

This column is compiled by Consultant [EXIM Policy] of EPCH. It contains recent Public Notices, Notifications and Circulars of DGFT, CBEC and Department of Revenue. If a handicraft exporter has question[s] to ask on Foreign Trade Policy, he/she may please write / e-mail to EPCH at policy@epch.com

Impex # 1

Claiming MEIS benefit accrued retrospectively

DGFT issues Public Notice containing provision for claiming additional MEIS benefit as supplementary claim without two per cent cut.

The Handbook of Procedure (Vol.1) of 2015-20 contains a provision (para 9.03) according to which supplementary claim (except MEIS claim) can be filed subject to two per cent. However, there have been instances where DGFT has enhanced the MEIS rates with retrospective effect. In such cases the difference between the two rates can be claimed as supplementary claim but the existing para 9.03 of the current

Handbook does not allow the same. To take care of such cases, DGFT has issued a Public Notice No. 23/2015-20 dt. 5th August 2019, allowing filing of such claims as supplementary claim without cut of two per cent.

(Copy of Public Notice No. 23/2015-2020, dated 5th August, 2019)

Subject: Provision for claiming additional benefits under MEIS for HS Codes for which rates were enhanced with a retrospective effect.

In exercise of powers conferred under paragraph 1.03 and 2.04 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020, the Director General of Foreign Trade hereby makes the following amendments in Appendix 3B, Table 2 as notified vide Public Notice 02 dated 01.04.2015.

2. The para 9.03 is amended as below:

Existing Para 9.03 (as amended vide Public notice 16 dated 28.06.2018)	Amended Para 9.03
<p>9.03 Supplementary Claims</p> <p>Wherever any application for supplementary claim is received, within specified time limits, such application may also be considered after imposing a cut @2% on the entitlement. However, no supplementary claims for scrips under chapter 3 of the FTP 2015-20 would be admissible</p>	<p>9.03 Supplementary Claims</p> <p>(i) Wherever any application for supplementary claim is received, within specified time limits, such application may also be considered after imposing a cut @2% on the entitlement.</p> <p>(ii) Supplementary claims would be admissible under MEIS, only for certain HS Codes, for which rates under MEIS have been enhanced with a retrospective effect based on guidelines issued in this regard. In such cases, the supplementary cut @2% as in 9.03 (i) above shall not be applied.</p> <p>(iii) Supplementary claim under chapter 3 of the FTP 2015-20 for any other reason would not be admissible.</p>

Effect of Public Notice: A provision enabling issue of additional benefits under MEIS for HS Codes, for which enhanced rates under MEIS were notified with a retrospective effect, has been incorporated in the Handbook of Procedure, 2015-20.

DGFT issues Public Notice for automatic (without endorsement on EPCG Authorisation) reduction/enhancement upto 10% duty saved amount, etc..

In many cases of EPCG, the actual amount of duty saved is not identical with the amount mentioned in the EPCG authorisations. Most of the times it does not vary more than 10%. In order to save the authorisation holders from getting the actual amount and the consequent export obligation endorsed on the authorisation, DGFT has issued a Public Notice No. 22/2015-20, dated 31st July 2019 wherein it is stated that there is no need to get the authorisation endorsed for such variation. Further it is stated in the Public Notice that the authorisation holder can pay the enhanced application fee (if any) to the R.A

concerned with fine (if any). Copy of DGFT Public Notice No. 22, dt. 31st July 2019 referred to above is reproduced below:

(Copy of Public Notice No. 22/2015-20, dated 31st July 2019)

Subject: Automatic Reduction/ Enhancement upto 10% Duty saved amount and pro rata Reduction/ Enhancement in export obligation

Existing Para 5.16(a) of HBP 2015-20:

If authorization issued has been utilized for import of goods: - (a) in excess of duty saved amount indicated on the authorization by not more than 10%, the authorization shall be deemed to have been enhanced by that proportion. Customs shall automatically allow clearance of such goods without endorsement by RA concerned. The authorization holder shall furnish additional fee to cover excess imports effected, in terms of duty saved amount, to RA concerned, within one month of excess imports taking place. Export obligation shall automatically stand enhanced proportionately.

