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**CAPEXIL**

**LIST OF PENDING ISSUES (PANEL WISE)**

**Minerals & Ores Sector**

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| **Bulk Minerals** |
| 1) Export duty on Iron Ore should be abolished |
| 2) Withdrawal of the imposition of Export Duty @ 30% ad valorem on Iron Ore so that the Indian Exporters price can be globally competitive compared with other Iron Ore exporting countries. |
| 3) Canalization to be abolished for Chrome Ore. They are unnecessarily taxing commission and making Profit by their subsidiary company in Singapore. Now MMTC is making margin of Profit putting exporters in hardship. |
| 4) The prices of salt have risen steeply by nearly 50% in the last nearly two years due to increasing domestic demand and declining production. |
| 5) Additional condition imposed by the State of Jharkhand for execution of lease agreement; |
| 6) Cases are pending before tribunal since ages; |
| 7) Delay in environment clearance; |
| 8) Restriction on China clay reduced the export opportunities to Bangladesh and other neighboring countries, |
| 9) Frequent issuance of notification also creates confusion in the exporters hence proper time gap should be there. |

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| **Natural Stone & Product** |
| 1) Mining Licence Policy should be made in easier and flexible form. Permanent solutions are required for Uniform Leasing Policies and Uniform Royalty. |
| 2) Mineral resources in the country including Granite Deposits should be declared as Mineral Zones. Only the Mines Department should be responsible to look after for grants and the monitoring part without the intervention of other departments like Revenue, Police, Lokayuktha, Village Officials etc., who have no technical knowledge. |
| 3) Implementation of Granite Development and Conservation Rules of 1999 of Govt. of India should be strictly followed by all State Governments., with letter & spirit. |
| 4) Granting of Quarry Leases should be organized by all the State Governments and the lease should be for a definite period. With Regard to EOUs a clear time frame of 6-months to be fixed due to high priority. |
| 5) Granite quarrying in order to do scientific / mechanized quarrying needs huge investments. Therefore, the leases should be granted for a period of minimum 20-years to 30-years. Process of automatic renewal system should be maintained till deposit last/Till processing industry exists as followed in foreign countries, particularly when we brand the products. For eg.: Brand name continues for several decades like CARARA Marbles, BIANCO CARARA..etc. |
| 6) Granite Stone Industry Technological Up gradation Fund: Allocation of Rs.15,000 crores is required for Up gradation of Granite Industry & processing units. |
| 7) Granite required to be shifted to major mineral taking note of huge investment, employment opportunity and export earnings and high technology involved & continuous modernization, up gradation & innovations. |
| 8) 2% of Duty Draw back on cut/sawn dimensional blocks is recommended because in preparation of Dimensional blocks large number of imported inputs are consumed as well as huge royalties are paid. |
| 9) RBI and nationalized banks should treat the granite and other natural stone industries as a priority sector for availing of long term and working capital funds/term loans & mining development funds. |
| 10) Excise duty on Granite Slabs should be at Rs.30/- per sq. mts. The ad Valera excise duty of 12.36% is a serious detriment for the existence of Industry & selling non exportable products in export market. High excise duty acts as punishment as only non-exportable materials are sold in domestic market. |
| 11) Depreciation on capital goods for factories should be fixed at 25% as it is a continuous process using water, lime powder, steel grids & cutting highly abrasive stones. Since technology changes in every 5 years. Adapting new technology leads to more power saving & improves productivity. |
| 12) The banks are charging overdue packing credit interest @ 16% for Pre Shipment credit exceeding 180 days, it can be extended to 360 days, since repatriation of export proceeds is allowed 360 days & at time of force majeure situation, court orders, Govt. order, strikes, delayed payments from buyers, etc. |
| 13) The International commercial practice demands free allowance on Granite Blocks sold from quarries and it will be 7-10 cms in the each linear side of the length, width and height of Granite Block. |
| 14) The system of preferring mining plan does not satisfy to the fact that it has been computed on advanced scientific computation to predict the results of quarrying well in advance and therefore is bound to have variation from the mining plan to practical quarrying. |
| 15) Granite has to undergo beneficiation and up gradation for each piece at the quarry point itself to retrieve a dimensional granite block and the recovery ratio in practice is estimated at 3-5% for Black Granite and 7-15% in case of colour Granites. These parameters have to be reviewed by the Government and a manual should be put in place on aspects of excavation, dumping of waste and recovery aspect of commercial granites. |
| 16) Separate fund for Skill Development for mining industry is required to offer skill development to students and artisans and for developing skills in quarrying & processing industries, fabrication & manufacturing industries. |
| 17) Condition imposed by the State Govt. regarding 90% recovery as compare to standard 20% to 25% worldwide on the mining is creating hardship for industry to survive. |
| 18) Auction should be available for private mining land |
| 19) Conditions should be removed from the refund of GST on inputs |
| 20) Policy should be formed after careful consideration of similar exporting countries to provide better opportunities and competitiveness to Indian exporter in the world market. |
| 21) China is exporting artificial stone made by adding silicon and ceramic which is in great demand. However it is hazardous to health because of silica duct as well as products life is very less as compare to indigenous product. |

