Postal Regn.No. DL(C)-01/1251/12-14
Licence to Post without Prepayment U(C)-30/12-14
RNI No. 42906/84

WORLD TRADE SCANNER

ISSN: 0971-8095

Single copy Rs. 20 $2

Vol. XXX No 37 04 - 10 December 2013

Promoted by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, World Trade Centre, Academy of Business Studies

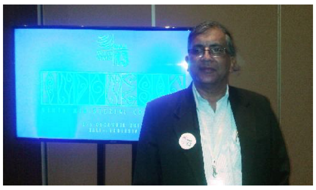
Annual subscription Rs 750

India Talks Tough at WTO Bali Ministerial Meet

‘Food Security for 4 bn World Non Negotiable’, says Anand Sharma

Arun Goyal, Editor ABS News Service @WTO Ministerial Bali Indonesia

Bali Nusa Dua Convention Centre, 4 Dec 2013.



Arun Goyal, Editor ABS News Service

Striking a bellicose mode in his address to the Trade Minsters at the WTO Bali meet, Commerce Minister Anand Sharma today said that ‘there can be no compromise ‘ on food security. “Elimination of hunger” and “Survival of the poor” are first priority. He went on to speak for the interests of all developing countries representing the interests of 4.3 bn people. Sharma threatened, “till the issues are successfully resolved, it may not be possible for us (meaning WTO members) to collectively reach a balanced agreement’.

India claimed to speak for the G-33, a group of 46 members who are agri goods consumers. Leading members include China, India, Indonesia and Pakistan besides the East African group and the smaller Latin American countries. Apart from Indonesia which is giving luke warm support to India, both China and Pak have back tracked on India’s stand ‘no compromise’ stance on allowing developing countries to subsidize agriculture production beyond the ten percent limit set by the WTO rules.

As of now, the Bali pact on the anvil will revive the Doha Round of trade promotion launched some 12 years ago in the aftermath of 09/11 holocaust in the US. This time round the package comprises of trade facilitation, one of the new issues taken up at Doha, under this, time standards will be set for clearance of goods at customs. Countries which violate the rules can be punished by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body. Also on the anvil is a package for the 45 members of the Least Developed Countries who will get waivers from the WTO rules and also preferential duty free and quota free’ (DFQF) markets of the rest of the WTO members in the developing and developing countries segments. Significant users of this window include Vietnam, Burma and Bangladesh.

The position of India on Food Security is seen as holding up the Bali Pact which will revive the Doha Round. Brazil, a one time ally of India in the G-20 group, has called for full implementation of the Doha process and not the limited agenda under the Bali pact. It has called for opening up of the agri markets by removing subsidies and non tariff barriers. India was a champion of this agenda till two years back when it switched sides to join the group represented by the developed countries which subsidize or restrict agri trade. This group comprises mainly of the US, EU and Japan. This time round, this group is not so vocal, partly because they have lost interest in WTO. Besides, agri prices have moved up in recent years reducing the pressure on subsidies. The other reason for their studied silence is that the Developing Country India is already saying what they would have liked to speak. India in their ranks gives strength and credibility to their view point on Agriculture subsidies and restrictions.

In the speech delivered to the delegates with much passion and controlled anger, Minister Sharma said ‘WTO has lost its way”. He called the agriculture packages at WTO “half baked”. The LDC package was only “a statement of pious intent”. The trade facilitation agenda had “several unresolved issues”. He called for “horizontal balance” in the Bali pact without really defining what he meant by the term. He called financial support to both developing and least developing countries to facilitate the trade facilitation process.

Sharma called for the updation of the dated WTO rules on calculation of subsidies which were not updated for price changes and trade flows for more than 20 years. He said that poor farmers can be supported only by public procurement and building stocks for food security. The clause of “due restraint” on these policies by the WTO rules is being challenged by the G-33.

In the closing remarks, Sharma called for post Bali work to conclude the Doha Round. The whole focus has shifted to India which has become the talk of Bali. The conclusion to the meet depends on the US, EU, Japan, and China. They may prevail on India and its allies to reach a compromise with a peace clause which protects the developing countries from WTO action for a period of four years under the ‘peace clause window.

