

# Chairman, EPCH meets Finance Minister and Textiles Minister

Assured all possible co-operation towards resolution  
of all issues hampering the exports of handicrafts

To formulate the strategies for enhancing export in each sector which comes under the Ministry of Textiles and to resolve the problems & challenges faced by the handicrafts sector, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance, Mr. Piyush Goyal and Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, called a meeting with the heads of Export Promotion Councils on 27th May, 2018 at New Delhi.

On behalf of EPCH, Mr. O P Prahadka, Chairman, EPCH, gave an overview of the sector and also placed before the Hon'ble Ministers, strategies being adopted by the Council for export growth. The major suggestions placed by the Chairman, EPCH:

- Enhancement of list of essential embellishments, trimmings, tools and consumables to be imported duty free and exemption from payment of IGST on import of such items.
- Inclusion of 'Merchant Exporters' in the list of exporters eligible for benefit of 'interest equalization scheme' (previously known as "interest subvention scheme").
- Issuance of eBRC in case of Exports of Handicrafts to Iran.
- If issuance of eBRC is not done by the bank within stipulated time, banks to pay penalty to the exporters.
- Scheme of ' Rebate of State Levies' (ROSL) on Exports of Handicrafts; Engagement of foreign designers in the handicrafts sector to be made easy, cap to be reduced; Allocation of funds under Market Access Initiative (MAI) be enhanced and relaxation in Operational Guidelines for Funding Under the MAI



Scheme to include Markets of USA, Canada, EU, Japan, China and other developed markets for extending invitation to buyers to RBSM's organised in India.

- Blocking of Working Capital - Refund of ITC/ GST

Mr. O P Prahadka informed that both the Union Ministers gave a patient hearing to these issues and assured all possible cooperation towards resolution of all matters that are hampering handicraft exports from India. He further said, the meeting could be considered unprecedented as it was called on Sunday and reflects the sense of urgency on the part of the Govt. to kick-start the process of resolution of issues of various sectors and embark upon the path of export growth. ■