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| **Processed Minerals Panel** |
| 1) Abolition of Export Duty on Bauxite |
| 2) Complete Removal of Export Duty on Ilmenite Ore and SR |
| 3) Enhancement of rate in Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) for Processed Mineral Products is required to sustain and remain competitive in the international market. |
| 4)Reserve utilization and mining ration is very less as compared to other developing countries. Since the minerals like Garnet, Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon are de-listed from 01.01.2007, there is no need to get licence for these minerals. Moreover all these minerals are not restricted items or canalized items. Govt. of Tamilnadu has stopped the mining operation for inspection of accounts under section 24 of MMDR Act which is under dispute in Court of Law due to which no lessee are able to mine the minerals. The existing already mined royalty paid minerals are used for production of Garnet, Ilmenite etc. through their 100% EOU units duly approved by GOI. |
| 5) Rules imposed by the Tamil Nadu state govt. is creating hardship for the industries while on the same matter rule of the other state governments are more favorable to the growth of the industries. Duties, restrictive clauses of mining, environment clearance or conditions imposed by the authorities are some of the issues need to be addressed on priority basis. |
| 6) SEZ related Issues:   * Request to renewal of LOA to operate and export of goods. * Request Income Tax exemption for SEZ and EOU * Permit to Rare Earth Oxide Production by SEZ * Permit Beach Mineral Mining for EOU & SEZ units without any interruption |
| 7) **Facilities for SEZ and EOUs in Tuticorin Port, Tamil Nadu under Ease of doing business category.**   1. The custom authorities are available in Port round the clock. For EOU and SEZs instead of CFS, the Port customs authorities may be advised to check the seal as the seal was put by the same authorities in the bonded ware house. 2. In Tuticorin Port, the container handling agent has no facility to load the containers. As a result, the exporters are unable to handle more than one container per day. It should be viewed seriously and take necessary action to solve this issue. 3. In Visakapattinam Port, the exporters are permitted to store the bulk cargo free of cost inside port for one month before date of export. The same facilities may be arranged for Tuticorin Port also. 4. Separate Channel may be arranged for entry to the Tuticorin Port exclusively for EOU and SEZs as these containers are sealed by the same customs department officials. This will reduce the queue and speed up the export through Tuticorin and other ports. 5. Tuticorin Port Trust container operating Contractor SICAL, which is a foreign joint venture company delay in handling the export cargo. Otherwise, insist for unloading vehicles by the exporter himself. For EOU and SEZs, the Port authorities may permit the container handling directly through their loading machineries without payment to SICAL. Otherwise, separate queue to be arranged by the Port authorities. |

**Non-Mineral Sector**

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| **Plywood and Allied Products Panel** |
| 1) Value Addition for export of Sawn Timber to be worked out from 30% to 15% in line with other products |
| 2) Re-export of imported sawn timbers should be allowed freely |
| 3) Relaxation regarding fumigation of Wood and Wood Products |
| 4) Exporters of sawn timbers are facing difficulty in getting the AA closed & issuance of EODC in time, in spite of having completed the export obligation in time. Theses causes avoidable delay in getting the fresh Authorization & import of raw materials becomes costly & causes the unwanted hurdles in the export trade. In the process, the ease of doing export is scarified. |
| 5) The Cochin port needs to be notified for the purpose of the export of Sawn timbers**.** In fact all ports in India need to be notified for the purpose of the export of Sawn Timber. |
| 6) Proposal to include the entire Dalbergia (Rose Wood) family including their higher taxon in CITES Appendix II with exception to the species included in Appendix I-reg. |
| 7) The port restriction should be removed as the logs / timbers are imported at any port of India, should be allowed for the export. All the ports are now EDI connected & fact of the import can be verified & established. This will ease the export processing as getting a cargo ship or say beak bulk vessel is becoming difficult day by day. The logs carriers are very limited in number & all the ports are not designed & does not have the facility to handle such bulky cargo. |