Bali Meeting Seeks to Save Deal on World Trade

Trade ministers from around the world gathered on Tuesday, 3 December on the Indonesian island of Bali to begin talks seen as critical for attempts to liberalise global trade.

The Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) aims to simplify international customs procedures, reduce agricultural subsidies and offer aid for the poorest countries.

The International Chamber of Commerce has forecast that a deal in Bali would lead to 21 million new jobs, mostly in developing countries, and create an incentive for investments worth $960 billion.

A successful conclusion to the four-day summit could also revive the stalled Doha round of talks on creating global standards for trade.

Many participants believe however that a failed meeting could further harm the WTO's significance as a global trade forum.

Some countries, including India, have raised objections to parts of the so-called Bali package, leaving prospects for an agreement uncertain.

WTO Director General Roberto Azevedo called on representatives of the 159 WTO member states to show willingness to compromise.

India Talks Tough, Risks Failure of WTO Bali Meet - Rejects 'Peace Clause', TFA in Present Form

A visibly piqued commerce and industry minister Anand Sharma on 4 December talked tough, rejecting the proposed Peace Clause (PC) and Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in its present form. Mr. Sharma called for immediate reforms even as his stance risked an imminent failure of the ninth ministerial conference (MC9) of World Trade Organisation (WTO).

In his address to the plenary session of the WTO MC9, Sharma stood out compared to other 126 trade ministers, who elucidated their respective positions on moving forward the stalled round of Doha global trade talks and their strategy for the MC9, which is underway at the quaint Indonesian island.

The PC or 'Due Restraint Clause' that seeks to allow unrestricted food subsidies by developing countries for their farmers has been at the centre of much controversy in India. While India is not opposed to the PC per se, it wants the measure to continue as long as a permanent solution is not completely achieved and not merely for 4-years which has been proposed.

The due restraint provision in its current form cannot be accepted. It must remain in force till we reach a negotiated permanent solution and provide adequate protection from all kinds of challenge," Sharma said.

Presently, as per the draft negotiating text, the PC is immune only from challenges arising out of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) and not from the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (ASCM).

Mr. Sharma demanded a "firm post Bali work programme" that will seek to bring a permanent solution before the eleventh MC, expected to take place in 2017.

"Let Bali be remembered for bringing development back into the focus," Mr. Sharma asserted.

However, an echo to India's position could not be heard from fellow developing countries that comprise the G33 coalition, which had proposed food security to be taken up for negotiations in the present MC.

Brazilian trade minister Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado while agreeing that certain concerns areas still remain did not rule out a "positive outcome" of the Bali talks while hinting at greater show of flexibility from other developing countries.

"Our constituencies cannot afford that WTO continues to nibble on the development agenda … Though we did hope for more in the food security programme, it is also essential that we move forward and reach an agreement on the Bali package," he said.

Chinese commerce minister Gao Hucheng urged "confidence and commitment" in the Bali package while urging ministers to move forward.

On Ministerial eve, India stands alone in Bali

India stands isolated at the Bali Ministerial of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in its efforts to seek safeguards for subsidies poor countries give to their farmers for food security purposes.

Of the key G33 countries, China, an exports-led economy, has not lent vocal support to the India's position for a Bali package as its interests lie with the G20 proposal on trade facilitation. Pakistan has opposed India's proposal for subsidies to poor farmers on the grounds that they distort trade in rice. "India exports only basmati for which MSP is not given to farmers," said official sources. Some support for India has come only from Indonesia.

On Monday, India blamed the rich countries led by the United States for negotiations for a Bali package having hit the wall. India has also accused the rich countries of double standards on the issue of subsidies for farmers.

Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma, who leads the 30-member Indian delegation for the Ministerial conference, said in his address to the G33 at Bali on Monday: "It is ironic that let alone trying to address this crucial issue, the developed countries demonstrated little appetite even to discuss it".

