

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2447
ANSWERED ON 21/03/2025

**STRATEGY TO SAFEGUARD INDIAN EXPORTERS FROM PROTECTIONIST
TRADE POLICIES**

2447. SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR
SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which initiatives such as Bharat Trade Net and Export Promotion Mission would benefit exporters, particularly in the engineering sector;
- (b) the specific strategies being formulated by the Government to safeguard Indian exporters from increasingly protectionist trade policies globally;
- (c) Government's plans to help Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) exporters overcome financial and logistical challenges;
- (d) whether Government has entered into new trade agreements or partnerships to expand India's engineering export markets; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) The Export Promotion Mission, jointly coordinated by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of MSME, and Ministry of Finance, is currently at the consultation stage and aims to improve export credit, facilitate cross-border factoring, and assist MSMEs with market access and non-tariff barrier challenges. BharatTradeNet (BTN) is being designed to streamline cross-border trade through trade document digitalisation, cross-border data exchange and provide improved access to trade finance. Both initiatives are under stakeholder discussions.

(b) To address rising global protectionism, the Government is adopting multiple strategies to safeguard Indian exporters. These include expanding market access and

diversifying export destinations, addressing tariff and non-tariff barriers through bilateral and multilateral engagements, and negotiating Free Trade Agreements to create new trade opportunities. Export incentives under various schemes and digital trade facilitation initiatives are also being strengthened to enhance competitiveness. Export performance is continuously monitored, and corrective measures are implemented in coordination with Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards, and Indian Missions abroad to mitigate adverse impacts on Indian exporters.

(c) To help MSME exporters overcome financial and logistical challenges, the Government is implementing a range of initiatives. These include :

(i) The Ministry of MSME is implementing International Cooperation Scheme (IC) Scheme, under which financial assistance is provided on reimbursement basis to the eligible Central/State Government organizations and Industry Associations to facilitate visit/participation of MSMEs in the international exhibitions/fairs/buyer-seller meets held abroad and for organizing international conference/seminar/workshops in India with the aim of technology upgradation, modernization, joint venture etc. A new component of IC Scheme namely Capacity Building of First Time Exporters (CBFTE) has been launched in June 2022, under which reimbursement is provided to new Micro & Small Enterprises (MSE) exporters for costs incurred on Registration-cum- Membership Certification (RCMC) with EPCs, Export Insurance Premium and Testing & Quality Certification for exports.

(ii) Other schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry of MSME include Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGTMSE), Micro & Small Enterprises-Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), SFURTI, ZED, Incubator, LEAN, IPR, Procurement and Marketing Scheme (PMS) also assist MSMEs in boosting their export competitiveness.

(iii) Establishment of 65 Export Facilitation Centres (EFCs) across the country with an aim to provide requisite mentoring and handholding support to MSMEs in exporting their products and services to foreign markets.

(iv) The Interest Equalization Scheme on pre- and post-shipments of rupee export credit had also been extended to the MSME Sector up to December 31, 2024.

(v) Assistance being provided through several schemes to promote exports, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme.

(vi) The Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) Scheme to promote labour-oriented certain items of textiles sector export has been implemented since March 07, 2019.

(vii) Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme has been implemented since January 01, 2021. Currently, 10,642 tariff lines (8-digit ITC(HS) Codes) are covered under this Scheme. The budget allocation for RoDTEP Scheme for the current financial year 2024-25 is Rs.16,575 crores. The benefits of the RoDTEP scheme have been extended to exports from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) units till September 30, 2025.

(viii) A Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilization by exporters.

(ix) Districts as Export Hubs initiative had been launched by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/manufacturers to generate employment in the district.

(x) The Government has launched the Trade Connect e-Platform as an information and intermediation platform for international trade bringing together Indian Missions Abroad and officials from Department of Commerce and other organisations to provide comprehensive services for MSME exporters.

(d) & (e) India has recently signed trade agreements with United Arab Emirates(UAE), Australia and European Free Trade Association (EFTA). In all these trade agreements, India has been granted preferential benefits to enhance market access for engineering goods. Tariff schedules offered by the partner countries to India for the engineering goods and allied sectors are available on the website of the Department of Commerce. These agreements also include provisions on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) to promote mutual understanding of each sides' standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures and to enhance transparency. Additionally, institutional mechanisms have been set up under these agreements to address non-technical barriers, thereby facilitating smoother and more effective access to these export markets for Indian engineering goods.