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| **Books, Publications and Printing Panel** |
| 1) Inclusion of e-books in to CAPEXIL’s portfolio |
| 2) MEIS Scheme Rewards under category C |
| 3) Export of Books by Post |
| 4) Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka should be provided with MEIS Scheme Rewards because almost 10% of India’s Export of these products goes to these neighbouring countries. |
| 5) Small value shipments require the same level of documentation and transaction costs as in the case of large value container shipments. Books and such other consumer material which has a large contingent of customers world over have small value individual buyers. Because of the cost involved and the documentation required exports are slowly going down. Some minimum amount says US$ 2000 may be fixed for small value shipments without such heavy documentation in terms of export as well as banking. |
| 6) Banks require confirmatory letters for payment from the buyers, Third Party Payments and Documentation in respect of small value invoices |
| 7) Now-a-days publishers do sell rights (publishing rights for a particular territory or translation rights into a foreign language). Such sales need to be recognized. |

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| **Paper and Paper Product Panel** | |
| 1) Import from MFN | To restore Most Favoured Nation on import on Paper & Paper Board Panel from ASEAN. The prevailing Free Trade Agreement with the ASEAN countries, the import of Paper and Paper Board is allowed at Zero Duty. Especially from the countries like Indonesia and Thailand, lot of cheap material is imported. As a result of that the local industry is suffering. |
| 2) MEIS  Interest Subvention Scheme | -The benefit under MEIS should be increased to 7% for printed materials covered under chapter heading 4819, 4820, 4821 and 49 from the stipulated 2 to 3%.  -Interest Subvention Scheme for the above mentioned chapter heading. **This** **scheme should be considered for Merchant Exporters as well.** |
| 3) Export benefits to Nepal & Bhutan | -Exports of Printed Materials to Nepal and Bhutan, even if the payments are received in Indian Rupees should be given all export benefits as applicable to other Exporters.  -To extend the facility of clearing the goods for exports under bond without payment of Excise Duty for exports against Rupee Payment to Bhutan as well, as has been done in the case of Nepal. |
| 4) Issuance of Dual passports | Issuance of Dual passports to the Business Executives of Export Houses. |

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| **Ceramics & Allied Product** |
| 1) Exports of Ceramics and Refractories products are showing positive trend but the only visible benefit available to them is Duty Drawback.  But the Duty Drawback rates fixed are too low and the same are subject to a value cap which makes the incentives negligible. |
| 2) Of late sizable import of polymer is taking place particularly from China and this is causing injury to our domestic porcelain insulator industry. To protect the interest of the domestic industry, it is suggested that Government may please impose some safeguard duty on import of the item from China. |
| 3) Proposal For Technology Upgradation  **Raw Materials Beneficiation:** Installation of the common beneficiation plant for Ball Clay at Bikaner (Rajasthan) & Thangarh (Gujarat) so that all the mines at those regions can use this common facility, the current rate of fired goods rejection would be minimized which will save national waste of minerals and environmental pollution. For Refractory Industries, beneficiation of Raw Materials is required for (A) elimination/reduction in content of Iron Oxide and Lime from Bauxite, (B) for elimination of Silicon Di-Oxide from Magnesite, (C) for conversion of Beach Sand to Mullite.    **Wall Tiles/Ceramic Tiles:** Wall Tiles Manufacturing Units can be modernized by installing Digital Printing Machine which will enable them to produce International Standard Products. This Digital Printing Technology & Machine is not available in the country and cost of import is prohibitively costly. It is needed to develop the aforesaid Digital Printing Machine in the country so that units in the MSME Sector can also modernize their units to add further increase in export of the item.    **Vitrified Tiles:** Modernization is required to manufacture lighter weight tiles to compete in the international market mainly due to high cost of freight charge. This industry needs Research & Development support from Government to develop low temperature matured vitrified tiles body to manufacture light weight products.  **Sanitary ware:** To encourage higher export of sanitarywares, units in the MSME Sector need to be modernized with necessary help for:-   * Technical Guidance for Battery Castings & Blow Castings * Reduction of Firing Cycle to a considerable extent for saving in consumption of fuel * Suitable Body Glaze Development to match the shorter firing cycle * Development of Quality Plaster of Paris for making of Moulds     **Disposal of Fired Ceramic Waste:** All the ceramic units suffer from a common problem of disposing of their fired ceramic waste. Immediate attention needs to be given by the Government to find out the ways to solve the problem. The best way may be to conduct research for recycling of the said waste which will help in reduction in cost of production. As an interim measure the waste may be utilized as a Raw Material for construction of Roads particularly while laying the foundation. |
| 4) To conserve the Indian Natural Resources, it is important to ban on export of mineral products used in Ceramic Industry as raw material viz. Feldspar, Quartz, Ball Clay, China Clay, etc. |