He said, "It is unfortunate that even though the G33 has shown flexibility by agreeing to discuss an interim solution, there were efforts to make the solution redundant through elaborate procedural formalities in the name of safeguards against trade distortion and transparency."

Anand Sharma Meets China and EU for 'Balanced Package' at Bali

Holds Bilateral with Counterparts at WTO Bali Ministerial

Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, has categorically stated that outcome of the 9th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the collective responsibility of the entire WTO membership, and a fair, balanced result would be possible only if the genuine concerns of developing countries including India are satisfactorily addressed.

The Minister underlined this point at a series of bilateral meetings he had with several of his counterparts in Bali on 3 December – Mr. Bireme Abderahim, Minister of Trade of Chad; Mr. Mike Bimha, Minister of Trade of Zimbabwe ; Mr. Johann Schneider-Ammann, Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER); Mr. Shanker Prasad Koirala, Minister of Finance, Industry and Commerce, and Supplies of Nepal; Mr. Karel de Gucht, Trade Commisioner of the European Union (EU); and Mr. Gao Hucheng, Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Sharma said ensuring food security for large populations was a common concern shared by developing countries including India and China as WTO rules in the area of agricultural support had become dated and did not take into account rising prices.

At a luncheon meeting with the India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA), the Minister reiterated India's concerns, especially the issue of food security. Brazil and South Africa conveyed agreement with India's position and wanted to know how best these could best be accommodated in the Bali package. Mr. Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa and Mr. Luiz Alberto F. Machado, Minister of External Relations of Brazil were participated in the meeting.

CBEC Pavilion Received Bronze Medal for Excellence in Display at 33rd Indian International Trade Fair, 2013

CBEC pavilion in 33rd India International Trade Fair, 2013 has been awarded with a bronze medal by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Hon'ble Minister for New and Renewable Energy during a ceremony held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 28 November.

CBEC pavilion was highly praised by the public as well as media and attended attention for its excellence in display.

WEEKLY INDEX OF CHANGES

10 Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Export Permitted Subject to NOC from Narcotics Commissioner

Subject: Export policy of Narcotics drugs and Psychotropic substances.

55-Ntfn(RE) 03.12.2013 (DGFT) In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 (No.22 of 1992) read with Para 1.3 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014, the Central Government, with immediate effect, hereby makes the following amendments in Chapter 29 of Schedule 2 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items.

2. The following additions are made in Chapter 29 of Schedule 2 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items:

Chapter 29

Organic Chemicals

S.No.	Item Description	Unit	Tariff Item HS Code	Export Policy	Nature of Restriction
124	1-Phenyl-2- Propanone	Kg	291430	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior
124 A	3,4-Methylenedioxyphenyl-2-Propanone	Kg	293292	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior
125 A	N-Acetylanthranilic acid and its salts	Kg	292423	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior
125 B	Anthranilic acid and its salts	Kg	292243	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior
125 C	Ergometrine and its salts	Kg	293961	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior
125 D	Ergotamine and its salts	Kg	293962	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior
125 E	Isosafrole	Kg	293291	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior
125 F	Lysergic acid and its salts	Kg	293963	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior
125 G	Norephedrine (Phenyl-propanolamine), its salts and preparations thereof	Kg	293944	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior
125 H	Phenyl acetic acid and its salts	Kg	291634	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior
125 I	Piperonal	Kg	293293	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior
125 J	Safrole and any essential oil containing 4% or more safrole	Kg	293294	Free	NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior

3. Effect of this notification

Export of above narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances shall be permitted subject to NOC from Narcotics Commissioner of India, Gwalior.

Zero Duty on Anti Tuberculosis Drugs, Diagnostic and Eqpts Import upto 1 Oct 2015

Ntfn 49 29.11.2013 (DoR) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Government, being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts goods of the description specified in the Table below and falling within the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), when imported into India, from the **whole of the duty of customs** leviable thereon which is specified in the said First Schedule and from the **whole of the additional duty** leviable thereon under section 3 of the said Customs Tariff Act,1975 subject to the condition that the importer produces, at the time of clearance of the said goods, before the jurisdictional Assistant or Deputy Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be, a certificate from an officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to the effect that the said goods are required for the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Explanation - Nothing contained in this notification shall have effect on or after the 1st day of October, 2015.

