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वित्त मंत्रालय
राजस्व विभाग
केन्द्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर एवं सीमा शुल्क बोर्ड
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एस. रमेश

अध्यक्ष

S. Ramesh

Chairman

D.O.No.25/CH(IC)/2018

15th December, 2018

Dear *Colleagues,*

On 13th December, 2018, the Hon'ble Prime Minister chaired a high level meeting to review the steps being taken to further enhance 'Ease of Doing Business'. During the meeting, he stressed on the need to improve last mile delivery and focus on streamlining procedures which would improve not just the "Doing Business" rankings but also increase the "Ease of Living" for small businesses and the common man. On behalf of CBIC, the initiatives like 'E-Sanchit' online uploading facility, Direct Port Delivery (DPD) as well as Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme, apart from the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NCTF) were highlighted by me during the meeting. I would urge each and every one of you to take the initiatives of CBIC to much higher levels with utmost zeal and commitment.

The AEO programme of CBIC has enhanced the Ease of Doing Business of the EXIM trade by according priority Customs clearance, deferred duty payment and a host of other benefits. Over 2200 AEOs across India have since joined the scheme. More are expected to join soon using the online portal (www.aeoindia.gov.in). An interactive workshop for AEOs was organized in this regard on 10th December, 2018, in Bangalore. More than 50 AEOs from the Southern Zones actively participated in the workshop along with officials, especially the Client Relationship Managers (CRMs) from Customs, Bangalore /Chennai / Hyderabad Zones. It was a great opportunity for me to interact with the AEOs directly and obtain feedback from them. Their suggestions have since been taken forward to enhance the user experience.

Trade facilitation by way of speedier Customs clearance of cargo has been the one of main focus areas of CBIC. The Container Scanner Project involving non-intrusive inspection of EXIM cargo is a major step towards

trade facilitation while ensuring safety and security in the supply chain. We now have 13 Scanners of different types operational at eight Ports, the latest being the 'Drive Through Scanner' at Kochi which was inaugurated by me last week. This state-of-the-art Scanner with very high throughput of 100 containers/ hour will ensure that scanning is completed in minimum possible time. It is anticipated that by end of 2021-22, about 34 Scanners will be operational at all important Ports across India. I commend the officers and staff of Directorate of Logistics for their efforts in improving trade facilitation as well as anti-smuggling infrastructure of the department.

During the visit to Bengaluru, I also had the privilege to launch the first ever "AIO Manual for Range Officers". The endeavour has been to bring together all the available documentation regarding the various AIO functionalities which are necessary for smooth implementation of GST on the CBIC IT platform. Kudos to the CC, Bengaluru GST Zone and his team for this achievement. Also, recently an *English-Hindi Glossary* furnishing the Hindi equivalent of about 850 GST-related words and phrases has been compiled. I commend Principal CC, Chennai GST Zone, and his team for bringing out this publication.

CBIC has always been in the forefront of technological innovation. In this regard. DG Systems, CBIC, has recently launched project 'ADVAIT' (*Advanced Analytics in Indirect Taxation*) for creating a new generation data platform with the objective of using advanced analytics as well as Big Data & AI for enhanced taxpayer services, better compliance and focussed tax policy formulation. Considering the importance of this task, I would request you to quickly respond to the letter of DG Systems calling for business requirements.

With *best wishes,*

Yours sincerely,

S. Ramesh
(S. Ramesh)

To,

All officers and staff of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.