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| **Animal By Products Panel** |
| 1) Opening of Factory Stuffed containers sealed by Central Excise / Customs officers by Customs at ICDs / ports citing Risk Management System (RMS) |
| 2) This issue on NOC from Wild life department came up in the year 2002. CAPEXIL, the Competent Authority took up the matter with the Commissioner of Customs, Tuglakabad. The office of The Commissioner of Customs, ICD, TKD, New Delhi issued a clarification that the matter had been examined and directions issued to the field staff not to insist for NOC from Wild Life Department in cases of export of Bones/Horns, etc. where a Certificate (Shipment Clearance Certificate) issued by CAPEXIL in view of EXIM Policy 2002-2007 is produced by Exporter in respect of each shipment. However, Customs authorities at the Ports have again started asking for NOC from Wild life department. |
| **Ossein and Gelatine Panel** | |
| 1) Reinstatement of GSP scheme for India by EU and US | |
| 2) Removal of import duty on Gelatine on imports into Japan | |
| 3) Turkey and South Africa have banned import of gelatine from India, due to the Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) issue, commonly known as mad cow disease. India has been accorded NEGLIGIBLE BSE STATUS (first category) by OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) in May 2010. Imports from India are being made by most of the countries except Turkey and South Africa, China citing BSE issues. This is only to avoid competition from India. Even countries like USA, EU and Japan allow gelatine imports from India. | |
| 4) Japan imposed 17% duty on import of gelatine from India resulting increase in price and fall in export percentage | |
| 5) Negative publicity in respect of the product in the domestic front by the responsible authority also hampering the export | |
| 6) Introduction of cellulite capsules @ 50% subsidy – it was hazardous to the health of human. | |

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| **Automobile Tyre & Tubes Panel** |
| 1) In recent years, the import of tyres into India from overseas especially from China has increased drastically which has resulted into very adverse impact on the Indian Domestic Industry and NUMBER OF Indian Manufacturing Units are shutting down.  To address this issue, following immediate measures to check such excessive imports   * Increase custom duty on tyres from the existing 10% * Restrict Import of tyres without BIS marking as per provision laid in Pneumatic Tyres & Tubes for Automotive Vehicles (Quality Control) Order, 2009 * Put domestically mfrd. sizes of Truck Bus Radial Tyres (TBR) in restricted list * Urgently commence/speed up investigation on dumping of tyres from China |
| 2) Restriction of Import of Natural Rubber: (Notification No. 32/2015-2020 dated 20/01/2016 on NR Import Restrictions) |
| 3) Conditions of Export (within 6 months of Import) & Condition of Pre-import: it was very hardship for exporters to export within 6 months of import because imports take time and after importing processing the same within 6 months is very difficult. |
| 4)Payment of IGST for advance license – its blocking working capital of the exporter. |