Table

Category	Description of goods
Anti Tuberculosis Drugs	New Cases (PC-1), Re-treatment cases (PC-2), Prolongation Pouches (PC-4), Pediatric Box (PC-13), Pediatric Box (PC-14), Pediatric Pouch (PC-15), Pediatric Pouch (PC-16), Isoniazid-100 mg (PC-7), Ethambutol-800 mg (PC-10), Isoniazid-300 mg (PC-11), Kanamycin 500 mg (PC-17), Kanamycin 1000 mg (PC-27), Capreomycin 500 mg (PC-42), Capreomycin 750 mg (PC-35), Capreomycin 1000 mg (PC-36), Levoflox-250 mg (PC-28), Levoflox-500 mg (PC-29), Moxifloxacin 400 mg (PC-39), Cycloserine 250 mg (PC-24), Ethionamide 250 mg (PC-20), Ethionamide 125 mg (PC-30), Na-PAS 4 gm (PC-32), Na-PAS 10 gm (PC-25), Ethambulol 400 mg (PC-45), Ethambulol 800 mg (PC-10), Pyrazinamide 500 mg (PC-8), Pyrazinamide 750 mg (PC-23), Pyridoxine 50 mg (PC-31), Pyridoxine 100 mg (PC-26), Capreomycin 750 mg (PC-35), Capreomycin 1000 mg (PC-36), Moxifloxacin 400 mg (PC-39), Isoniazid 300 mg (PC-11), Clofazimine 100 mg (PC-40), Linezolid 600 mg (PC-38), Amoxyclav 875/125 mg (PC-43), Sodium PAS 4 gm (PC-32), Sodium PAS 10 gm (PC-25), Clarithromycin 500 mg (PC-37), Thiacetazone 150 mg (PC-44), Pyridoxine 100 mg (PC-26).
Diagnostics and Equipments	Biosafety cabinet Class II A2 with UPS as per specification, Bacteriologic Incubator (300 LT), Refrigerated centrifuge with UPS as per specification, Autoclaves: Horizontal, Autoclaves: Vertical, LPA Equipments, LC Equipments, LPA kits, Liquid Culture reagents, Capillia Kits, Fluorescence microscope, DNA Sequencing kits, Inspissators, LED Fluorescence microscopes, Binocular Microscopes, CB-NAAT machine, Cartridges, Annual Calibration.

[F.No.354/55/2003 –TRU (Pt-I)]

Zero Excise on Anti Tuberculosis Drugs, Diagnostic and Eqpts Import upto 1 Oct 2015

30-CE 29.11.2013 (DoR) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 5A of the Central Excises Act, 1944 (1 of 1944), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby exempts goods of the description specified in the Table below and falling under the First Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 (5 of 1986) from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon which is specified in the said Schedule subject to the condition that the manufacturer produces, at the time of clearance of the said goods, before the jurisdictional Assistant or Deputy Commissioner of Central Excise, as the case may be, a certificate from an officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to the effect that the said goods are required for the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Explanation - Nothing contained in this notification shall have effect on or after the 1st day of October, 2015.

Table

Category	Description of goods
Anti Tuberculosis Drugs	New Cases (PC-1), Re-treatment cases (PC-2), Prolongation Pouches (PC-4), Pediatric Box (PC-13), Pediatric Box (PC-14), Pediatric Pouch (PC-15), Pediatric Pouch (PC-16), Isoniazid-100 mg (PC-7), Ethambutol-800 mg (PC-10), Isoniazid-300 mg (PC-11), Kanamycin 500 mg (PC-17), Kanamycin 1000 mg (PC-27), Capreomycin 500 mg (PC-42), Capreomycin 750 mg (PC-35), Capreomycin 1000 mg (PC-36), Levoflox-250 mg (PC-28), Levoflox-500 mg (PC-29), Moxifloxacin 400 mg (PC-39),