Amended Para 5.16(a) of HBP 2015-20:

If authorization issued has been utilized for import of goods: - (a) in excess of duty saved amount indicated on the authorization by not more than 10%, the authorization shall be deemed to have been enhanced by that proportion. Customs shall automatically allow clearance of such goods without endorsement by RA concerned. The authorization holder shall furnish additional fee to cover excess imports effected, in terms of duty saved amount, to RA concerned, within one month of excess imports taking place. Export obligation shall automatically stand enhanced proportionately. **RA concerned may also accept the additional fee to cover the excess imports effected, in terms of duty saved amount, if the same is furnished beyond one month but within two years of the excess import taking place, subject to payment of composition fee of Rs. 5000/- per authorisation.**

Effect of this Public Notice: Power to condone delay in payment of fee for excess utilisation of duty saved amount has been granted to the RA.

DGFT issues Public Notice excluding many items for obtaining Advance Authorisation on 'No Norms' basis on repeat basis.

Issue of Advance Authorisation on 'No Norms' basis as per para 4.07 of the FTP is a big facilitation measure. Added to it is the advantage of issue of Advance Authorisation on repeat basis. But a facilitation measure has to ensure the interest of many others who may be affected by a liberal measure. DGFT has issued a Public Notice No. 25/2015-20 dt. 14th August 2019 excluding four categories of items from the above facility (copy reproduced below):

(Copy of Public Notice No. 25/2015-2020, dated 14th August, 2019)

Subject: Modification of Para 4.12(vi) of HBP and addition of Appendix 4P to Hand Book of Procedures 2015-20 — reg.

In exercise of powers conferred under Paragraph 1.03 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020, as amended from time to time, the Director General of Foreign Trade makes the following amendments in Hand Book of Procedures 2015-2020 :

1. The current Para 4.12(vi) of HBP 2015-20 (as amended vide Public Notice 64 dt. 27.12.2018) reads as under:-

"Norms ratified by any Norms Committee (NC) in the O/o DGFT on or after 01.04.2015 in respect of any Advance authorization obtained under paragraph 4.07, shall-be valid for the entire period of the Foreign Trade Policy i.e. up to 31.3.2020 or for a period of three years from the date of ratification, whichever is later. Since all decisions of the Norms Committees are available in the form of minutes on the DGFT website, all other applicants of Advance Authorization are also eligible to apply and get their authorizations based on such ratified norms on repeat basis during validity of these norms."

The amended Para 4.12(vi) of HBP 2015-20 to be read as under:

"Norms ratified by any Norms Committee (NC) in the O/o DGFT on or after 01.04.2015 in respect of any Advance authorization obtained under paragraph 4.07, shall-be valid for the entire period of the Foreign Trade Policy i.e. up to 31.3.2020 or for a period of three years from the date of ratification, whichever is later. Since all decisions of the Norms Committees are available in the form of minutes on the DGFT website, all other applicants of Advance Authorization are also eligible to apply and get their authorizations based on such ratified norms on repeat basis during validity of these norms. This para is not applicable for authorisations applied for items listed under Appendix 4P."

2. A new appendix 4P is added in Handbook of Procedures 2015-20.

Appendix 4P

(Items to be excluded from the purview of Public Notice No. 64 dated 27.12.2018)

Sl. No.	Import Item Name	ITC HS at four digits
1.	Cashew in any form	0801
2.	All Restricted/Prohibited Items under the FTP	as applicable
3.	Items covered under Para 4.11 of FTP 2015-20	as applicable
4.	Items covered under pre-import conditions under Appendix 4J	as applicable

Effect of this Public Notice: Para 4.12(vi) of HBP modified to exclude items falling under Appendix 4P. Appendix 4P notified.

