

Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue

RAJYA SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 1042
ANSWERED ON-29/07/2025
Authorised Economic Operator framework

1042: Shri Milind Murli Deora:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to fast-track exports and imports under the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) framework;
- (b) the number of AEO certifications issued till date, including a state-wise and sector-wise breakup;
- c) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to increase awareness and participation of MSMEs under the AEO programme; and
- (d) the extent to which Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) have helped enhance trade facilitation with partner countries?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

a) The key steps taken by the Government of India to fast-track exports and imports under the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) framework includes the following facilitation measures for AEO certificate holders:

- (i) Higher level of facilitation in import and export of consignments;
- (ii) Facility of Direct Port Delivery (DPD) import containers and/or Direct Port Entry (DPE) for export containers;
- (iii) Automated Clearance and On-site examination for certain type of consignments;
- (iv) Facility of Deferred payment for Tier-III and Tier-II AEO certificate holders;
- (v) Relaxed norms for submission of bank guarantee, wherever applicable;
- (vi) Recognition by Partner Government Agencies and other Stakeholders.

AEO certificate holders also receive trade facilitation support from foreign customs administrations with whom India has signed Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRAs), thereby enhancing their global trade efficiency.

b) As on 30th June, 2025, 5892 AEO certificates were issued. The state-wise and sector -wise break-up is provided in Annexure-I and II.

c) Yes, Government of India conducted more than 60 outreach programmes across the country in last 3 years, with particular focus on MSMEs to raise awareness about the AEO Scheme. Government of India conducted a global conference titled “India AEO Dialogue: Enhancing Global Trade Partnerships” in November 2024. Two conferences were also conducted in April and May 2025, with various stakeholders to raise awareness about the AEO programme. To increase participation of MSMEs, in 2020, along with prioritized processing of their applications, the accreditation process was relaxed for MSMEs, annexures to be provided with application for AEO certification by MSMEs were also rationalized. The norms for submission of bank guarantee, wherever required, were also relaxed for AEO Certificate holder MSMEs.

d) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRAs) are based on mutual acknowledgment of supply chain security standards and AEO certificate holders of one country are recognized as secure and low-risk by the customs administration of another. Accordingly, exports by Indian AEO Certificate holders enjoy faster cargo release, fewer inspections and expedited customs clearance in partner countries, thus making exports by Indian AEO certificate holders more competitive and enhancing trade facilitation for them in partner countries.

Annexure-I

State wise AEO certifications

State/UT Name	Number of AEOs
ANDHRA PRADESH	79
ASSAM	2
BIHAR	1
CHANDIGARH	3
CHHATTISGARH	5
DELHI	605
GOA	13
GUJARAT	784
HARYANA	236
HIMACHAL PRADESH	5
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	4
JHARKHAND	8
KARNATAKA	441
KERALA	103
MADHYA PRADESH	24
MAHARASHTRA	1749
ODISHA	17
PUDUCHERRY	4
PUNJAB	70
RAJASTHAN	92
TAMIL NADU	1029
TELANGANA	172
THE DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	16
UTTAR PRADESH	139
UTTARAKHAND	7
WEST BENGAL	289
	5892

Annexure-II

Sector -wise AEO certifications

Sector	Number of AEOs
Agriculture & Processed Food	579
Apparel & Textiles	473
Automotive & Aerospace	245
Base Metals	86
Consumer Products & Mass Merchandising	157
Electronics	355
Footwear	92
Industrial & Manufacturing Materials	765
Machinery	136
Minerals	84
Petroleum & Natural Gas	34
Pharmaceuticals, Health & Chemicals	587
Other	2299
Grand Total	5892