	Cycloserine 250 mg (PC-24), Ethionamide 250 mg (PC-20), Ethionamide 125 mg (PC-30), Na-PAS 4 gm (PC-32), Na-PAS 10 gm (PC-25), Ethambulol 400 mg (PC-45), Ethambulol 800 mg (PC-10), Pyrazinamide 500 mg (PC-8), Pyrazinamide 750 mg (PC-23), Pyridoxine 50 mg (PC-31), Pyridoxine 100 mg (PC-26), Capreomycin 750 mg (PC-35), Capreomycin 1000 mg (PC-36), Moxifloxacin 400 mg (PC-39), Isoniazid 300 mg (PC-11), Clofazimine 100 mg (PC-40), Linezolid 600 mg (PC-38), Amoxyclav 875/125 mg (PC-43), Sodium PAS 4 gm (PC-32), Sodium PAS 10 gm (PC-25), Clarithromycin 500 mg (PC-37), Thiacetazone 150 mg (PC-44), Pyridoxine 100 mg (PC-26).
Diagnostics and Equipments	Biosafety cabinet Class II A2 with UPS as per specification, Bacteriologic Incubator (300 LT), Refrigerated centrifuge with UPS as per specification, Autoclaves: Horizontal, Autoclaves: Vertical, LPA Equipments, LC Equipments, LPA kits, Liquid Culture reagents, Capillia Kits, Fluorescence microscope, DNA Sequencing kits, Inspissators, LED Fluorescence microscopes, Binocular Microscopes, CB-NAAT machine, Cartridges, Annual Calibration.

[F.No.354/55/2003 –TRU (Pt-I)]

Zero Additional Duty on Bangladesh Jute Products

113-Cus(NT)
27.11.2013
(DoR)

Whereas the Jute products falling under headings 5310 and 6305 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975) (hereinafter referred to as the Customs Tariff Act) and also specified in terms of the corresponding headings of the First Schedule to the Central Excise Act, 1985 (5 of 1986), in column (2) of the Table to the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No.30/2004-Central Excise, dated the 09th July, 2004, were exempted from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon under the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944), subject to fulfilment of the condition as specified in the proviso to the said notification, were allowed to be imported from Bangladesh during the period commencing on the 9th day of July, 2004 and ending with the 13th day of February, 2011 by extending the exemption available under the said notification;

AND WHEREAS, the Central Government is satisfied that according to a practice that was generally prevalent regarding levy of duty (including non-levy thereof) under the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962) (hereinafter referred to as the Customs Act), the Jute products falling under headings 5310 and 6305 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, that were being allowed to be imported from Bangladesh by exempting from the whole of the additional duty of customs, leviable thereon under sub-section (1) of Section 3 under the said Customs Tariff Act were liable to a higher amount of duty than what was levied according to the said practice, during the aforesaid period;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 28A of the Customs Act, the Central Government, hereby, directs that the whole of the additional duty of customs, leviable thereon under sub-section (1) of section 3 under the Customs Tariff Act, on the Jute products falling under headings 5310 and 6305 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, imported from Bangladesh, but for the said practice, shall not be required to be paid in respect of the said goods on which the aforesaid duty of customs was not levied during the aforesaid period on account of the said practice.

F. No. 521/101/2010-STO (TU)

MEP of Rs. 288/kg on Broken Cashew Kernel and Rs. 400/kg on Cashew Kernel Whole Notified

53-Ntfn(RE)
02.12.2013
(DGFT)

In exercise of powers conferred under Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 read with paragraph 2.1 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby makes the following amendment in Chapter 8 of ITC (HS) 2012, Schedule 1 (Import Policy):

2. The minimum CIF value of Cashew Kernels under the following HS Codes of Chapter 8 of ITC (HS) 2012, Schedule 1 (Import Policy) per Kilogram is fixed as under:

HS Code	Item Description	Minimum CIF Value (Per Kg.)
0801 32 10	Cashew kernel, broken	Rs.288/-
0801 32 20	Cashew kernel, whole	Rs.400/-

Effect of this amendment

The minimum price for import of Cashew Kernel (brokens) and Cashew Kernel (wholes) is fixed to Rs. 288/-per Kg. and Rs 400/-per Kg. respectively.