CBIC issues Circular tapering down the 100% physical examination of export consignments of risky exporters.

A few exporters/importers start a misadventure but the brunt has to be borne by many who are not involved in it. CBIC has issued Circular No. 16/2019-Cus. dt. 17-06-2019 against fraudulent refund of IGST by 100% physical examination of export consignment of risky exporters. This power was leveraged by Customs to the extent that exporters were up against it and represented to CBIC for remedy. Taking cognizance of the grievance, CBIC has issued a Circular No. 22/2019-Cus. dated 24-07-2019 tapering down the percentage of physical examination.

(Copy)

Subject: Clarifications regarding Refunds of IGST paid on import in case of risky exporters – reg.

Board has received representations wherein various exporters and organisations have raised the issue of repeated opening of export containers for 100% examination related to risky exporters, under the new procedure laid down in Circular 16/2019-Customs dated 17.06.2019. Exporters have taken the plea that their cargo is getting delayed and they have to incur additional costs for carrying out re-packing.

2. The matter has been examined. Board has issued the aforesaid circular as a preventive measure against fraudulent refund of IGST on the basis of ineligible or fraudulently availed input tax credit (ITC). While addressing the aforesaid issue and consequent risk to revenue, Board would not like to dilute the emphasis it laid on reduction in time and cost related with EXIM clearances. It is pertinent to mention that only a miniscule percentage of export consignments are being selected for examination on account of risk associated with fraudulent availment of IGST refunds. However, keeping in view the issues raised by trade, Board has decided that the requirement of 100% physical examination of each export consignment shall be gradually relaxed provided no irregularity was noticed in earlier examinations of export consignments of export entities in terms of Circular No. 16/2019-Customs dated 17.06.2019.

3. In order to bring down the level of examination, Board has decided that RMCC shall take into consideration the feedback received from field formations with regard to the 100% examination conducted on exports of risk based identified entities and wherever the examination has validated the declaration made in the shipping bill, RMCC may review the risk assessment and gradually taper down the percentage of physical examination. Suitable alerts based on reevaluated risk may accordingly be inserted in the system by RMCC in such cases.

4. Difficulties, if any, shall be brought to the notice of the Board.

Clarification on goods which were exported earlier for exhibition purpose on consignment basis.

For many exporters, participating in exhibition abroad is very important. For this they take out their exhibits. Many send the goods abroad on consignment basis. In many cases they have to bring back the goods after the exhibition is over or the consignment basis goods are not bought by the buyer abroad. To ensure that in such cases the exporters do not face any undue difficulties, CBIC had issued a Notification No. 45/2017 dated 30.06. 2017. Now CBIC has issued a Circular No. 21/2017-Cus. dt. 24-07-2019 containing clarification on the issue. The clarification has been stated in the heading above. Copy of the Circular is reproduced:

Subject: Clarification regarding applicability of Notification No. 45/2017-Customs dated 30.06.2017 on goods which were exported earlier for exhibition purpose/consignment basis.

Representations have been received for clarifying the issue of applicability of Notification no. 45/2017-Customs on the re-import of goods which had been earlier exported either for participation in exhibition or on consignment basis.

2. Matter has been examined. Circular No. 108/27/2019–GST dated 18.07.2019 has clarified that the activity of sending/taking the specified goods (i.e. goods sent / taken out of India for exhibition or on consignment basis for export promotion except the activities satisfying the tests laid down in Schedule I of the CGST Act, 2017) out of India do not constitute supply within the scope of Section 7 of the CGST Act as there is no consideration at that point in time. Since such activity is not a supply, the same cannot be considered as 'Zero rated supply' as per the provisions contained in Section 16 of the IGST Act, 2017. Also that there is no requirement of filing any LUT/bond as required under section 16 of IGST Act, 2017 for such activity of taking specified goods out of India.