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| **Rubber Product Panel** |
| 1) The Inverted Duty Structure, for which a number of raw material inputs required by the rubber products manufacturing industry is the serious disadvantage and must be addressed. Many finished products are being imported into India at a very cheap price as the inverted duty structure makes it more attractive. This is the basic reason for the growth of nearly 100% in imports of finished rubber products during the last three years while 40% of the industries have been closed down which is clearly brought out in a survey conducted by the rubber board in the 4 states of Punjab, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu & Kerala. Import Duty on Natural Rubber is 25% & Latex is 70% against the 5% to 10% Range of Import Duty on Finished Rubber Products resulting into dumping of inferior and substandard quality of rubber products into India and closing down of Rubber Products Manufacturing Units in India mostly from MSME Sectors. |
| 2) DGFT Notification No.32/2015-2020 dated 20th January 2016 regarding Import of Natural Rubber of all varieties only through the ports of Chennai and Nhava Sheva (Jawaharlal Nehru Port). Natural Rubber is one of the important raw materials that accounts for up to 52 per cent of the country’s overall consumption in the manufacturing process of Rubber products including Auto Tyres & Tubes. Import of Natural Rubber only through the sea ports of Chennai and Nhava Sheva will affect the Exports drastically at it will increase the logistic cost, lead time and export pricing. |
| 3) All Natural Rubber imported into India is subject to inspection at the discretion of the Rubber Board. This inspection can take anywhere between 7 to 15 days as the container has to be moved to a de-stuffing point. Samples have to be drawn by Rubber Board Official and sent to Kottayam for testing and approval.  Alternately, they also give an NOC which can be obtained only after filing the Bill of Entry after imports. Once the NOC is issued, it has to be sent to the office of the Rubber Board which may take another few days just to get their Rubber Stamp on the NOC. These are all time consuming and incurring transaction cost. For example – After getting the NOC from the Rubber Board, we have to send the same to New Mumbai for obtaining a Rubber Stamp which takes a whole day if based in Mumbai and 3 days if the unit is based in Nagpur. |
| 4) To bridge gap between low international prices & high domestic prices & tide over shortages, duty- free import of at least 200,000 tons of natural rubber may be permitted with actual user condition. The total requirement of Natural Rubber into the country is 1.20 Million Tons however the domestic production of the same is only 700,000 Tons. Thus, there is no rationale to keep very high rate of Import Duty on Natural Rubber as we must fulfill this deficit to meet the demand of the industry. |
| 5) Conditions of Export within 6 months of Import & Condition of Pre-Import |
| 6) The promised simplification and fast-tracking for the high volume exporter is not addressed. For example, it was suggested that the value of the Scrips, now under MEIS, should be credited directly to the bank accounts of the exporter after exports are affected. This will save humongous paperwork and levy of GST which only cuts out the margins of the exporters. The applications for the Scrips call for a lot of information which is already with the authorities. In spite of this the applications are returned back with frivolous deficiencies. |
| 7) The Status Holder Scheme seems to be suffering from serious shortcomings. The definitions of various categories of Status Holders have been made very stringent and quite impossible for any exporter to graduate from One Star to 2 Star and further. Double weightage should be given up to the 3 Star Export House level with the facilitation being provided to be clearly defined. A new category of Star Trading House may be added to give the high value exporter with clearly defined facilitation being provided to such trading houses. |
| 8) The MEIS merges all the other schemes like the FPS, FMS, MLFPS, Incremental export scheme and the VKGUY in itself. The total cumulative benefits, basically to offset the disadvantages of the Indian exporter, has been reduced substantially. This will act as a serious dampener as markets like Europe, America and Australia, which are major export destinations for our rubber products are facing a slowdown.  The currencies in Europe & Australia have seriously depreciated against the US dollar. The Exporters factor all their purchases in the US dollar which makes us a lot more uncompetitive. Our infrastructural deficiencies and huge transaction costs cause delays. The port congestion and the levy of congestion surcharge add to their miseries. |
| 9) The manufacturer exporter needs to be recognized due to the high value addition that he achieves apart from generating employment and taking the MAKE IN INDIA brand to the world. For such manufacturer exporters, the investment limits in the SME sector should be brought in line with those prevailing in the worldwide. The ASEAN region defines a small scale industry as one with an investment limit of US $ 10 million hence the small scale unit in India should be permitted an investment of Rs. 50 crores provided such unit export at least 40% of their production.  Similarly the medium scale unit is defined as one with an investment limit of Euros 50 million in the European Union and therefore the investment limit for the medium scale sector here should at least be kept to Rs. 200 crores. This would help the industries to upgrade their machineries and production processes to world class levels and achieve world standards. Such units are also be permitted to import second-hand or used machineries under the EPCG scheme as most rubber machineries can be easily upgraded with change of electrical and electronic control panels to give the precision as per the currently manufactured machineries. |
| 10) The rates of Drawback for the products in the non-tire sector are being progressively reduced as no data is forthcoming for the fixation of industry-wise drawback rates from the fragmented MSME sector. To overcome this lack of data, the Standard Input Output Norms (SION) as fixed should be used as the yardstick to provide the actual re-imbursement of import duties on inputs. The state level taxes and duties like Electricity, Octroi and Stamp Duties, etc which was earlier offset by the Cash Compensatory Mechanism should be added on in Drawback to arrive the actual disadvantage suffered. |
| 11) High transaction costs due to high interest the high shipping and clearing charges, infrastructure deficiencies, port congestion due to which the exporter suffers heavily as these charges are levied due to mismanagement at the ports and delays in every office of the facilitators - be in Customs, DGFT or the Excise. The growth in exports of rubber products has been maintained at 21% CAGR over the last two decades and this can easily accelerate to nearly 35% as Indian manufactured rubber products have maintained a very good perspective in terms of quality and deliveries.  The authorities must look in to these issues and provide a time bound redressal mechanism with clear cut processes & procedures to be implemented in case of high value exporters. |
| 12) Interest Subvention should be available to all industries including Rubber Industry (Chapter 40 Products) instead of selected industry. |
| 13) Imports under Advance Authorization and other export promotion schemes should be free of Service Tax. Proper refund mechanism is required for Octroi, Duties & Cess paid for electricity, water, fuel etc. by the exporters for execution of export orders since these taxes & duties should not be exported along with the export goods. |
| 14) Exporting Community should be given PCFC by their respective banks in Dollars at Libor + 1.5% against all the confirmed exports orders. |
| 15) Medium term loans attract a very high rate of interest of between 14% – 16%. This is the single biggest discouraging factor to attract new capital investment. To encourage investment and promote employment, invests at between 6% - 8% should be given to investments of capital nature which would go a long way in promoting growth. |
| 16) The interest rates are extremely high as compared to our neighbour’s where near zero percentage interest is being charged. With falling rates and global recession, importers in other countries are demanding long-term credit which is a huge cost. Hence interest rates should be rationalized to be in line with the international norms. Shipping Companies to be asked not to charge exorbitant charges under different irrelevant heads and with any relation to the cost of service provided |
| 17) Ruber Cess is to be abolished as this is creating humongous clerical jobs due to which we have to give monthly, quarterly, half early and yearly Returns and audited statements. This is necessitating License Controls from the Rubber Board. |
| 18) More Thrust / Focus to be given to Status Holders Exporters. 15% of the exporters make up 85% of the total exports from our country. This core group of 15% should be clearly identified to offer special facilitation & fast track clearances in the DGFT, Customs, Excise & other trade facilitators to address their needs on an urgent basis. |