One Time Facility for Regularization of Export Obligation Default Cases

[Addl. DGFT, Mumbai Trade Notice No. 2 dated 27th November 2013]

Attention of all the members of trade and industry is invited to Public Notice No.22 dated 12.08.2013 and the Policy Circular No.8 dated 25.10.2013 issued by the Office of the DGFT, New Delhi for closure of cases of default in Export Obligation Fulfilment in respect of the Duty Exemption Schemes and EPCG Scheme.

The Public Notice No.22 dated 12.08.2013 has provided that all pending cases of the default in meeting Export Obligation (EO) can be regularised by the authorisation holder on payment of applicable customs duty, corresponding to the shortfall in export obligation, along with interest on such customs duty; but the interest component to be so paid shall not exceed the amount of customs duty payable for this default.

The Policy Circular No.8 dated 25.10.2013 has laid down the procedure for closure of cases of default in Export Obligation under the above Public Notice No.22 dated 12.08.2013 wherein this facility is also available even in cases which have already been adjudicated (or pending adjudication), either originally or in appeal.

Therefore, all the firms/companies are hereby requested to utilize this one time opportunity for closure/regularization of all old cases of default in Export Obligation Fulfilment which is available only till 31.03.2014.

Anti-dumping Duty on Polypropylene – Entries Relating to Oman in Notification Omitted

Ntfn 32-ADD
02.12.2013
(DoR)

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) read with sub-section (5) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (51 of 1975), the Central Government hereby further amends notification No. **119/2010-Customs**, dated 19th November, 2010, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, section 3, subsection (i), vide number G.S.R. 919 (E) dated 19th November, 2010, in so far as it relates to the imposition of anti-dumping duty and as such, revokes the duty imposed on imports of the subject goods originating in or exported from Oman, and for that purpose amends the Table to the said notification, in the manner given below, namely;-

In the Table to the said notification, serial numbers 1 to 4 (both inclusive) and the entries relating thereto, shall be omitted with effect from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette.

[File No. 354/140/2009-TRU (Pt-I)]

Excise Exemption on Relabeling of Scheduled Drug Formulations Extended upto 90 Days from 30 Days

29-CE
26.11.2013
(DoR)

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 5A of the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944), the Central Government, on being satisfied that it is necessary in the public interest so to do, hereby makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No.22/2013-Central Excise, dated the 29th July, 2013 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, *vide* number G.S.R.513 (E), dated the 29th July, 2013, namely:-

In the said notification, in sub para (iii), for the words "thirty days" the words "ninety days" shall be substituted.

[F.No.354/118/2013 –TRU]

Value Added Products of Red Sanders Wood Chips, Powder, Furniture, Toys, Dolls and Handicrafts Export Restricted

Subject: Amendment in export policy for export of value added products of Red Sanders wood.

54-Ntfn(RE) 03.12.2013 (DGFT) In exercise of powers conferred by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992, as amended, read with paragraph 1.3 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-14 the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments in respect of Sl. No. 189 of Schedule 2 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items as under.

2. Item Description in Column No. 4 against S. No.189 of Chapter 44 of Schedule 2 of the ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items is amended as under:

From: "Value added products of Red Sanders wood such as Extracts, Dyes, Musical Instruments and Parts of Musical Instruments, made from Red Sanders wood, procured from legal sources".

To: "Value added products of Red Sanders wood such as Chips, Powder, Extracts, Dyes, Musical Instruments, Parts of Musical Instruments, Furniture, Parts of various sizes of furniture (maximum cross section: sizes: 15 cm X 15 cm; Planks: 20 cm X 7.5 cm and maximum length 2.5 Mtrs), toys, dolls & other handicrafts made from Red Sanders wood procured from legal sources".