3. Situation mentioned at Sl. No. 1(d) of the Notification no. 45/2017-Customs dated 30.06.2017 require payment at the time of re-import of integrated tax not paid initially at the time of export, for availing exemption under the said notification. As in the case of re-import of specified goods, no integrated tax was required to be paid for specified goods at the time of taking these out of India, the activity being not a supply, hence the said condition requiring payment of integrated tax at the time of re-import of specified goods in such cases is not applicable. It is clarified that such re-import cannot be taken to be falling under situation at Sl. No. 1(d) of the said Notification. Such cases will fall more appropriately under residuary entry at Sl. No. 5 of the said Notification even though those specified goods were exported under LUT, in view of the fact that the activity of sending / taking specified goods out of India is neither a supply nor a zero rated supply.

4. It is also clarified that, even in cases where exports have been made to related or distinct persons or to principals or agents, as the case may be, for participation in exhibition or on consignment basis, but, such goods exported are returned after participation in exhibition or the goods are returned by such consignees without approval or acceptance, as the case may be, the basic requirement of 'supply' as defined cannot be said to be met as there has been no acceptance of the goods by the consignees. Hence, re import of such goods after return from such exhibition or from such consignees will be covered by entry at Serial no. 5 of the Notification No. 45/2017 dated 30.06.2017, provided re-import happens before six months from the date of delivery challan.

5. The above clarification shall apply to all pending matters involving similarly placed exporters and importers, as the case may be.

Impex # 6

Welcome to Contact@DGFTService, a single point contact for all your foreign trade related issues. You are requested to use this facility for resolution of your foreign trade related issues either directly concerning DGFT (headquarters or regional offices) or concerning other agencies of the Central or State Governments. We will try to resolve issues which are directly related to DGFT expeditiously and take up issues with other agencies on your behalf. We have provided a feedback facility where you may indicate if you are satisfied with the service, if not you may give detailed feedback. We realise it is a huge responsibility but will try to do our best. You may continue to raise issues concerning other agencies directly with those agencies as well. A reference number will be issued for each request so that you can track the status. Effective monitoring arrangements have been made. For quick resolution and monitoring, it is important that you choose the drop down menu that identifies your issue correctly. In case, you want to send any supporting document/ screen shot etc. You may send these at dgftedi@nic.in quoting your reference no. (which you would get after submission of your request) in the subject line of the email (Link: http://dgft.delhi.nic.in:8100/CRS_NEW/).

Question : What is the validity of a Gold Card? Is it annual?

Answer : The Gold Card is issued for a period of 3 years and is automatically renewed for a further period of three years unless there are adverse features/ irregularities in the account. In case of any misuse of the card or observance of any violation of the terms and conditions, the banks have the right to recall the Card any time.

Question : Can I change the periodicity of GST return in the middle of a financial year?

Answer : You can change the periodicity of filing GST return (from quarterly to monthly and vice versa) only once at the time of filing the first return of a financial year. Thereafter, the periodicity will remain unchanged during the next financial year unless changed before filing the first return of that year.

Question : How is compensation cess refunded to exporters after shipment of goods?

Answer : A registered person, who pays compensation cess on inward supplies and exports goods without payment of IGST under bond or LUT, can avail ITC on the compensation cess in GSTR 3B and apply for refund of such accumulated ITC to the extent of his export turnover. But if he exports goods on payment of integrated tax, then he cannot utilize the credit of the compensation cess for payment of integrated tax in view of the proviso to section 11(2) of the Cess Act, which allows the utilization of input tax credit on cess, only for the payment of the cess on outward supplies. So, he cannot claim refund of compensation cess in case of zero-rated supply on payment of integrated tax.

Question : Can you let me know the process of e-Commerce through courier and post?

