

Report of Interactive Session on IGST Refund
Jointly organized by GCCI, GDMA & CHEMEXCIL
on 11th June 2018 at GCCI Premises

An Interactive Session in IGST Refund was organized jointly by Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Gujarat Dyestuff Manufacturers Association and the CHEMEXCIL Ahmedabad RO at the GCCI on 11th June 2018 with the aim to create awareness about issues faced by Exporters in receiving IGST Refunds and the correct procedures to be followed in making corrections/amendments in filing of GSTR.

Since there is a large amount of money to be refunded to Exporters against IGST, several representations have been persistently made to authorities as Exporters, especially the SMEs face a huge liquidity crunch resulting in their having to borrow money from bank and bearing extra cost.

In response to the critical situation where Exporters and Industrial Organizations and Chambers were being pressed to aggressively represent to the authorities, the Chief Commissioner of Customs (Gujarat Zone) himself offered to speak to Exporters whose refunds were not issued to make them aware of the efforts that the Government was doing, and also the facility of amendment of filed GSTR where mistakes were made by assesses, which according to him, was the main cause of non-issuance of Refunds.

The GCCI President Shri Shailesh Patwari gave the welcome address thanking the Chief Commissioner for his presence and welcoming the participants.

The Chief Commissioner of Customs (Gujarat Zone) Mr. PVR Reddy (IRS) thanked the organizing bodies for arranging the program in such a short notice. He said that the department and the government was aware of the IGST Refund issue, but categorically mentioned that the refunds were not withheld for non-availability of funds as was perceived by exporters and media. He said the main reason was mistakes and mismatch while filing GSTR for which the department has made an arrangement to amend them at the assessee's end. He said there was a problem earlier regarding smooth integration and transmission of data from GST to Customs, which has also been solved. However, he said, that since the integration has just been done only a couple of days back, the system and people responsible may take a few days to operate smoothly. He accepted the issue of Scroll Generated but Refund Not Issued for 15th & 31st March and 22nd May 2018, due to a technical glitch in ICEGATE Software. He informed that his office is sincerely and persistently pursuing the ICEGATE Officers to resolve the issue, as the problem is faced by Exporters from ICD Khodiyar (Sabarmati).

In the open session that followed, many Exporters made some queries and representations to which the Chief Commissioner answered positively. Many customers made suggestions about rectification in the system for LCLs as amendments to GSTR therein are not still possible.

Shri Bhupendra Patel, Chairman CHEMEXCIL Ahmedabad, and President GDMA proposed a Vote of Thanks.

About 170 Exporters, mostly members of GCCI, GDMA & CHEMEXCIL were present in the session. Since the event was organized in a very short time (just 3 days) over the weekend, Advertisement for promotion was placed in local editions of Times of India, Gujarat Samachar & Divya Bhaskar dailies which attracted the participants. Many other Officers from the Customs Department were present. Office Bearers from GCCI, GDMA & CHEMEXCIL were also present.

GCCI made all logistical arrangements, whereas GDMA & CHEMEXCIL participated actively bringing their members and sharing the Advertisement Expenses with GCCI.

Photographs



CHEMEXCIL Regional Chairman Shri Bhupendra Patel presenting Memento to Chief Commissioner of Customs (Gujarat Zone) Shri PVR Reddy (IRS)



CHEMEXCIL Regional Chairman Shri Bhupendra Patel welcoming Chief Commissioner of Customs (Gujarat Zone) Shri PVR Reddy (IRS) with a bouquet of flowers



Dignitaries on the Dais: (From L to R)

Shri Varis Isani, President, Gujarat Sales Tax Bar Association; Shri Jaimin Vasa, Sr. Vice President, GCCI; Shri PVR Reddy (IRS), Chief Commissioner of Customs (Gujarat Zone); Shri Shailesh Patwari, President, GCCI; Shri Bhupendra Patel, Regional Chairman, CHEMEXCIL & President, GDMA; Shri Nayan Sheth, Chairman GCCI GST Committee; Shri Yogesh Parikh, Vice President, GDMA



Shri PVR Reddy (IRS), Chief Commissioner of Customs (Gujarat Zone) addressing the gathering



The audience in rapt attention to the deliberations