

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.138**  
ANSWERED ON 01/08/2025

**EXPORT ORIENTED SCHEMES/MEASURES FOR MSMEs**

\*138 SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether any Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), or Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) outreach clusters are being developed in Auraiya and Etawah districts;
- (b) the level of participation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) or rural entrepreneurs in export-related schemes like Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme and Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES);
- (c) whether these districts have benefitted from logistics park or e-commerce connectivity support; and
- (d) the Ministry's future action plan to integrate rural MSMEs into national and international supply chains?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 138 FOR ANSWER ON 01/08/2025 REGARDING  
“EXPORT ORIENTED SCHEMES/MEASURES FOR MSMEs”**

(a): Special Economic Zones (SEZs) set up under the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006 are primarily private investment driven initiatives. An SEZ may be set up either jointly or severally by the Central Government, State Government or any person for manufacture of goods or rendering services or for both or as a free trade warehousing zone. Post-enactment of the SEZ Act, 2005 the Central Government has not set up any SEZ in the country. At present, no such proposal has been received to establish any SEZs in Auraiya and Etawah districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Export Promotion Councils are organisations of exporters which are recognised as registering authority notified by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to register exporters as its members. In the state of Uttar Pradesh, including Auraiya and Etawah districts, Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO), Agricultural Produce Export Development Agency (APEDA), Council for Leather Exports, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, and Carpet Export Promotion Council are active EPCs.

Additionally, there are 103 active Importer-Exporter Codes (IECs) in Etawah and 37 in Auraiya, reflecting the export engagement in these districts.

Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) is a demand driven Central Sector Scheme. Proposals under the scheme are received from the State/UT Governments, including the state of Uttar Pradesh, to address the common needs of existing cluster in their States/UTs. At present, no project is being developed under the Scheme in Auraiya and Etawah Districts.

(b): This Ministry has been providing financial assistance under the erstwhile Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme to Export Promotion Councils, Trade Bodies, Commodity Boards etc., including those active in the state of Uttar Pradesh, for facilitating participation of Indian Exporters in exhibitions, buyer- seller meets (BSMs), fairs, international events, etc. Further, the Ministry provides financial assistance under the Trade Infrastructure for Exports Scheme (TIES) in the form of grant-in-aid to Central/State Government owned agencies for setting up or for up-gradation of export infrastructure. Self Help Groups (SHGs) and rural entrepreneurs are not eligible beneficiaries as per the scheme guidelines under MAI and TIES.

Further, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India is actively promoting non-farm economic activities through various sub-components at district-level, such as the Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), One Stop Facility (OSF), Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP) and support for incubators and cluster development. To increase the visibility and market reach of SHG products, a range of online and offline platforms have been established, including Saras Fairs, Saras Stores, and the e-Saras portal. Additionally, e-Saras has been integrated with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform to further strengthen SHG access to online markets.

(c) & (d): To support MSMEs and rural entrepreneurs, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has launched the pilot E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEHs) aimed at streamlining cross-border e-commerce logistics and regulatory procedures. These hubs are expected to benefit MSMEs from all districts, including Etawah and Auraiya, by enhancing e-commerce export readiness and market access. The Directorate continues to focus on integrating rural MSMEs into global supply chains through digital enablement, simplified procedures, and logistics facilitation.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of this Ministry has pioneered the initiative of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The initiative aims at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. ONDC makes e-commerce more inclusive wherein small and medium-sized businesses, including those located in the districts of Auraiya and Etawah, can use any ONDC compatible applications instead of being governed by specific platform centric policies. This provides multiple options to them to be discoverable over network and conduct business. It also encourages easy adoption of digital means by the small retailers and distributors, including those located in the districts of Auraiya and Etawah, who may be currently not on digital commerce networks.

The Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) initiative was launched in August 2019 to foster balanced regional development across all districts of the country including Auraiya and Etawah and to identify, brand, and promote products from each district, encouraging their sale in both domestic and international markets and supply chains by integrating rural MSMEs. This initiative

envisages decentralization of the export promotion activities to make the district as active stakeholder in boosting export growth of the identified products and services from the district to leverage its natural competitive advantages.

The Export Promotion Mission (EPM) announced in the Union Budget of 2025–26 envisages new approaches to support the export sector and possible support to enhance export competitiveness through improved access to trade finance, facilitation of compliance with international regulatory requirements, capacity building, enhanced outreach and market development efforts, product and market diversification, market access initiatives such as participation in trade fairs and buyer-seller meets.

Further in the Union Budget of 2025-26, Bharat Trade Net (BTN), a flagship Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) platform has been announced to make trade documentation and finance fully electronic and transparent for cross border trade. BTN proposes to integrate Customs, GST, DGFT, banks, UPI, DigiLocker, and ULIP to drastically reduce paperwork and cut export transaction times.

This Ministry has been actively negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) for boosting exports and availing market access in diversified economies. The focus is on delivering a comprehensive, balanced, broad-based and equitable agreement based on the principle of fairness and reciprocity and overall benefit to all the stakeholders. Recently, India has concluded India - Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) in February, 2021, India-UAE CEPA in February, 2022, India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) in April, 2022, India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) in March, 2024 and India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in July, 2025.

\*\*\*\*\*