Answer : In case of exports through courier you have to follow the procedure prescribed in the courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) Regulations 1998. For exports by post, you have to follow the procedures prescribed in the Exports by Post Regulations 2018. The forms to be filled by you for exports through e-Commerce are also given in the said Regulations.

Question : Who is eligible for Gold Card scheme?

Answer : All credit worthy exporters with good track record in the opinion of the individual financing bank are eligible. Exporters, whose accounts have been classified as 'Standard' continuously for a period of three years and if there are no irregularities/adverse features in the conduct of the accounts, may be considered as having good track record. The scheme is not applicable for those exporters who are blacklisted by ECGC or included in RBI's defaulter's list/caution list or making losses for the past three years or having overdue export bills in excess of 10 per cent of the current year's turnover.

Question : What are the benefits of Gold Card?

Answer : The following are the benefits of Gold Card:

- a. The sanction and renewal of the limits under the scheme will be based on a simplified procedure to be decided by the banks. Taking into account the anticipated export turnover and track record of the exporter, the banks may determine need-based finance with a liberal approach.

- b. The 'in-principle' limits will be sanctioned for a period of 3 years with a provision for automatic renewal subject to fulfilment of the terms and conditions of sanction.
- c. Based on a transparent rating mechanism, the terms and conditions of credit including the rate of interest may be decided by banks with a softer bias towards Gold Card holders.
- d. Banks may ensure that the PCFC requirements of the Gold Card holders are met by giving them priority over nonexport borrowers with regard to granting loans against FCNR(B) funds, etc.
- e. Banks will consider granting term loans in foreign currency in deserving cases out of their FCNR(B), RFC and other funds. (Banks may not grant such loans from their overseas borrowings under the 25 per cent window or overseas lines of credit.)
- f. A standby limit of not less than 20 per cent of the assessed limit may be additionally made available to facilitate urgent credit needs for executing sudden orders. In the case of exporters of seasonal commodities, the peak and off-peak levels may be appropriately specified.

News from 'Print Media'

Financial Express 12.08.2019

REVERSING SLOWDOWN

Centre mulls urgent steps to boost exports

'Full' refund of levies to exporters likely; relaxed norms to step up export credit soon

SAHINKAR PATTANAYAK
New Delhi, August 11

THE GOVERNMENT IS weighing a raft of measures — including "full reimbursement" of various imposts on exports and relaxed lending norms to improve credit flow — to reverse a slide in the growth of outbound shipments in recent months, sources told FE.

While the commerce ministry has already circulated a Cabinet note to phase out the flagship Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) with a more WTO-compatible regime under which various state and central levies on inputs consumed in exports will be reimbursed, the government will likely top it up with an assurance that all embedded taxes borne by exporters will be fully refunded.

"The new scheme will be a dynamic one, so that all sorts of embedded taxes will be reimbursed once exporters bring them to notice. A government panel will examine their demand and take appropriate action. The idea, as we have stated, is that exports must be zero-rated as per the global best practices," a source said.

Though the goods and services tax (GST) regime has assumed a plethora of levies, some still exist (petroleum and electricity are still outside the GST ambit, while other levies like *swachh* tax, stamp duty, embedded central GST and compensation cess etc remain unrelaxed).

Similarly, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is willing to ease priority-sector lending guidelines for exporters. Currently, exporters with a turnover of up to ₹100 crore each are eligible for credit under the priority-sector norms. This limit is likely to be scrapped or doubled so that more exporters are benefited. The maximum sanctioned limit of loans is also likely to be raised to ₹40 crore per borrower from the current ₹25 crore, given the cap on export credit at 2% of banks' total loans could be relaxed soon.

However, the central bank has refused to endorse a proposal to allocate a part of its foreign exchange reserves for export credit — as is being demanded by some exporters — to boost flow of loans on the ground that such a move is fraught with risks, a source said.

