foreign countries against Indian exports that would further enhance exports from India. Most remarkable amongst all, I believe, is the decision taken by the Government to continue DEPB Scheme until a WTO compatible Scheme is announced in its place. I hope that the revised DEPB rate will be made effective from 1st of December, 2004 so as to give due protection to the existing contracts for the goods imported at higher duties.

The new Foreign Trade Policy in all probability will help increase Indian engineering exports significantly and to achieve a growth of an annual average growth of 16%, as envisaged during next five years.

Yours sincerely,


(RAKESH SHAH)