

World Trade Organisation (WTO Cell)

Details about the WTO and its agreements are available on the web link:
www.wto.org

WTO agreements and negotiations have a direct impact on all economic activities and inter-alia poses new challenges to the development and promotion of the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises sector. Accordingly, this sector prepares itself to face new challenges from the globalization of Trade and Services while adhering to the WTO agreement on trade in Goods and Services besides Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), Antidumping duty, TRIMs, etc. The WTO Cell helps in building such awareness among SMEs.

To co-ordinate the latest developments in regard to World Trade Organization, a separate WTO Cell was set up in, the Office of Development Commissioner (MSME) in 1999. The objectives of the cell inter-alia include (a) to keep abreast with the recent developments in WTO, (b) to disseminate information to MSME Associations and other stakeholders about the various aspects of WTO and its likely implications for SMEs (c) to coordinate with other Ministries and Departments of Govt. of India on WTO matters, (d) to prepare policy for MSMEs in conformity with the provisions of WTO Agreements and (e) to organize WTO Workshops/ Seminars for creating awareness, capacity building and conducting sectoral studies.

With a view to creating awareness among the MSMEs, MSME Associations and other stakeholders on WTO Agreements and its implications, Ministry of MSME has been organizing Sensitization workshops/seminars all over the country since 2000. 93 such workshops/Seminars have been organized upto 31.3.2012. As part of this endeavor, eight awareness programmes on various aspects of WTO were organized benefiting 416 entrepreneurs during 2011-12.

The Cell is maintaining a close liaison with other concerned Ministries and Departments like Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Directorate General of Anti-dumping & Allied Duties, DG (Safeguard) etc., so as to keep updated with regard to WTO Agreements and to protect the interests of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

As part of the Inter-Ministerial consultation process, inputs to Ministry of Commerce and Industry are being provided in regard to negotiations on various Trade Agreements for exchange of tariff concessions. These Agreements inter-alia include Agreement on Economic Cooperation between India & ASEAN countries, India-Indonesia CECA, India-EU bilateral Trade & Investment, India-Australia FTA negotiations, Preferential Trade Agreement with Chile, Negotiations under Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP), Council in trade in Services under WTO, India-

Korea CEPA negotiations, India-Japan CEPA negotiations. In addition, inputs on various other WTO related issues were also provided which inter alia include Catalysing Investment from China to India, India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF), Promotion of domestic capital goods industry, notification to WTO on Subsidies, US proposal under NAMA on remanufactured Goods, Proposal on WTO's Government Procurement Agreement (GPA), Proposal for creating WTO data base for Non Tariff Measures (NTMs) notified to WTO from time to time, Tariff Liberalization under SAFTA to LDCs and proposal of trade policy review of India under WTO.

More details on WTO related matters can be had from the website link like www.commerce.nic.in, www.wtocommerce.iift.ac.in, etc.

2. Export Promotion

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector play a pivotal role in India's economy. They contribute significantly to the manufacturing output, employment and exports of the country. It is estimated that in terms of value, the sector counts for about 40 per cent of the total exports of the country.

The share of MSMEs in total exports is spread across different product segments. In case of items like Textiles, Leather Goods, Processed Food, Engineering Goods and Gems and Jewellery, export performance has been commendable over the years. Sectors like Sports Goods are almost 100% export oriented. In view of this, export promotion from MSME Sector has always been accorded high priority in India's export promotion strategy which includes simplification of procedures, incentives for higher production of exports, preferential treatment to MSMEs in market development fund, simplification of duty drawback rules, etc.

Packaging plays a very important part in the present day marketing, especially the export marketing. It is no more considered only for protection and preservation of products, but is also an essential media for marketing and sales promotion.

To educate MSEs entrepreneurs about the scientific packaging techniques, latest design of packaging technology and improving their packaging standards and to highlight the importance of packaging in marketing, Office of DC (MSME) has been organizing specialized training programmes on packaging for exports for MSE units through field offices i.e. MSME-DIs in collaboration with Indian Institute of packaging (IIP), Mumbai and other such institutions since the year 1979.

The basic objective of the plan scheme named "Export Promotion (Training Programme in Packaging for Exports) is to impart training to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises/Exporters on packaging technology, scientific packaging techniques, latest designs of packaging, improving their packaging standards and overall appearance, durability, value of products and highlighting the importance of packaging in marketing.

Training Programmes on Packaging for Exports are organized in various parts of the country by all Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development Institutes (MSME-DI) in association with Indian Institute of Packaging, Mumbai or similar Institutes/Organizations of repute. These programmes are being conducted since 1979. Women, SC&ST and Physically Handicapped participants are exempted from payment of participation fee for these training programmes. All existing and potential entrepreneurs from Micro Small & Medium Enterprises are eligible for training under this scheme. During the year 2011-12, 32 such training programmes conducted benefiting 1118 entrepreneurs.

All matters relating to Export-Import Policy, export related problems, representations from Trade & Industry relating to Export-Import issues etc., are also being looked after, in the EP Division.

In addition, meetings of Board of Approvals (BOA) on SEZ/EOU held under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary are also being attended and viewpoints relating to MSEs are intervened. Managing Committee Meetings of FIEO and Governing Body Meetings of IIP, Mumbai are also attended by the officers of EP Division.