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| **Paints, Varnish & Allied Product** |
| 1) **Technology Upgradation:** The market demands innovative products. So, the manufacturers have to upgrade their technologies. Without upgradation in technology, the (large & small scale players) will not be able to survive. Across India’s Paints, Printing Ink and Coating Industry, around **5000** small scale players are operating and they will grow only with the assistance of Government. |
| 2) **Raw material:** This industry is raw material intensive. As most of the raw materials are petroleum based, the industry benefits from softening of crude prices, **however since last few months the Crude Prices are going Up & amp; hence the paint industry has to increase the prices, but are not able to get better rates from clients internationally.** The Cost of Raw materials are an important factor as the industry is raw material intensive. Fluctuation in the prices of Titanium dioxide and Petroleum directly affect the production cost. Also, a large portion of raw materials are imported, leaving the cost factor vulnerable to exchange rate fluctuation. |
| 3) **SION norms:** SION norms have been fixed only for conversion of Aluminium Ingots to Aluminium Powder. There are no norms for conversion of Aluminium scrap to Aluminium powder. The Customs Duty that exporters are paying could not be reimbursed immediately. |
| 4) **Duty free import:** Duty free import of solvents, resins, pigments for value added export for manufacturer-exporters |
| 5) **“Look East Policy”:** Reference to the Government’s “Look East Policy” and Government should make the state apparatus more alert and active to make full use of ASIDE Schemes to improve Road conditions and upgrade other infrastructural facilities at the Land Customs Stations bordering the neighbouring states. |
| 6) **Currency fluctuation:** Since dollar prices are up and rupee is going down and as a result prices of raw materials are increased, Government should give some assistance. |
| 7) **Duty Drawback:** Duty Drawback facility to be required on All Types of Paints, Industrial Grade Ultramarine Blue, Gold/Brass/Copper Bronze Powders to boost up exports |
| 8**) VAT refund:** VAT refunds are not forthcoming to the exporters even after five years of filing the returns. The final assessment is inordinately delayed thereby blocking high interest bearing funds of the exporters. |
| 9) Congestion in the Bangladesh border – the status improved but still work need to be done. Smoothing the transport at border needs to be open for day & night |
| 10) Website of DGFT not showing shipping bill resulting clearance problem in border and it is time consuming too |
| 11) Additional duty @25% imposing by Bangladesh – resulting increase in cost. |
| 12) While exporting to countries like Europe & Africa, the acceptance of products in Europe is quite low due to lead base of the these product. It is observed that if water base product can be developed then the export in western countries could be increased and for doing the same infrastructure needs to be established. |

