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Big 5 in BRICS Meet in Goa with South Asia and Burma Heads, Pak Excluded

Excerpts from the Declaration

Solutions

We, the Leaders of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, met on 15-16 October 2016 in Goa, India, at the Eighth BRICS Summit, which was held under the theme "Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions."

BRICS Bank Opens Africa Centre

We note with satisfaction the operationalisation of the New Development Bank (NDB) and of the Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA), which contributes greatly to the global economy and the strengthening of the international financial architecture.

We are pleased to note the progress in operationalising the Africa Regional Centre (ARC) of the NDB and pledge our full support in this regard. We look forward to developing new BRICS initiatives in a wider range of areas in the years to come.

Green Bonds in Yuan

We note with appreciation the approval of the first set of loans by the New Development Bank (NDB), particularly in the renewable energy projects in BRICS countries. We express satisfaction with NDB's issuance of the first set of green bonds in RMB. We are pleased to note that the operationalisation of BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangements (CRA) has strengthened the global financial safety net.

Bay of Bengal

In order to reach out and enrich our understanding and engagement with fellow developing and emerging economies, we will hold an Outreach Summit of BRICS Leaders with the Leaders of BIMSTEC member countries - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation comprising of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The meeting will be an opportunity to renew our friendship with BIMSTEC countries as well as to jointly explore possibilities of expanding trade and commercial ties, and investment cooperation between BRICS and BIMSTEC countries, while advancing our common goals of peace, development, democracy and prosperity.

Second World War Misrepresentation

We express our commitment to resolutely reject the continued attempts to misrepresent the results of World War II. We recall further that development and security are closely interlinked, mutually reinforcing and key to attaining sustainable peace.

No Unilateralism

We remain confident that resolving international problems require collective efforts for peaceful settlement of disputes through political and diplomatic means. Implementation of principles of good-faith, sovereign equality of States, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and cooperation excludes imposition of unilateral coercive measures not based on international law.



We condemn unilateral military interventions and economic sanctions in violation of international law and universally recognised norms of international relations. Bearing this in mind, we emphasise the unique importance of the indivisible nature of security, and that no State should strengthen its security at the expense of the security of others.

Reform Security Council, Bring in BRICS Members

We recall the 2005 World Summit Outcome document. We reaffirm the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more representative, effective and efficient, and to increase the representation of the developing countries so that it can adequately respond to global challenges. China and Russia reiterate the importance they attach to the status and role of Brazil, India and South Africa in international affairs and support their aspiration to play a greater role in the UN.

We welcome the substantive measures undertaken by the UN membership to make the process of selecting and appointing the UN Secretary-General more transparent and inclusive.

Welcome Guterres, the New UN SG (Strong India Connection, His Wife is Goan!)

We express our gratitude to UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his contributions to the United Nations in the past ten years. We congratulate Mr. António Guterres, on his appointment as the Secretary-General of the United Nations and express our support and to work closely with him.

Cognizant of BRICS countries' significant contributions to UN Peacekeeping operations, and recognising the important role of UN Peacekeeping operations in safeguarding international peace and security, we realise the challenges faced

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by UN Peacekeeping and emphasise the need to further strengthen its role, capacity, effectiveness, accountability and efficiency, while adhering

to the basic principles of peacekeeping. We emphasise that UN Peacekeeping operations should perform the duty of protection of civilians in strict accordance with their respective mandates and in respect of the primary responsibility of the host countries in this regard.

MENA

We are deeply concerned about the situation in the Middle East and North Africa. We support all efforts for finding ways to the settlement of the crises in accordance with international law and in conformity with the principles of independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the countries of the region. On Syria, we call upon all parties involved to work for a comprehensive and peaceful resolution of the conflict taking into account the legitimate aspirations of the people of Syria, through inclusive national dialogue and a Syrian-led political process based on Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012 and in pursuance of the UN Security Council Resolution 2254 and 2268 for their full implementation. While continuing the relentless pursuit against terrorist groups so designated by the UN Security Council including ISIL, Jabhat al-Nusra and other terrorist organisations designated by the UN Security Council.

We reiterate also the necessity to implement the two-state solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on the basis of the relevant UNSC resolutions, the Madrid Principles and Arab Peace Initiative, and previous agreements between the two sides, through negotiations aimed at creating an independent, viable, territorially contiguous Palestinian State living side-by-side in peace with Israel, within secure, mutually agreed and internationally recognised borders on the basis of 1967 lines, with East Jerusalem as its capital, as envisaged in the relevant UN Resolutions.

We express deep concern at the persisting security challenges in Afghanistan and significant increase in terrorist activities in Afghanistan. We affirm support to the efforts of the Afghan Government to achieve Afghan-led and Afghan-owned national reconciliation and combat terrorism, and readiness for constructive cooperation in order to facilitate security in Afghanistan, promote its independent political and economic course, becoming free from terrorism and drug trafficking. The Leaders expressed the view that capable and effective Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) should be the key to the stabilisation of Afghanistan. In this regard, the Leaders emphasised the need for continued commitment of regional countries and wider international community, including the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission, which as the ISAF's heir has a key role in the ANSF capacity-building. The Leaders stressed the importance of multilateral region-led interaction on Afghan issues, primarily by those organisations, which consist of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries and other regional states, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Collective Security Treaty Organization, and the Heart of Asia Conference.

Africa

We welcome the African Union's (AU) vision, aspirations, goals and priorities for Africa's development enshrined in Agenda 2063, which is

complementary with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We reaffirm our support for Africa's implementation of its various programmes in pursuit of its continental agenda for peace and socio economic development. We will continue to engage in joint endeavours to advance Africa's solidarity, unity and strength through support measures for regional integration and sustainable development. We further welcome recent elections that have been held in the continent and the peaceful manner in which they were conducted.

We support the AU's efforts to resolving conflicts through its peace and security architecture, in collaboration with the United Nations and the continent's regional organisations, and to contribute towards lasting and sustainable peace and security in Africa.

We welcome the decision of the African Union's Assembly to operationalise its Peace Fund, in order to contribute to financing of its peace and security operations. We support efforts aimed at full operationalisation of the African Standby Force (ASF) and note the progress being made in this regard, including the contributions by the African Capacity for Immediate Responses to Crises (ACIRC).

Terrorism and Extremism

We express our concern that political and security instability continues to loom in a number of countries that is exacerbated by terrorism and extremism. We call upon the international community through the United Nations, African Union and regional and international partners to continue their support in addressing these challenges, including post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts.