Goods export growth has plunged

Cr. %^{YOY} (2017)

Month	Growth (%)
Jan	3.7
Feb	2.4
Mar	11
Apr	0.6
May	3.9
Jun	-9.7

Key takeaways

- RBI rejects proposal to earmark part of forex for export credit
- Turnover limit of ₹100 cr for an exporter to get priority sector credit may be scrapped or doubled
- Limit of sanctioned loan per borrower may be raised to ₹40 cr from ₹25 cr
- Cap on export credit at 2% of banks' total loans may also be relaxed

Source: Ministry of Commerce

Continued on Page 2

■ GSP rollback: Exports of goods under tariff system to US rise 32%, Page 3

Business Standard 24.08.2019

Big reforms for struggling small businesses

SERWANI GANAGADITY
New Delhi, 21 August

The government on Friday unveiled a series of reforms — from payment of all pending goods and services tax (GST) dues in 30 days to easier borrowing norms — for the struggling micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.

Facing a severe liquidity crisis since demonetisation in 2016, the MSME sector had repeatedly made several demands. The most important among these had been quick clearance of all GST refunds, said a senior official of the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced all pending dues shall be cleared within 30 days. In the future, all such dues — officially estimated to be about ₹7,000 crore — would be cleared within 60 days of application, she added.

Banks will also have to return all documents within 25 days of a loan closure, helping borrowers whose mortgaged assets are tied up.

"Banks allocated already in the Budget may be spent later as well. Based on the pace at which implementation of these announcements takes place, we could expect a modest boost to growth in the second half of the FY20," said ADR Visar, principal economist at ICA.

The severe liquidity crisis plaguing the MSME sector was also one of the major reasons for the government's decision to release ₹7,000 crore of additional lending in public sector banks. The additional liquidity will provide a ₹5 trillion worth of total lending. This is expected to benefit small businesses, apart from retailers and exporters, MSME Minister Nita Gadgil said on Friday.

"The additional liquidity provision to banks and non-banking financing companies are extremely positive. We had been suggesting action on delayed payments to unlock funds and we are glad that this has been strongly addressed," said Chandrjit Banerjee, director general, CII.

The government will also update the definition of MSMEs, allowing a single definition for taxation, investment and other business purposes. The new definition may be revealed within 15 days through an amendment to the MSME Act, Gadgil added.

In February 2018, the government had approved the proposal to redefine MSMEs based on their annual revenue, replacing the earlier definition that relied on self-declared investment in plant and machinery.

As of now, businesses with revenue up to ₹5 crore are called a micro enterprise, those with sales between ₹5 crore and ₹20 crore are deemed as small, and those with revenue up to ₹250 crore are classified as medium-sized enterprises.

Gadgil added the government was aiming to bring more small businesses into the official GST framework. Of the 40 million businesses currently registered on the GST platform, an estimated 12.5 million are MSMEs, a senior MSME Ministry official said.

India, China No Longer Developing Nations, Won't Let Them Take Advantage: Trump



Washington: US President Donald Trump has said that India and China are no longer "developing nations" and were "taking advantage" of the tag from the WTO and asserted that he will not let it happen anymore.

Trump, championing his "America First" policy, has been a vocal critic of India for levying "tremendously high" duties on US products and has described the country as a "tariff king".

The US and China are currently engaged in a brewing trade war after Trump imposed punitive tariffs on Chinese goods and Beijing retaliated.

Earlier in July, Trump asked the World Trade Organisation to define how it designates developing country status, a move apparently aimed at singling out countries like China, Turkey and India which are getting lenient treatment under the global trade rules.

In a memorandum, Trump had empowered the US Trade Representative (USTR) to start taking punitive actions if any advanced economies are inappropriately taking benefits of the WTO loopholes.

Addressing a gathering at Pennsylvania on Tuesday, Trump said India and China the two economic giants from Asia are no longer developing nations and as such they cannot take the benefit from the WTO. However, they are taking the advantage of a developing nation tag from the WTO, putting the US to disadvantage, he said.

