

Dear Members,

The much awaited Foreign Trade Policy for the period 2015-2020 was announced today by Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry (Independent Charge), Mrs.Nirmala Sitharaman. The highlights of the policy relating to the textiles are given below:-

- ❖ Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) has been introduced by merging Focus Product Scheme, Market Linked Focus Product Scheme, Focus Market Scheme, Agri Infrastructure Incentive Scrip and VKGUY
- ❖ Under MEIS scheme, reward shall be payable as percentage of realized f.o.b. value on export of notified goods to notified markets
- ❖ Specific Export Obligation under EPCG scheme, in case capital goods are procured from indigenous manufacturers, which is currently 90% of the normal export obligation (6 times at the duty saved amount) has been reduced to 75%, in order to promote domestic capital goods manufacturing industry
- ❖ To encourage manufacturing of capital goods in India, import under EPCG scheme shall not be eligible for exemption from payment of anti-dumping duty, safeguard duty and transitional product specific safeguard duty.
- ❖ Trade facilitation measures for ease of doing business:-
 - ✓ Online filing of documents and paperless trade in 24 x 7 environment
 - ✓ Online inter-ministerial consultations
 - ✓ Obtaining and submitting certificate from independent Chartered Engineer under EPCG scheme confirming the use of spares, tools, etc., for final redemption of EPCG authorization dispensed with
 - ✓ EPCG authorization holders shall be required to maintain records for a period of two years as against the current three years
 - ✓ Online filing of application for refund of TED introduced
 - ✓ Online issue of export obligation discharge certificate
 - ✓ Facility to pay application fee using debit card/ credit card

The relevant public notices and notifications more specifically with regard to the MEIS scheme have not been uploaded by the Ministry and the same will be mailed on its availability.