

Government Committed to Corruption free Environment for Business: Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry

{Hon'ble Union Commerce & Industry Minister holds discussions with Industry Stakeholders on Trade Policy Instruments}

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal, held a meeting with around 100 domestic industry, manufacturers, associations of various sectors and users in New Delhi on 11th September 2019 to discuss and provide a holistic view about regulatory instruments for the formulation and implementation of effective trade policy and development strategy. Senior officials of various Ministries and Departments of Central Government also participated in the meeting. The Hon'ble Ministers of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri and Shri SomParkash were also present during the meeting.

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal, in his address said that **tariff & non-tariff measures will be used judiciously by India with an ultimate aim to enable industry to become more competitive**. He said that Departments of Commerce & Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) are there to balance interests of domestic consumers and industry. He said that Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) office is being strengthened with more man power who will be properly trained to perform their duties effectively. Regarding corruption issues that are delaying consignments, he requested exporters to write directly to Secretaries of line ministries or to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry as Government of India is committed to ensuring a corruption free environment in each and every Ministry and Department of the Government.

Additional Secretary and DG Trade Remedies said that the helpdesk in DGTR has been upgraded to a facilitation centre to create awareness regarding trade remedies and to provide full support to the industry, particularly nascent domestic producers and MSMEs. Help line number is 1800 111 808 and Email: helpdesk.dgtr@gov.in.

The objectives of the meeting were awareness generation about regulatory instruments amongst the stake-holders, to provide a platform where issues faced by the domestic industry may be appropriately addressed and calibrate trade policy to balance domestic industry interests, including protection against unfair trade practices with imperatives of consumer interest, efficiency and competitiveness. The meeting focused on the prudent use of all available Trade Policy Instruments, viz. Tariff Measures, Non-Tariff Measures as well as Trade Remedial Measures for the Indian industry.

Detailed discussions were held on the ease of goods movement and competitiveness which are necessary for India to integrate with global value chains. The Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry stressed on the need to ensure secure and vibrant manufacturing in strategic sectors, and the necessity to include domestic stakeholders in trade policy-making process, along with policy and institutional coordination amongst stakeholders and the Government.

The meeting stressed on a systematic understanding of trade policy instruments, especially non-tariff measures, to ensure that limited resources are channelized for achieving economic development. Further, the meeting discussed the policies adopted by other countries. In this context, it was noted that other countries, especially the developed ones resort more to non-tariff measures than tariff measures.

The rate of growth of merchandise imports during 2018-19 over 2017-18, was higher than that of exports over the same period, which underscores the need to increase exports at a much higher rate. This is possible only if Indian industry is globally competitive.

Senior officers from Ministries of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Coal, Food & Public Distribution, Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Mines, Textiles, New and Renewable Energy, Civil Aviation, Electronics & Information Technology, Steel, Shipping, Health and Family Welfare, Food Processing Industries, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Departments of Telecommunications, Fertilizers, Heavy Industries, Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Fisheries also attended the meeting.

Please contact for any query related to this mail to Ms Bhawna Kakkar, Research Associate at bhawna.kakkar@phdcci.in with a cc to Dr S P Sharma, Chief Economist at spsharma@phdcci.in

and Ms Surbhi Sharma, Associate Economist at surbh@phdcci.in, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Warm Regards,

Dr S P Sharma

Chief Economist

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area

August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016, India

Tel: +91 49545454

Fax: +91 11 26855450

Email: spsharma@phdcci.in

Website: www.phdcci.in

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PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi - 110 016 (India) • Tel. : +91-11-2686 3801-04, 49545454, 49545400
Fax : +91-11-2685 5450 • E-mail : phdcci@phdcci.in • Website : www.phdcci.in, CIN: U74899DL1951GAP001947

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