"They (India and China) were taking advantage of us for years and years," Trump said.

The Geneva-based WTO is an inter-governmental organisation that regulates international trade between nations.

Ministries lock horns over export schemes

DILASHA SETH & SHIVANSHU CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, 12 August

Two ministries — finance, and commerce and industry — are at loggerheads over fiscal support for exporters.

While Revenue Secretary A B Pandey has pressed for withdrawing the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) once an alternative one for all export sectors is implemented, Commerce Secretary Anil Wadhawan has pitched for a phased withdrawal, sources said.

The revenue department has pitched for strict closure dates of any new forward schemes for exporters, otherwise they will stay valid till the end of the fiscal year in which these are introduced, sources added.

Here, the commerce department said it would assess and seek financial allocation on a yearly basis.

The commerce department floated a Cabinet note last week, suggesting a replacement of the MEIS with the World Trade Organization-compliant Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCCL) as one of the options.

The commerce department last month pitched for the additional 2 per cent MEIS, introduced in 2017 for a few months, as a transitional measure.

ON THE ROAD
2015: MEIS introduced as part of the Foreign Trade Policy
2016: Coverage expands to more than 5,000 items
2017: Additional MEIS of 2% introduced
March, 2019: RoSCCL introduced for apparels and garments
March, 2020: Validity of MEIS to end
MEIS: Merchandise Exports from India Scheme
 RoSCCL: Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies

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Centre offers resolution for pre-GST woes



NOVINA BISHNOI
New Delhi, 27 August

Companies will get up to 70 per cent duty relief if they settle their pre-GST disputes with the tax authorities, according to a scheme, which will become operational from next month and run till the end of 2019.

There will also be an amnesty scheme. Under this, the assessees will have to voluntarily disclose the due taxes. The assessees will have to pay the full amount, but they will not face any legal action.

Sabita Vishwas (Legacy Dispute Resolution Scheme), 2019, was announced in the Budget.

For any case pending in tribunals or appeal at any forum, this scheme offers a relief of 70 per cent from the duty demand if it is up to 150 lakh and 50 per cent if it is over 150 lakh.

The same relief is available for cases under investigation and audit, where the duty involved is quantified and communicated to the party or admitted by them in a statement on or before June 30, 2019.

In cases of confirmed duty demand, where there is no appeal pending, the relief offered is 60 per cent if the duty is up to 150 lakh and 40 per cent if the duty is over 150 lakh.

The scheme's objective is to free as many taxpayers as possible from legacy taxes, the finance ministry said in a statement. The scheme is especially tailored to free small taxpayers from their pending disputes, the statement said.

"The government urges taxpayers and all concerned to avail themselves of this scheme and make a new beginning," the statement said.

Ajitabh Jain, tax partner at EY, said while various players in the industry had already started availing the option of seeking benefits under the scheme, companies should now quickly take decisions as that applications could be filed soon after September 1.

EPCH invites Members to enrol for MAH-EPCH Elite Group

Recover Your Export Dues

and settle quality or other international debt disputes

EPCH has been receiving complaints from its Members Exporters regarding their disputes related to payment of shipments. Members have shared the agony faced due to these disputes with foreign buyers/clients with EPCH. In view of such member concerns, the Council has engaged an **International Debt Recovery Organisation** so that the cases pertaining to debt/lost payments of exporters can be minimized. This international debt recovery agency has been engaged to facilitate resolution of disputes and recovery of money from the concerned overseas buyers. This is a **free service for the first 1000 member exporters**. We are glad to inform you that the service is now being **extended for another six months i.e till 30th September 2019**. During this period EPCH will bear the initial membership fees of US\$ 10/ per exporter on behalf of each exporter. contact : renugupta@epch.com/www.epch.in

Free
 Service for
 upto 1000 EPCH
 members on first-
 come-first-served basis
 to become Elite Group
 members