UNSD

We welcome the adoption of landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals during the UN Summit on Sustainable Development on 25 September 2015 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. We welcome the people-centred and holistic approach to sustainable development enshrined in the 2030 Agenda and its emphasis on equality, equity and quality-life to all. We welcome the reaffirmation of the guiding principles of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR).

The 2030 Agenda, with its overarching focus on poverty eradication, lays an equal and balanced emphasis on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. We call upon developed countries to honour their Official Development Assistance commitments to achieve 0.7% of Gross National Income commitment for Official Development Assistance to developing countries. Those commitments play a crucial role in the implementation of the SDGs. We further welcome the establishment of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism within the UN with a mandate to facilitate technology for the implementation of the SDGs.

We commit to lead by example in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development inline with national circumstances and development context respecting the national policy space. We welcome the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted during G20 Hangzhou Summit and commit to its implementation by taking bold

transformative steps through both collective and individual concrete actions.

Monetary Policy

We meet at a time when the global economic recovery is progressing, with improved resilience and emergence of new sources of growth. The growth, though is weaker than expected with downside risks to the global economy continuing to persist. This gets reflected in a variety of challenges including commodity price volatility, weak trade, high private and public indebtedness, inequality and lack of inclusiveness of economic growth. Meanwhile, the benefits from growth need to be shared broadly in an inclusive manner. Geopolitical conflicts, terrorism, refugee flows, illicit financial flows and the outcome of UK referendum have further added to the uncertainty in the global economy.

We reiterate our determination to use all policy tools – monetary, fiscal, and structural, individually and collectively, to achieve the goal of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Monetary policy will continue to support economic activity and ensure price stability, consistent with central bank's mandates. Monetary policy alone, though, cannot lead to balanced and sustainable growth. We, in this regard, underscore the essential role of structural reforms. We emphasise that our fiscal policies are equally important to support our common growth objectives. We also take note that the spill-over effects of certain policy measures in some systemically important advanced economies can have adverse impact on growth prospects of emerging economies.

We recognise that innovation is a key driver for mid and long term growth and sustainable development. We stress the importance of industrialisation and measures that promote industrial development as a core pillar of structural transformation.

We highlight the need to use tax policy and public expenditure in a more growth-friendly way taking into account fiscal space available, that promotes inclusiveness, maintains resilience and ensures sustainability of debt as a share of GDP.

Global Integration

We note the dynamic integration processes across the regions of the world, particularly in Asia, Africa and South America. We affirm our belief to promote growth in the context of regional integration on the basis of principles of equality, openness and inclusiveness. We further believe that this will promote economic expansion through enhanced trade, commercial and investment linkages.

Infrastructure

We highlight the importance of public and private investments in infrastructure, including connectivity, to ensure sustained long-term growth. We, in this regard, call for approaches to bridge the financing gap in infrastructure including through enhanced involvement of Multilateral Development Banks.

IMF

We reaffirm our commitment to a strong, quota based and adequately resourced IMF. Borrowed resources by the IMF should be on a temporary basis. We remain strongly committed to support the coordinated effort by the emerging economies to ensure that the Fifteenth General Review of Quotas, including the new quota formula, will be finalised within the agreed timelines so as to ensure that the increased voice of the dynamic



emerging and developing economies reflects their relative contributions to the world economy, while protecting the voices of least developed countries (LDCs), poor countries and regions.

We welcome the inclusion of the RMB into the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) currency basket on 1 October, 2016.

We call for the advanced European economies to meet their commitment to cede two chairs on the Executive Board of the IMF. The reform of the IMF should strengthen the voice and representation of the poorest members of the IMF, including Sub-Saharan Africa.

Sovereign Debt

We share concerns regarding the challenges of sovereign debt restructurings, and note that timely and successful debt restructuring is key for ensuring access to international capital markets, and hence economic growth, for countries with high debt levels. We welcome the current discussions to improve the debt restructuring process, and on the revised collective action clauses (CACs).

WTO

We reiterate our support for the multilateral trading system and the centrality of the WTO as the cornerstone of a rule based, open, transparent, non-discriminatory and inclusive multilateral trading system with development at the core of its agenda. We note the increasing number of bilateral, regional, and plurilateral trade agreements, and reiterate that these should be complementary to the multilateral trading system and encourage the parties thereon to align their work in consolidating the multilateral trading system under the WTO in accordance with the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, and compatibility with the WTO rules.

We emphasise the importance of implementing the decisions taken at the Bali and Nairobi Ministerial Conferences. We stress the need to advance negotiations on the remaining Doha Development Agenda (DDA) issues as a matter of priority. We call on all WTO members to work together to ensure a strong development oriented outcome for MC11 and beyond.

BRICS Strategy

We appreciate the progress in the implementation of the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership and emphasise the importance of the BRICS Roadmap for Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation until 2020. We believe that close cooperation between the sectoral cooperation mechanisms, BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues, the BRICS Business Council,

New Development Bank and the BRICS Interbank cooperation mechanism is crucial in strengthening the BRICS economic partnership. We welcome, in this context, the continued realisation of the major BRICS economic initiatives such as enhanced cooperation in e-commerce, "single window", IPR cooperation, trade promotion and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). We recognise non-tariff measures (NTMs), services sector, and standardisation and conformity assessments as possible areas of future cooperation. We note in this context the meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers in New Delhi on 13 October 2016 and welcome its substantive outcomes.

In operationalising the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership, we encourage measures that support greater participation, value addition and upward mobility in Global Value Chains of

cost, and create self-employment opportunities in rural and underdeveloped areas. MSMEs thus help assure equitable wealth distribution nationally and globally. We commend organisation of BRICS second round-table on MSMEs by India with a focus on technical and business alliances in MSMEs Sector. We agree to work for greater integration of MSMEs in Regional and Global Value Chains.

G-20

We commend China for the successful hosting of the 11th G20 Leaders' Summit in Hangzhou and its focus on innovation, structural reform and development as drivers of medium and long term economic growth. We recognise the role of G20 as the premier forum for international and financial cooperation and emphasise the importance of the implementation of the outcomes of

BRICS Condemns Terrorism, No Comment on "Hot Pursuit"

We strongly condemn the recent several attacks, against some BRICS countries, including that in India. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there can be no justification whatsoever for any acts of terrorism, whether based upon ideological, religious, political, racial, ethnic or any other reasons. We agreed to strengthen cooperation in combating international terrorism both at the bilateral level and at international fora.

