GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 681
ANSWERED ON 24/07/2026

RELIEF MEASURES FOR EXPORTERS AFFECTED BY THE WEST ASIAN CRISIS

681. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

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

(a) whether Government has announced a relief scheme to support exporters affected by disruptions arising from the ongoing West Asian crisis, if so, the details thereof;
(b) the categories of exporters, including MSMEs covered under the scheme and the nature of assistance proposed thereunder;
(c) whether any Inter-Ministerial mechanism has been constituted to monitor supply chain disruptions, shipping routes and logistics challenges, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the other measures taken to safeguard India's exports and minimise the impact of geopolitical disruptions on the export sector?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AN INDUSTRY

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b) The Department of Commerce launched the RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) intervention on 19th March 2026, implemented through Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and ECGC Limited, for exports to or sailing through the West Asia region. It has three components: 100% cover for ECGC-covered exports which had already sailed; 95% cover for upcoming exports utilising ECGC cover; and reimbursement of freight and insurance, up to ₹50 lakh per Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), for already-sailed exports of MSMEs under non-ECGC covered claims. So far, more than 500 exporters have been covered and around 1,500 claims received. The intervention protects all categories of exporters, with a dedicated reimbursement component for MSMEs, against war-related shipment and payment risks.

(c) An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was set up on 2nd March 2026 under the Department of Commerce, with members including Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), ECGC Limited, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG), Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The IMG met daily at the start of the crisis; more than 48 meetings have been held so far. The IMG monitors supply chain disruptions, shipping routes and logistics challenges, and coordinates action on duty relief on critical imports, export regulation and support to exporters, especially MSMEs.

(d) The Government has taken several other coordinated measures, inter alia:

- DGFT extended the export obligation period under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) and Advance Authorisation Schemes by 3 months, up to 31st August 2026, covering 1,017 EPCG and **7**,400 Advance Authorisation licences; restored the RoDTEP rates; discharged export obligations under 21,370 authorisations through a special drive; APEDA operated a helpline for exporters; the Government allowed gems and jewellery import and vaulting in SEZs/FTWZs.
- CBIC issued clarifications for returned and diverted cargo and extended fee waivers and cargo handling flexibility up to 30^{th} June 2026; RBI/DFS extended the export credit period from 270 to 450 days till 5^{th} June 2026 and introduced ECLGS 5.0 for MSME liquidity.
- Major Ports gave 100% waiver on ground rent and demurrage and 80% on reefer charges; CONCOR and Railways waived charges on stranded containers and started double-stack services on the Dedicated Freight Corridor to clear a 10,000-container backlog.
- The Cabinet approved a sovereign guarantee of about US$ 1.5 billion for a domestic maritime insurance pool, reducing the cost of freight and insurance for exports.
- MoPNG activated an emergency cell and issued the LPG Control Order and the Natural Gas Supply Regulation Order;
- Zero basic customs duty exemption on 40 critical petrochemical products was issued and was extended up to 15^{th} July 2026.

*****