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| **Glass & Glassware** |
| 1) Soda Ash is a key input for the glass industry. It constitutes approx. 45% of the total raw material cost. The Anti-Dumping Duty which was imposed in July 2012 on Soda Ash covering 96% of world production should be rescinded. |
| 2) Mineral Availability - Glass industry is dependent on natural minerals like: silica sand, limestone, dolomite, feldspar, quartz. We need mining agencies to fast track the application / allotment of mines to actual manufacturers of glass. |
| 3) Due to non-availability of US DOLLAR, few African countries like Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Nigeria are not able to place orders on Indian Exporters. The non-availability of US DOLLAR to local importers is because of:-   * Currency crisis in that country * Allocation of USD to specific categories of imports only   In case of Glass bottle (Chapter 7010) alone, the export loss is estimated at 100 crores. To prevent the loss of such Export opportunity, Government must extend specific LINE OF CREDIT to these countries. Similar to IRAN, the system of BARTER can be extended to the African OIL RICH countries. |
| 4) Due to NIL import tariff for products under Chapter heading 70, the exports from India is becoming increasingly uncompetitive. The exports from India attracts 20-25% import tariff. |
| 5) In the recent Mid-Term review of FTP released on 5th December 2017 the MEIS rate for Opal Glass Tableware under HS Code 70134900 has remained unchanged at 2%. On the other hand MEIS rate has been increased by 2% for Tableware, Kitchenware, other Household Articles and Toilet Articles of Porcelain or China (HS Code 6911) and also for Ceramic Tableware, Kitchenware, other Household Articles and Toilet Articles other than of Porcelain or China (HS Code 6912). There has been a revision in the MEIS rate of Porcelain, Bone China and Ceramic Tableware but there has been no similar revision made for Opal Glass Tableware. Thus Opal Glass Tableware products have now been put in some disadvantageous position vis-à-vis other similar products, which seem to be an inadvertent error. These products also have somewhat similar look and equally labour oriented if not more. This however will surely affect competitiveness in the market. |
| 6) Protection of Glass bead/Chatons (ITC HS-70181020) from dumping by china and Increase Custom Duty on Glass beads from 17 to 29% & reduce on Glass rod & Glass tube  from 29% to 17 %. Since the demand of Glass Beads/chatons and Articles of Imitation Jewellery in India is very high custom Duty on Glass bead must be increased from  17% to 29 % & custom Duty from its Raw Material Glass tube and Glass Rod must be reduced from 29% to 17 %. It will substantially increase the landed cost of these goods so as to be higher than the prices of Indian goods. As well as curb should be put on the underinvocing. Import In India must be properly checked & fictitious importers must be banned. Arrangement should be made in such a manner that without providing the remittance copy of foreign exchange No bill of entry will be passed.. This will not only curb the under invoicing but also add on the government revenue. It will also enhance the Job opportunities & realization of the dream project MAKE IN INDIA of prime Minister successful. |