To address the threat of chemical and biological terrorism, we support and emphasise the need for launching multilateral negotiations on an international convention for the suppression of acts of chemical and biological terrorism, including at the Conference on Disarmament. In this context, we welcome India's offer to host a Conference in 2018 aimed at strengthening international resolve in facing the challenge of the WMD-Terrorism nexus.

We call upon all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism, which should include countering violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, radicalisation, recruitment, movement of terrorists including Foreign Terrorist Fighters, blocking sources of financing terrorism, including through organised crime by means of money-laundering, drug trafficking, criminal activities, dismantling terrorist bases, and countering misuse of the Internet including social media by terror entities through misuse of the latest Information and Communi-

cation Technologies (ICTs). Successfully combating terrorism requires a holistic approach. All counter-terrorism measures should uphold international law and respect human rights.

We acknowledge the recent meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security and, in this context, welcome the setting up and the first meeting of the BRICS Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism on 14 September 2016 in New Delhi. We believe it will further promote dialogue and understanding among BRICS nations on issues of counter terrorism, as well as coordinate efforts to address the scourge of terrorism.

We acknowledge that international terrorism, especially the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Daesh) and affiliated terrorist groups and individuals, constitute a global and unprecedented threat to international peace and security. Stressing UN's central role in coordinating multilateral approaches against terrorism, we urge all nations to undertake effective implementation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, and reaffirm our commitment on increasing the effectiveness of the UN counter terrorism framework. We call upon all nations to work together to expedite the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) in the UN General Assembly without any further delay. We recall the responsibility of all States to prevent terrorist actions from their territories.

our firms including through the preservation of policy space to promote industrial development.

We welcome India's initiative to host the first BRICS Trade Fair in New Delhi. This is an important step towards the implementation of Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership. We believe this will further consolidate trade and commercial partnership among BRICS countries. We welcome the deliberations and outcome of the meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers held on 13 October 2016 in New Delhi.

We noted the Annual Report by the BRICS Business Council, including the various initiatives undertaken by its Working Groups. We further direct the Council to accelerate the development and realisation of joint projects which, on a mutually beneficial basis, contribute to the economic objectives of BRICS.

We agreed that MSMEs provide major employment opportunities, at comparatively lower capital

G20 Hangzhou Summit, that we believe will foster strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth and will contribute to improved global economic governance and enhance the role of developing countries.

We welcome experts exploring the possibility of setting up an independent BRICS Rating Agency based on market-oriented principles, in order to further strengthen the global governance architecture.

We welcome the reports of BRICS Think Tanks Council and BRICS Academic Forum that have emerged as valuable platforms for our experts to exchange views. They have submitted their valuable suggestions with regard to promoting market research and analysis in BRICS and developing countries and exploring possibilities of carrying this process forward. We believe that BRICS

institution-building is critical to our shared vision of transforming the global financial architecture to one based on the principles of fairness and equity.

Customs

We commend our Customs administrations on the establishment of the Customs Cooperation Committee of BRICS, and on exploring means of further enhancing collaboration in the future, including those aimed at creating legal basis for customs cooperation and facilitating procedures of customs control. We note the signing of the Regulations on Customs Cooperation Committee of the BRICS in line with the undertaking in the Strategy for BRICS Economic Partnership to strengthen interaction among Customs Administrations.

BRICS Insurance

We recall the Fortaleza Declaration wherein we recognised the potential for BRICS insurance and



reinsurance markets to pool capacities and had directed our relevant authorities to explore avenues for cooperation in this regard. We would like

this work to be expedited.

BEPS

We reaffirm our commitment towards a globally fair and modern tax system and welcome the progress made on effective and widespread implementation of the internationally agreed standards. We support the implementation of the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project (BEPS) with due regard to the national realities of the countries. We encourage countries and International Organisations to assist developing economies in building their tax capacity.

We note that aggressive tax planning and tax practices hurt equitable development and economic growth. Base Erosion and Profit Shifting must be effectively tackled. We affirm that profit should be taxed in the jurisdiction where the economic activity is performed and the value is created. We reaffirm our commitment to support international cooperation in this regard, including in the Common Reporting Standard for Automatic Exchange of Tax Information (AEOI).

We note the ongoing discussions on international taxation matters. In this regard, we recall the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development including its emphasis on inclusive cooperation and dialogue among national tax authorities on international tax matters with increased participation of developing countries and reflecting adequate, equitable, geographical distribution, representing different tax systems.

Space

We reiterate that outer space shall be free for peaceful exploration and use by all States on the basis of equality in accordance with international law. Reaffirming that outer space shall remain free from any kind of weapons or any use of force, we stress that negotiations for the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space are a priority task of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, and support the efforts to start substantive work, inter alia, based on the updated draft treaty on the prevention of the placement of weapons in outer space and of the threat or use of force against outer space objects submitted by China and Russian Federation. We also note an international initiative for a political obligation on the no first placement of weapons in outer space.

Priority should be accorded to ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities, as well as ways and means of preserving outer space for future generations. We note that this is an important objective on the current agenda of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS). In this respect, we welcome the recent decision by the UNCOPUOS Scientific and Technical Sub-Committee Working Group on Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities to conclude negotiations and achieve consensus on the full set of guidelines for the long term sustainability of outer space activities by 2018 to coincide with the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE + 50).

Money Laundering

We reaffirm our commitment to the FATF International Standards on Combating Money Laundering

and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation and call for swift, effective and universal implementation of FATF Consolidated Strategy on Combating Terrorist Financing, including effective implementation of its operational plan. We seek to intensify our cooperation in FATF and FATF-style regional bodies (FSRBs).

Drugs

We welcome the outcome document of the Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held in New York from 19-21 April 2016. We call for strengthening of international and regional cooperation and coordination to counter the global threat caused by the illicit production and trafficking of drugs, especially opiates. We note with deep concern the increasing links between drug trafficking and terrorism, money laundering and organised crime. We commend the cooperation between BRICS drug control agencies and welcome the deliberations in second Anti-Drug Working Group Meeting held in New Delhi on 8 July 2016.

ICT

We reaffirm that ICT expansion is a key enabler for sustainable development, for international peace and security and for human rights. We agree to strengthen joint efforts to enhance security in the use of ICTs, combating the use of ICTs for criminal and terrorist purposes and improving cooperation between our technical, law enforcement, R&D and innovation in the field of ICTs and capacity building institutions. We affirm our commitment to bridging digital and technological divides, in particular between developed and developing countries. We recognise that our approach must be multidimensional and inclusive and contains an evolving understanding of what constitutes access, emphasising the quality of that access.

