

EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR HANDICRAFTS

SEMINAR ON EXPORT INCENTIVES & BENEFITS, EXPORT PROMOTION SCHEMES OF GOVT. OF INDIA AND SCHEME OF DC (H) HELD ON (SATURDAY) 16.11.2013 AT THE CONFERENCE HALL AT 53/1, SAMBHUNATH PANDIT STREET, KOLKATA, 700 025

The seminar on export promotion, export policy, incentives and benefits was organized at Kolkata on 16.11.2013 in Regional office of EPCH. The following key officials were present during above seminar:-

1. Shri Sandip Routh, Customs (Kolkata Customs Department)
2. Shri G. Chakraborty, Asst. Director (DGFT)
3. Shri A. K. Hota, Asst. Director (DC(H))
4. Shri Chandan Saha, Lecturer (IIFT)
5. Shri O. P. Prahladka, EPCH Convenor , Eastern Region
6. Shri Rajesh Rawat, Dy. Director-EPCH

Shri O P Prahladka, Convener, EPCH Eastern Region welcomed the dignitaries and informed the current scenario and handicrafts sector strategies and goals for the region.

Mr. Rawat, Dy. Director EPCH, made a Presentation on Export Incentives & Benefits, Export Promotion Schemes and briefed the house about the activities of the Council including its role as an Export facilitator. The brief presentation also highlighted about various services offered by the council to its members along with various marketing platform being made available by the council to its members and also issues pertaining to compliances, design development and certifications etc.

Mr. G Chakraborty Asst. Director, DGFT address emphasized the need for technology upgradation, modernization. He also discussed about various schemes / incentives offered by O/o DGFT and also explained about getting IEC CODE, focus product and focus market and other scheme benefits through various ANF forms available at DGFT's website.

Mr. Chandan Saha (IIFT) spoke about India's strengths and also about how much is required be to be done by the Government by creating positive environment to encourage the youngsters to set up units in the country and thereby generating employment.

Shri. A.K Hota (Asst., Director DC (H)) has shared information about various schemes of DC (Handicrafts), and encouraged the audience to contact DC (Handicrafts) office for any information and assistance.

Shri S. Routh (Customs) during his address advised the audience to consult ready guides with standard templates, which are readily available in markets, to avoid unnecessary harassments & imperfect documentation. He also informed about Foreign Exchange Realization Certificate and other incentive schemes.

The officers from office of Director General of Foreign Trade, Customs Department, Official from office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) and Lecturer of IIFT and EPCH interacted with the participants during question answer session and responded to their queries. Over 40 exporters, NGOs, artisans were present during the seminar and posed queries to the experts.

The major questions which were asked including the following:-

▪ **1. What are the schemes of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)?**

The various schemes offered by the DC(H) are available in the form of a compendium available at www.handicrafts.nic.in .

▪ **And also how he can avail the benefits of Focus Products scheme of DGFT?**

In order to avail the benefit under Focus Product Scheme, the exporter may apply to with Office of DGFT through an application form ANF 3C (Handbook of Procedures Vol1) along with the shipping bill. In case a doubt is raised by the O/o DGFT regarding the product being handicrafts or not, the exporter may approach EPCH for classification of Handicrafts Certification

(Details are available at <http://epch.in/policies/Application&requirement.pdf>)

▪ **Another exporter asked about attestation of invoices incase of direct import of embellishments under the provision of duty free import certificate?**

In case of the direct import under the DFIC , invoice is not attested, only import from SEZ, invoices are attested.

▪ **Some of the NGOs also asked about the procedure to become member of the Council?**

To become a member of the Council, NGO need to have IEC code as a primary documentary requirement and they can file the application for membership by getting the membership form of the Council, also available at Regional Offices of the Council or can request for the same by sending a DD in favour of EPCH with a request for the membership form to New Delhi office.

▪ **How can Artisans directly start exports?**

Any one can start the export , if he/she has an order. He / She may also become he member of the Council in order to avail benefits available to the member exporters with respect to participation in shows in India and overseas. Further, he/she may get in touch with commercial sections of Embassies/High Commissions for trade leads. He /She may also approach the buying agencies to support them as per the products

▪ **Custom raises objection regarding classification?**

The Official from the Customs replied that the classification issue arises primarily due to incorrect HS code and declaration made by the exporters without judgment of the products as leather, bone etc. In case of any doubt regarding the goods made of leather, bone horn etc the customs are unable to ascertain the category of goods and seek help from WCCB.



Glimpses of seminar organized by epch on export promotion, export policy, incentives and benefits was organized at Kolkata on 16.11.2013 in regional office of epch.