

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2446
ANSWERED ON 13/03/2026

EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF MSMEs

2446. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

- (a) whether Government has details of the export performance of MSMEs over the last three years;
- (b) if so, the data of export growth or decline during this period, sector-wise and State-wise;
- (c) steps that the Ministry is taking to enhance competitiveness of Indian exporters amid global economic slowdown; and
- (d) support mechanisms, including financial and marketing assistance being provided to first-time and small exporters?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Government actively monitors the export performance of the MSME sector to ensure its continuous growth. While the Department of Commerce does not maintain specific State-wise or sector-wise export data exclusively for MSMEs, robust assessments of MSME performance are continuously made in close coordination with the Ministry of MSME.

(c) & (d) The Government has adopted a multi-pronged and integrated strategy to bolster India's exports across all sectors, with a special focus on addressing global market challenges and supporting exporters, including MSMEs and small exporters. This strategy combines enhanced infrastructure, digital transformation, financial support, and targeted market initiatives to create a resilient and competitive export ecosystem.

The key initiatives and support mechanisms implemented by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry are detailed below:

- a. **Leverage Trade Agreements:** The Government is proactively working to diversify India's export basket and reduce dependency on traditional markets by identifying and facilitating entry into new and emerging global markets. A key pillar of this strategy is leveraging Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Preferential Trade Agreements

(PTAs) to enhance preferential market access. The Government is actively working with all stakeholders to enable exporters to effectively seize the significant opportunities created by recently concluded FTAs, such as with EFTA countries, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. Notably, the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), signed on July 24, 2025, provides duty-free access for more than 99% of Indian exports, significantly lowering costs and expanding market reach for MSMEs. Furthermore, the India-EU FTA, concluded on January 27, 2026, provides preferential access to more than 99% of India's exports by trade value. It features immediate duty elimination on key labour-intensive sectors, flexible Product Specific Rules (PSRs), and allows self-certification of origin, thereby reducing compliance costs and improving MSME competitiveness in global value chains.

- b. **Export Promotion Mission:** The Export Promotion Mission (EPM) approved by Cabinet on 12.11.2025 is a flagship initiative announced in the Union Budget 2025–26 to strengthen India’s export competitiveness, particularly for MSMEs, first-time exporters, and labour-intensive sectors with a total outlay of Rs.25,060 crore for FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31. EPM marks a strategic shift from multiple fragmented schemes to a single, outcome-based, and adaptive mechanism that can respond swiftly to global trade challenges and evolving exporter needs. The Mission will operate through two integrated sub-schemes:
 - i. **NIRYAT PROTSAHAN**, which focuses on improving access to affordable trade finance for MSMEs through a range of instruments such as interest subvention, export factoring, collateral guarantees, credit cards for e-commerce exporters, and credit enhancement support for diversification into new markets.
 - ii. **NIRYAT DISHA**, which focuses on non-financial enablers that enhance market readiness and competitiveness, including export quality and compliance support, assistance for international branding, packaging, and participation in trade fairs, export warehousing and logistics, inland transport reimbursements, and trade intelligence and capacity-building initiatives.
- c. **Bharat Trade Net (BTN):** Bharat Trade Net (BTN), announced in the Union Budget 2025, is a flagship digital public infrastructure developed by DGFT under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The initiative enhances MSME competitiveness by enabling simpler, paperless documentation, reducing compliance burdens, and facilitating faster, secure trade transactions recognized globally.
- d. **Districts as Export Hubs (DEH):** The Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) initiative helps identify and promote district-specific products and build capacity in export logistics and infrastructure at the local level, aimed at fostering district-level export growth across the country.
- e. **Trade Connect ePlatform** has been launched to provide trade-related information to Indian exporters particularly MSMEs. This platform also serves as an online hub for

- integrating efforts from the Department of Commerce, Indian Missions abroad, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards, and other organisations to deliver comprehensive support to Indian exporters, in the form of information, answering queries and online services such as issuance of Certificate of Origin.
- f. **RoDTEP and Duty Drawback Scheme** provides a mechanism to reimburse embedded Central, State, and local duties or taxes borne on exported products that are not rebated otherwise. By refunding these indirect duties on exported goods, including those belonging to first-time and small exporters, the scheme directly enhances their price competitiveness in the global market.
 - g. **Extension of Export Obligation Periods:** In a proactive move to insulate exporters, particularly MSMEs, from the impact of prevailing geopolitical developments, an automatic extension of the Export Obligation (EO) period has been granted, without the requirement of any composition fee, for specified Advance and EPCG Authorisations.