We reiterate that the use and development of ICTs through international and regional cooperation and on the basis of universally accepted norms and principles of international law, including the Charter of the UN; in particular political independence, territorial integrity and sovereign equality of States, the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, non-interference in internal affairs of other States as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to privacy; are of paramount importance in order to ensure a peaceful, secure and open and cooperative use of ICTs.

The increasing misuse of ICTs for terrorist purposes poses a threat to international peace and security. We emphasise the need to enhance international cooperation against terrorist and criminal misuse of ICTs and reaffirm the general approach laid in the eThekweni, Fortaleza and Ufa declarations in this regard. We reaffirm the key role of the UN in addressing the issues related to the security in the use of ICTs. We will continue to work together for the adoption of the rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States including through the process of UNGGE. We recognise that the states have the leading role to ensure stability and security in the use of ICTs.

We advocate also for an open, non-fragmented and secure Internet, and reaffirm that the Internet is a global resource and that States should participate on an equal footing in its evolution and functioning, taking into account the need to involve relevant stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities.

We recognise the importance of energy-saving and energy-efficiency for ensuring sustainable

Sample Testing Shifted to JNPT Lab Instead of New Customs House

[Jawaharlal Nehru Customs House Standing Order No. 61 dated 17th October 2016]

Sub: - Testing of Sample at DYCC Lab.

Attention of all the Staff members is invited to the procedure followed for testing of samples at DyCC Lab. In light of the "Ease of Doing Business" initiative by Government of India and in order to reduce dwell time and speedy clearance of cargo, the procedure for testing of samples is simplified.

2. In this regard, it is noticed that the samples are being sent to the DyCC, New Customs House, Mumbai inspite of facility for testing the same being available at DyCC Lab, JNCH, Nhava Sheva. In order to reduce time taken for testing and Test Report submission, it has been decided that henceforth testing of samples will be done by DyCC, Jawaharlal Nehru Customs House, Nhava Sheva only.

3. In case testing facility for a particular product being not available in DyCC Lab, JNCH Nhava Sheva, then only the same will be sent to any other Government approved laboratory.

4. Difficulties, if any, in implementation of this Public Notice may be brought to the notice of the undersigned.

F.No.S/22-Gen-41/2014-15/AM(I)/JNCH

economic development and welcome the Memorandum of Understanding which was signed in this regard.

AMR

We welcome the High Level meeting on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) during UNGA-71, which addresses the serious threat that AMR poses to public health, growth and global economic stability. We will seek to identify possibilities for cooperation among our health and/or regulatory authorities, with a view to share best practices and discuss challenges, as well as identifying potential areas for convergence.

We reaffirm our commitment to promote a long-term and balanced demographic development and continue cooperation on population related matters in accordance with the Agenda for BRICS Cooperation on Population Matters for 2015-2020.

E-Commerce

We affirm that the value of sharing expertise and experiences among BRICS countries with regard to usage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in e-governance, financial inclusion, and targeted delivery of benefits, e-commerce, open government, digital content and services and bridging the digital divide. We support efforts aimed at capacity building for effective participation in e-commerce trade to ensure shared benefits.

We welcome the forthcoming BRICS Telecommunication Ministerial Meeting that will further strengthen our cooperation, including on technology trends, standards developments, skill developments, and policy frameworks.

We believe it is necessary to ensure joint efforts towards diversification of the world market of software and IT equipment. We call for developing and strengthening the ICT cooperation in the framework of the BRICS Working Group on ICT Cooperation.

EPCG Export Obligation Systemic Checking Replaced by Random Checking at Customs End

[CBEC Instruction dated 14th October 2016]

Subject: Rationalization of procedures in handling exporters obligations under EPCG authorizations.



The undersigned is directed to say that as a part of further rationalizing procedures and avoiding duplication of work based on feedback on outcomes of applying extant procedures, taking into account the conditions prescribed in the Foreign Trade Policy and Customs notifications, the Board reviewed certain aspects of the directions given to field formations in Circular No. 5/2010-Cus, Instruction No. 609/119/2010-DBK dated 18.01.2011 and Circular No. 14/2015-Cus insofar as they relate to EPCG scheme. The details are given in succeeding paragraphs.

2. At present the correctness of the installation certificates issued by Chartered Engineers are to be verified on random basis in at least 5% cases through the Central Excise Division. The Board has decided that this verification be restricted to 5% cases.

3A. In the Circular of 2010 it was prescribed that first block EO (export obligation) should be verified in detail and if it has been found satisfactory then EODC issued at end of second block should be accepted without further verification. The Instruction of 2011 confirmed that this is to be implemented; however, for past cases where exporter had not come forward for first block verification but had submitted the EODC, the EODC may be accepted subject to random verification of at least 5% of EODCs issued in such past cases. It further directed that the Customs check, in detail, at least 5% EODCs. In this connection, it was noted that not meeting the block-wise EO attracts composition fees or payment of duty with interest and this find mention in HBP and is also referred in Customs notifications.

3B. On consultation, the DGFT has informed that the provisions of para 5.14 of HBP 2015-20 that provides "5.14(c)HBP: Where EO of the first block is not fulfilled in terms of the above proportions, except in cases where the EO prescribed for first block is extended by the Regional Authority subject to payment of composition fee of 2% on duty saved amount proportionate to unfulfilled portion

of EO pertaining to the block, the Authorization holder shall, within 3 months from the expiry of the block, pay duties of customs (along with applicable interest as notified by DOR) proportionate to duty saved amount on total unfulfilled EO of the first block", and the similar provisions in previous FTP/HBP 2009-14 and 2004-09 are strictly followed by Regional Authorities before issuing EODC/redemption/closure letters; and also that cases of condoning / delay in fulfillment of block-wise EO are considered by Regional Authorities only when exporter has obtained relaxation in terms of DGFT's powers under the FTP. The DGFT has also advised its Regional Authorities to ensure that these provisions are strictly followed in respect of all unredeemed EPCG authorization issued during the FTP 2004-09, 2009-14 and 2015-20.