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| **Manufactured Products of Carbon Graphite, Explosives & Accessories Panel** |
| 1) Shipment / Export of Safety Fuse by SEA may be allowed from MUMBAI-J.N.PORT /NAVASHEVA For this PESO may be advised to issue Notification as the Product is under 1.4S. In this regard representation has already been made to PESO by Shippers / Exporters. |
| 2) Current drawback to be increased from 1.9% to 10% on FOB value. |
| 3) MEIS scheme the percentage of rewards is at 2% currently need to be increased to 5%. |
| 4) Currently the Export of explosives is only allowed by manufacturers, upto year 2008 the merchant export was in practice, after year 2008 to till now it is not allowed. so to improve the export, merchant export to be allowed so that the volume will be increased. |
| 5) The Granting of licence to manufacture explosives and accessories and amendments in the licences needs to be issued by concerning circle offices in each states to promote and ease of doing business, each and every approvals manufacturers has to go to Nagpur PESO head office. |
| 6) Incentive on MEIS does not currently include SAFETY FUSE (HS Code - 36030011) as it does not appear in the rate list of MEIS - should be included. |
| 7) The surging electrode exports from India have almost dried up the supplies for the domestic market which became a cause of concern for the Indian users, who were left with no other options but to import from the foreign markets. |

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| **Miscellaneous Products panel** |
| 1) India, Pakistan and China are the major players in the match industry. In India the drawback rate has been reduced from 7% to 1.5% in the last 5 years where as in Pakistan present Incentive rates are much higher than our older rate (up to 25%). The price difference of matches between India and Pakistan is almost $2.00 per carton contains 1000 match boxes. If these rates are corrected then the industry can do a turnover of 79 million US dollars from the current level of 50 million US dollars. So Government needs to increase the Duty Draw Back and MEIS rates to compete with Pakistan. |
| 2) A Forex rate has to be stable. Recently 5% appreciation of our currency has affected our Exports drastically. There was duty drawback scheme for exporting matches but the same has been withdrawn now and hence price has gone up. The Indian exporters were facing problem to compete with exporter from China, Pakistan, Indonesia etc. in the international market because of this. |
| 3) There is a large potential to increase the volume of trade in Africa and South America, if ASPEN wooden logs are allowed to import into India. The qualities of ASPEN sticks are very good compared to any other wood. But it is not allowed to import to India. If the ASPEN logs are allowed for import then cutting of trees in India for Match Industry can be eliminated. |
| 4) The exports consignments when passes through Sri Lanka and Singapore a NOC from these countries are required which is creating hardship for exporters. |

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| **Cement Clinkers & Asbestos Cement Product** |
| 1) The selling price of Indian Cement in international market is very low and hence Indian Cement exporters are facing very stiff competition from the neighboring countries, mainly Pakistan, China and Korea etc. There is huge demand of cement and clinker to whole Africa, Indian Ocean Countries and Asian countries. But Indian Cement exporters are unable to match the price to the client compare to the neighbouring countries.  While in earlier Foreign Trade Policy, Indian exporters were given the benefit of Focus Market scheme @ 3 to 4% of Africa, Indian Ocean and Latin America Countries. Moreover Incremental Growth scheme were also available for them. The same benefit was pass-on to the buyer while negotiating of order and it helped them to give better rate with 3 to 5 Dollars per Metric Ton considering the FMS and incremental Growth Scheme's benefit. However, in the new Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20, Indian Cement & Clinker exporters have not given any benefit under the MEIS Scheme. The lack of government support will significantly affects exports of Cement & Clinker from India and also reduces the present market share globally.  Therefore, the GOI may consider the products, "Ordinary Portland Cement, Portland Pozzolana Cement and Gray Clinker" (HS Codes. 25232910, 25232930 and 25231000) under MEIS scheme and give maximum benefit i.e. 5% to this industry to enable us to earn better foreign exchange for the country. |

**\*\***The above mentioned issues have already been taken up with the concerned department and the same has also gone to Ministry of Commerce (EP-CAP) division.

**\*\***New issues/suggestions areinvited to be taken up with the concerned authority.

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