3C. In the light of this, Board has decided that Customs authorities need not replicate the verification of export obligation of the first block that is being conducted by Regional Authorities and that the EODCs received under EPCG Scheme in terms of FTP/HBP 2004-09, 2009-14 and 2015-20 be normally accepted without further verification, except in 5% cases where they be verified in detail before acceptance.

4. The foregoing aspects remain subject to detailed verification of EODC when there is such a need suggested by specific intelligence. Further, if Regional Authorities endorse verification of shipping bills/other documents on an EODC, such verification shall be carried out. Moreover, it remains mandatory to verify genuineness of non-EDI shipping bills/bills of export on which an EODC may be based.

5. The guidelines issued in the past on the subject shall be modified to the above extent. It should be noted that monitoring of progress of block-wise EO fulfillment is to continue and as clarified in Circular No. 14/2015-Cus the field formations can view the EPCG authorization-wise all India export details in EDI.

6. The Commissioners are also directed to ensure transparent random selection criteria and selection for 5% check being made at least at Joint/Additional Commissioner level and the

Solar Panel without Motor Classified under HS 8541 (Active Components) with Motor at 8501 (Motors)

[Jawaharlal Nehru Customs House Public Notice No. 135 dated 29th September 2016]

Sub: - Classification of Solar Panel.

A dispute has recently arisen regarding the classification of Solar Panel with Diode or other current regulating equipment's / elements under Customs Tariff Heading (CTH) 8541 as against 8501. Therefore, a reference was made to the CBEC. CBEC, vide Letter dated 22.09.2016, has issued a clarification on classification in this regard. Accordingly it is informed that;

1. If the solar panel/module is equipped with elements and these elements supply the power to an external load i.e. motor, an electrolyser etc. then the solar panel/module is classifiable under CTH 8501.

2. However, if the solar panel/module is equipped with elements but these elements do not supply the power to an external load i.e. a motor, an electrolyser etc. then the solar panel/module is classifiable under CTH 8541.

Accordingly, all the Importers/Customs Brokers are advised to classify the goods on the basis of aforesaid clarification.

Difficulties, if any may be brought to the notice of the undersigned.

F.NO. S/26-Misc-330/2016 Gr.-VA, NS- V

relevant exporter being invariably informed, on the date of selection itself, via official email communication that its case is selected for detailed checks. Credibility and transparency may be brought into the Bond cancellation process which may be made speedier. The exporter should not be asked to routinely produce information that can be sourced from the Customs EDI system.

7. The above aspects should be given publicity through issuing public notice. Standing order should be issued to suitably arrange the work and guide the personnel. The Chief Commissioners are requested to monitor the functioning on a monthly basis and ensure effective implementation.

F.No.605/71/2015-DBK

Caustic Soda from Japan and Qatar under Anti-dumping Investigation on Complaint of Alkali Association Plus DCW, GACL and SIEL

[Ref: Anti-dumping Initiation Notification No. 14/31/2015-DGAD dated 14th October 2016]

Subject: Initiation of Antidumping Investigation against import of Caustic Soda originating in or exported from Japan and Qatar.

Whereas a petition has been filed by the Alkali Manufacturers' Association of India (AMAI), before the Designated Authority on behalf of the domestic producers of caustic soda, along with 4 producers of the subject goods, i.e., M/s DCW Ltd, M/s Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd., M/s Grasim Industries Ltd., and SIEL requesting for initiation of an antidumping investigation against import of Caustic Soda originating in or exported from Japan and Qatar.

Product under consideration

The goods allegedly being dumped are Caustic Soda. Caustic Soda is chemically known as NaOH, an inorganic, soapy, strongly alkaline and odourless chemical. Caustic Soda is produced

in two forms i.e. lye and solids (flakes) by three technology processes, i.e. mercury cell process, diaphragm process and membrane process. Liquid form can be converted into solid and solid form can be reconverted in liquid with ease and without any change in the chemical properties of the product. The solid form has ease of storage and transportation whereas the liquid form has easy solubility. For end use both the forms are substitutable and interchangeable. Both the form of caustic soda are subject matters of this investigation.

Customs Classification

The product under consideration is classified under Chapter 28 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975

under the customs heads 2815.11 and 2815.12. As per the ITC 8-digit classification the product is classified under the Custom Heading 2815.1101, 28151102 and 2815.1200. However, the above classification is indicative only and is no way binding on the scope of this investigation.

Domestic industry and Standing

The petition has been filed by the Alkali Manufacturers' Association of India (AMAI) on behalf of Indian producers of the subject goods alongwith 4 major producers of the subject goods i.e., M/s Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd., M/s DCW Ltd., M/s Grasim Industries Ltd, M/s SIEL.

Apart from the above participating companies there are about 25 other Indian producers of the product under consideration who are also members of the associations. As per the information on the capacities and production volumes of all domestic producers provided by the Association the participating domestic producers command a major proportion of the production of the subject

goods in India. Therefore, the Authority holds that for the purpose of this investigation the applicant domestic producers command the standing in terms of Rule 5(3) and constitutes the domestic industry in terms of Rule 2(b) of the AD Rules.

Estimates of Dumping Margin

As evidence of dumping of the subject goods from the subject countries the HIS Chemical, Global Chlor Alkali, Monthly Market Reports for the period under investigation has been referred to which provides the domestic prices in Japan/NE Asia and Middle East in terms of US\$/DMT. Accordingly, the ex-works normal value in Japan has been estimated on the basis of this information the average selling price in the domestic market in Japan after adjusting the same for the domestic selling expenses. In the absence of published information of the trading prices for the subject goods in Gulf region the Normal value in Qatar has been constructed for the purpose of preliminary estimates.

The net ex-works export prices from the above countries have been estimated considering volume and value of imports as per DGCI&S data after adjusting the same for ocean freight, marine insurance, commission, bank charges, port expenses and inland freight expenses on facts available basis.

As per the positive evidence placed by the applicants before the Authority the Normal Values of the subject goods in the subject countries are significantly higher than the net export prices to India, indicating prima-facie that the subject goods are being dumped in the Indian market by exporters from the subject countries. The dumping margins so estimated, are positive and above de minimis.

Injury and causal link

The petitioners have alleged that dumped imports of the subject goods from the subject countries

have caused material injury in terms of erosion of market share and profitability due to cumulative effects of volume and price effects. It has also been alleged that the rate of increase in dumped imports in the proposed period of investigation is causing threat of material injury to the domestic industry. The applicant has furnished information on volume and value of dumped imports from the subject countries and various parameters establishing injury and threat of material injury to the domestic industry, on account of the alleged dumped import of the product under consideration. These parameters prima-facie indicate that the domestic industry has suffered material injury due to dumped imports of the subject goods from the subject countries and there is a threat of injury in the imminent future.

Initiation of anti-dumping investigations

AND WHEREAS, the Authority finds that sufficient prima facie evidence of dumping of the subject goods from the subject countries; material injury and threat of material injury to the domestic industry; and causal link between the dumping and injury exist, the Authority hereby initiates an investigation into the alleged dumping, and consequent injury to the domestic industry, in terms of the Rule 5 of the said Rules, to determine the existence, degree and effect of alleged dumping, if any, and to recommend the amount of anti-dumping duties, which if levied would be adequate to remove injury and threat of injury to the domestic industry.

Period of investigation (POI)

For purpose of purpose of this investigation the period from 1st April 2015- 31st March 2016 shall be the period of investigation. However, for the purpose of injury investigation the information for the period 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 and POI shall be considered.

[Full text available at worldtradesearcher.com]

Tariff Value

[Ref: 126-Cus(NT) dated 14.10.2016]

Description of goods	Tariff value (USD PMT)
Crude Palm Oil	704
RBD Palm Oil	724
Others – Palm Oil	714
Crude Palmolein	737
RBD Palmolein	740
Others – Palmolein	739
Crude Soya bean Oil	845
Brass Scrap (all grades)	3028
Poppy seeds	2533
Areca nuts	2621
Gold	\$410 per 10 gms
Silver	\$576 per kg

the organized sector as well as in the unorganized sector.

Further, the petitioner companies have certified that they have neither imported the product under consideration from subject country, nor are they related to any exporter of the product under consideration in subject country or to an importer in India.

As per the evidence available on record, the production of the petitioner companies accounts for a major proportion in the gross domestic production of the like article. The Authority, therefore, determines that the petitioner constitutes eligible domestic industry within the meaning of Rule 2 (b) of the Anti-Dumping Rules and the application satisfies the criteria of standing in terms of Rule 5 (3) of the Rules supra.

Product under consideration

The product under consideration in the present petition is defined as "Ceramic table wares and kitchen wares, excluding knives and toilet items" (hereinafter referred to as 'subject goods').

The petitioners have further clarified that bone china, stoneware and porcelain-ware all constitute ceramic products and therefore the product under consideration includes kitchenware and tableware of bone china, stone and porcelain. Ceramic tableware and kitchenware products are used for the purpose of eating, drinking and serving food and beverages and for decoration in homes and hotels. The PUC is available in various shape and sizes and it has been decided to take the unit of measurement in weight terms for various analyses during the process of investigation.

Product under consideration is classified under Chapter 69 of the Customs Tariff Act, imports are taking place under various subheadings under HS code 6911 and 6912. Customs classification is, in any case, indicative and not binding on the scope of the product under consideration in the present investigation.

Normal Value

Applicant has claimed that China should be treated as a non-market economy and normal value in case of China should be determined in accordance with para-7 and 8 of Annexure I of the Rules. The applicant has claimed normal value for China PR on the basis of cost of production in India, duly adjusted. In terms of Para 8 in Annexure 1 to the Rules it is presumed that the producers of the subject goods in China PR are operating under non market economy conditions.

In view of the above non-market economy presumption and subject to rebuttal of the same by the responding exporters from China PR, normal value of the subject goods in China PR has

Ceramic Tablewares and Kitchenwares from China under Anti-dumping Investigation on AIPMA Complaint

[Ref: Anti-dumping Initiation Notification No. 14/05/2016-DGAD dated 13th October 2016]

Subject: Anti-Dumping investigation concerning imports of Ceramic Tablewares and Kitchen wares, excluding knives and toilet items, originating in or exported from China PR

All India Pottery Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA) and the Indian Ceramic Society has filed an application for initiation of anti-dumping investigation and imposition of anti-dumping duty concerning imports of Ceramic tableware and kitchenware, originating in or exported from China.

And whereas, the Authority prima facie finds that

sufficient evidence of dumping of the subject goods, originating in or exported from the subject country, 'injury' to the domestic industry and causal link between the alleged dumping and 'injury' exist to justify initiation of an anti-dumping investigation; the Authority hereby initiates

an investigation into the alleged dumping, and consequent injury to the domestic industry in terms of Rule 5 of the Rules, to determine the existence, degree and effect of alleged dumping and to recommend the amount of anti-dumping duty, which if levied, would be adequate to remove the 'injury' to the domestic industry.

Domestic Industry & Standing

The petition has been filed by All India Pottery

Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA) and the Indian Ceramic Society (herein referred as petitioners/petitioner associations) on behalf of domestic producers of the PUC in India. Some of the Indian Producers i.e. (a) Clay Craft (I) Pvt. Limited, (b) Ceramic Tableware Pvt. Ltd., (c) Bharat Potteries Ltd. and (d) M/s. UP Ceramics & Potteries

Ltd. (referred as petitioners/petitioner companies) have provided the necessary costing and financial information. The petition has been supported by a number of other producers, namely, Yashvi Enterprise, Anil Ceramic, Samrat Ceramics, Raghuvir (India) Limited, Marvel Ceramics Private Limited, Sea Shell Ceramics (India) Private Limited, Mudrika Ceramics (I) Ltd., Shan Tablewares Private Limited, Feather Touch Ceramics Private Limited, Oasis Ceramics Private Limited and Tata Ceramics Limited.

The total Indian production has been estimated on the basis of data given by Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR). They have mentioned details of producers of the product in



been estimated in terms of Para 7 of Annexure 1 to the Rules.

Export Price

Petitioners have determined export price on the basis of transaction wise import data procured from DGCI&S to assess the volume and value of subject imports in India. Price adjustments have been claimed on account of ocean freight, marine insurance, commission, port expenses, inland freight, bank charges, and adjustment for VAT to arrive at the net export price.

Dumping Margin

The normal value has been compared with the export price at ex-factory level. There is sufficient prima facie evidence that the normal value of the subject goods in the subject country are higher than the ex-factory export price, indicating, that the subject goods are being dumped into the Indian market by the exporters from the subject country. The dumping margin is estimated to be above de minimis.

Injury and Causal Link

Information furnished by the applicant has been

considered for assessment of injury to the domestic industry. The applicant has furnished evidence regarding the injury having taken place as a result of the alleged dumping in the form of increased volume of dumped imports in absolute terms and in relation to production and consumption in India, price suppression, price underselling and consequent significant adverse impact in terms of profits, return on capital employed, and cash flow to the domestic industry. There is sufficient prima facie evidence of the 'injury' being suffered by the domestic industry caused by dumped imports from subject country to justify initiation of an antidumping investigation.

Period of Investigation (POI)

Petitioners proposed the period of investigation from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 (12 months). However, for the purpose of analyzing injury, the data of previous three years, i.e. April 2012-March 2013, April 2013-March 2014, April 2014-March 2015 and the proposed period of investigation has been considered.

[Full text available at worldtradescaner.com]

Resorcinol from China and Japan under Anti-dumping Investigation on Atul Ltd Complaint

[Ref: Anti-dumping Initiation Notification No. 14/37/2016-DGAD dated 13th October 2016]

Subject: Anti Dumping investigation concerning imports of resorcinol originating in or exported from China PR and Japan.

M/s Atul Ltd. has filed an application for initiation of anti-dumping investigation and imposition of anti-dumping duty concerning imports of resorcinol, originating in or exported from China PR and Japan.

And whereas, the Authority prima facie finds that sufficient evidence of dumping of the subject goods, originating in or exported from the subject countries, 'injury' to the domestic industry and causal link between the alleged dumping and 'injury' exist to justify initiation of an anti-dumping investigation; the Authority hereby initiates an investigation into the alleged dumping, and consequent injury to the domestic industry in terms of Rule 5 of the Rules, to determine the existence, degree and effect of alleged dumping and to recommend the amount of anti-dumping duty, which if levied, would be adequate to remove the 'injury' to the domestic industry.

Domestic Industry & Standing

The petition has been filed by M/s Atul Limited, who is the only manufacturer of the product under consideration in India. The petitioner has certified that there are no imports of the product under consideration by the petitioner or any of its related party from the subject countries during the period of investigation. Further, petitioner declared that they are not related to either any exporter or producer or any importer of the subject goods from the subject countries

The Authority holds that the petitioner constitutes an eligible domestic industry in terms of Rule 2 (b) and also satisfies the criteria of standing in terms of Rule 5 (3) of the Rules supra.

Product under consideration

The product under consideration for the purpose of present investigation is "Resorcinol". It is also known as Resorcin Meta-dihydroxybenzene, 1, 3 dihydroxybenzene or 1, 3 benzenediol. It is a crystalline, aromatic, hygroscopic, and white solid product that is water soluble and very conducive to derivatisation.

The subject goods are used in various industries like it is used as a adhesion promoter between the reinforcing material and rubber in the rubber industry, antiseptic agents in cosmetics preparations, specialized thermosetting wood-adhesive resins, starting material for a number of hydroxy benzophenone type ultraviolet stabilizers used in various plastic materials etc. The domestic industry has claimed that as per their market intelligence more than 60% of Resorcinol demand is in adhesive resins for rubber products, including tyres.

The subject goods are classified under chapter heading 29072100. However, it has been claimed by the petitioner that the subject goods are also being imported under other tariff headings. The HS codes are only indicative and the product description shall prevail in all circumstances.

Normal Value

The Petitioner has claimed that China PR should be treated as a non-market economy and the normal value should be determined in accordance with Para 7 of Annexure-I to the Rules. The petitioner has claimed normal value on the basis of cost of production in India considering international prices of raw material, duly adjusted; stating that information on cost or price in a market economy third countries is not publically available and India is the most appropriate comparable market for the purpose.

Further, the Petitioner has also constructed the normal value in Japan on the basis of cost

of production in India considering the international price of the raw material, duly adjusted with selling, general and administrative expenses and reasonable profit. The Authority has prima-facie considered the normal value of subject goods in subject countries on the basis of constructed values as made available by the applicants for the purpose of this initiation.

Export Price

The applicant has determined export price using import data from secondary source, i.e., M/s Allinfo.com., to assess the volume and value of imports of subject goods in India. Price adjustments have been claimed on account of commission, ocean freight, port expenses, inland freight, marine insurance, and bank charges and Vat adjustment (where applicable) to arrive at the net export price.

Dumping Margin

The normal value has been compared with the export price at ex-factory level. There is sufficient prima facie evidence that the normal value of the subject goods in the subject country are higher than the ex-factory export price, indicating, that the subject goods are being dumped into the Indian market by the exporters from the subject countries. The dumping margin is estimated to be above de minimis.

Period of Investigation (POI)

Petitioner has proposed the period from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 (12 months) as the period of investigation. However, for the purpose of analyzing injury, the data of previous three years, i.e. i.e. April 2012 to March 2013, April 2013 to March 2014, April 2014 to March-2015 and the proposed period of investigation has been considered.

[Full text available at worldtradescaner.com]

Customs Exchange Rates

[As on 19 Oct 2016]

Currency	Imports	Exports
1 FC = IC		
US Dollar	67.50	65.80
EURO	75.90	73.35
Pound Sterling	86.20	83.40
Australian Dollar	51.60	49.70
Bahrain Dinar	183.00	170.75
Canadian Dollar	51.30	49.75
Danish Kroner	10.20	9.85
Hong Kong Dollar	8.70	8.45
Kuwait Dinar	228.35	213.65
Newzeland Dollar	48.60	46.90
Norwegian Kroner	8.45	8.15
Singapore Dollar	49.45	47.85
South African Rand	5.00	4.70
Saudi Arabian Riyal	18.35	17.20
Swedish Kroner	7.90	7.60
Swiss Franc	69.55	67.15
UAE Dirham	18.75	17.55
Chinese Yuan	10.15	9.80

100 FC = IC

Japanese Yen	65.55	63.30
Kenya Shilling	68.05	63.60

[F.No.468/01/2016-Cus.V]

[Ref: 124-Cus (NT) dated 06th Oct 2016]

Crude Down to \$49.67

Crude Oil (Indian Basket) from 03 - 07 Oct 2016

	12 Oct	13 Oct	14 Oct	17 Oct	18 Oct
(\$/bbl)	50.00	49.37	49.94	49.57	49.67
(Rs/bbl)	3329.49	3300.36	3338.72	3310.03	3314.29
(Rs/\$)	66.59	66.85	66.85	66.78	66.73

(Previous Trading Day Price)

Source: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas



GST Scanner

Four-tier GST Structure in 6% – 26% Proposed

The GST Council finalised the compensation formula for states for potential revenue loss on the assumption of 14 per cent revenue growth rate over the base year of 2015-16

A four-tier structure for Goods and Services Tax (GST) comprises of a lower rate of 6 per cent, two standard rates of 12 per cent and 18 per cent, and a higher rate of 26 per cent with an additional cess for luxury and demerit goods were proposed in the third meeting of the GST Council on 18 Oct.

The higher rate for services is proposed at 18 per cent, while essential services such as transportation are proposed to be taxed at 6 per cent or 12 per cent.

Around 70 per cent of the taxable base is proposed to be taxed at either 18 per cent, 12 per cent or 6 per cent, with more than 50 per cent of the items to be taxed at 12 per cent or 18 per cent. Ultra-luxury items like high-end cars and demerit goods like tobacco, cigarettes, pan masala and aerated drinks, comprising about 25 per cent of the taxable base, would attract an additional cess over and above the higher rate of 26 per cent, Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia told reporters after the meeting.

Gold is proposed to be taxed at 4 per cent.

Cess Proposed

The collections from the proposed cess on luxury or demerit supplies over and above the higher tax slab are estimated to be around Rs 50,000 crore, out of which around Rs 26,000 crore will be collected through clean environment cess, Adhia said, adding that the cess collections will be exclusively used by the Centre to compensate states.

Proposed Rate Structure

	Proposed GST Rates	Present Rate Structure Merging into GST Rates
Lower Rate	6%	>=3% to <9%
Standard 1 Rate	12%	>=9% to <15%
Standard 2 Rate	18%	>=15% to <21%
High Rate	26%	>=21%

In its presentation at the meeting of the GST Council, which is headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and has representatives of all states, it was said that the total impact of the proposed rate structure on Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation rate will be (-) 0.06 per cent.

Under the proposed GST rate structure, the

inflation impact on constituents of CPI such as health services, fuel and lighting and clothing is estimated to be 0.56 per cent, 0.05 per cent and 0.23 per cent, respectively, while for transport it is estimated at (-) 0.65 per cent, education at (-) 0.08 per cent and housing at (-) 0.09 per cent.

Total revenue collection under the proposed GST structure is estimated at Rs 8.72 lakh crore (based on 2015-16 estimates).

The discussions on the rate structure will now continue and after an agreement is reached, a technical group of officials will decide the tax slab for each item. A senior Finance Ministry official said the rationale behind the proposed rate structure is to ensure that the tax incidence is not higher than the existing rates of excise, value added tax and other levies.

However, some States held a different view on the rate structure. "Worst fears confirmed - GST to be regressive. Tax on luxuries to be reduced to 26 per cent and on necessities to be raised to 12 per cent," said Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac, adding that the proposal for cess contradicts the original concept paper for GST.

Jaitley said the issue of cross empowerment of the Centre and State tax officials on the existing 11 lakh service tax assesses will be taken up after a decision on rates.

The Council reached a consensus that compensation to States for any revenue loss would be limited to the taxes subsumed under GST. Input tax credit given for intra-state transfers would be included in the definition of revenue, Jaitley said.

Further, the notional tax revenue arising out of exemptions to the North East and Hill States would also be included in revenue.

Jaitley, further said that a 14 per cent growth rate in revenue is projected using a base year of 2015-16.

The Centre hopes to roll out GST from April 1, 2017. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who chairs the GST Council, expects to finish all deliberations and finalise the modalities of the tax regime by November 22 so that the GST laws – Centre, State and integrated – can be passed in Parliament in the Winter Session, and by State Assemblies.

While the idea of varied tax rates has been floating around, consensus seems to be building around a standard rate of 16-18 per cent for services and about 20 per cent for goods. There could be one rate, of 4-6 per cent, for essential commodities, and a higher rate for demerit or 'sin' goods.

Mandatory Standards for Products and Services in Health, Food Sector on Anvil

Rs. 2/kg Wheat and Rs. 3/kg Rice will soon be available to all Beneficiaries under Food Security Act

The Government has taken number of initiatives for the protection of the interests of consumers. Very soon services and products in the area of health, food etc. shall have to follow mandatory quality standards. Precious metal like Gold and silvers shall have to wear hallmarking for the

larger interests of consumers. New Bureau of Indian Standards Act has been enacted for this purpose and rules are being framed. This was announced by Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution while addressing Regional Editors' Conference

AK Bhalla Takes Over from Anup Wadhawan

Another Change of Rider in DGFT Saddle



DGFT (Director General of Foreign Trade) post has become sensitive as incumbents are shifted or shift themselves.

After Anup Pujari left in early 2014, Provir Kumar took over but was on the post for hardly

18 months. His successor Anup Wadhawan lasted for only 13 months before moving on to the parent Department of Commerce. A.K. Bhalla is the third officer in the post responsible in the last 32 months.

Dr Anup Wadhawan IAS (UK 1985) has moved to Department of Commerce where he hopes to see better career prospects in trade diplomacy. Ajay Kumar Bhalla IAS (Assam 1984) was Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce handling anti-dumping cases as Designated Authority.

Before this, he was in Ministry of Coal, Steel & Mines, and Ports besides various posts in Assam Government. He holds Masters Degree in Botany from University of Delhi, M. Phil (Social Sciences) from University of Punjab & MBA from University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia.

The trade hopes that he will instil dynamism and problem solving approach in DGFT. He has many challenges, the major one being reframing trade policy in GST environment. He will have at least a year in DGFT before moving on to Secretary level posts in other ministries.

in Chandigarh on 18 October. Mr. Paswan said his ministry is also working on new Consumer Protection Act which will have more teeth to protect the interests of consumers. An authority has been proposed under the Act to take suo motto action if product and services are not up to the standard. The Minister said charging over MRP is unfair trade practice and expressed hope that the new Consumer Protection Act will effectively check that.

Regarding misleading advertisements, Mr. Paswan said effective provisions have been proposed in the new Consumer Protection Act. The Act will enable people to file complains in Consumers Courts online from any place in the country and it will ensure time bound admission of their complaints in the courts.

Highlighting reforms initiated in Public Distribution System, the Minister Paswan said that so far 100 percent digitization of ration card has been completed and about 70 percent cards have been linked with Aadhar Cards to make the system more transparent and leak proof. The Union Minister said that at present more than 81 crore people are getting subsidized food grains i.e. Rs. 2/kg wheat and 3/kg rice under National Food Security Act and very soon beneficiaries from across the nation except Tamil Nadu will get food grains as Kerala has also agreed to implement the Act next month.