3. Effect of this notification

Item Description against Sl. No. 189 of Schedule 2 of ITC(HS) Classification of Export & Import Item has been amended.

Value Added Products of Red Sanders Wood Quota of 1998.5917 MTs for AP Govt Released

Sub: Procedure for export of Value Added products of Red Sanders wood by Government of Andhra Pradesh.

42-PN(RE) 03.12.2013 (DGFT) In exercise of the powers conferred under Paragraph 2.4 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-14, Director General of Foreign Trade prescribes the following procedure for export of value added products of Red Sanders wood in terms of Notification No. 54 dated 03.12.2013.

2. (i) Government of Andhra Pradesh is hereby permitted to export 1998.5917 MTs of value added products of Red Sanders wood, either by itself or through any entity/entities so authorized by them for the purpose.

(ii) Such entity/entities or Government of Andhra Pradesh, as the case may be, shall be granted export authorization by the concerned Regional Authority of DGFT upon production of quantity allocation letter from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

3. Effect of this Public Notice

Procedure for export of 1998.5917 MTs of value added products of Red Sanders wood by Government of Andhra Pradesh in terms of Notification No.54 of 03.12.2013 has been notified.

Human Embryo Import Allowed Freely Subject to NOC from Indian Council of Medical Research

Sub: Policy for import of Human Embryo.

52-Ntfn(RE) 02.12.2013 (DGFT) In exercise of powers conferred under Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 read with paragraph 2.1 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby makes the following amendment in Chapter 5 of ITC (HS) 2012, Schedule 1 (Import Policy):

2. Human Embryo is classified under ITC (HS) Code 0511 99 99 of Chapter 5 of ITC (HS) 2012, Schedule 1 (Import Policy). Import of Human Embryo will be 'free' subject to a 'No Objection Certificate' from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Accordingly, the import policy under EXIM Code 0511 99 99 is revised as under:

Exim Code	Item Description	Policy	Policy Conditions
0511 99 99	Other	Restricted	Import of Human Embryo will be free subject to a 'No Objection Certificate' from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

4. Effect of this Notification

Human Embryo has been classified under ITC (HS) Code 0511 99 99. Its import is free subject to NOC from ICMR.

Beta Picoline Input Quantity under Cyanopyridine SION Reduced to 1.05 kg from 1.21 kg

40-PN(RE) 02.12.2013 (DGFT) In exercise of the powers conferred under paragraph 2.4 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014 and paragraph 1.1 of Handbook of Procedure (Vol. I) the Directorate General of Foreign Trade hereby notifies modification of SION A-2439, in respect of the export product **3-Cyanopyridine**, as under:

3-Cyanopyridine	1 kg	Either	Beta Picoline	1.05 kg
		Or	a) Denatured Ethyl Alcohol	2.373 kg
			b) Methyl Alcohol	1.405 kg
			c) Alumino Silicate Catalyst	0.023 kg

2. Effect of the Public Notice

Under SION A-2439, quantity of import item Beta Picoline has been reduced from 1.21 Kg to 1.05 Kg for every Kg of export product.

R.K. Singla Appointed as DG China Specific Safeguards and General Safeguards in Place of Ram Tirath

114-Cus(NT) 27.11.2013 (DoR) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 of the Customs Tariff (Transitional Product Specific Safeguard Duty) Rules, 2002 and in supersession of notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No.77/2013-Customs (N.T.) issued vide G.S.R. No. 495 (E) dated the 19th July, 2013, the Central Government hereby appoints Sh. R.K Singla as the Director General (Specific Safeguard) for the purposes of the said Rules.

[F.No.528/89/2012-STO9TU)]

115-Cus(NT) 27.11.2013 (DoR) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 of the Customs Tariff (Identification and Assessment of Safeguard Duty) Rules, 1997 and in supersession of notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No.78/2013-Customs (N.T.) issued vide G.S.R. No. 496 (E) dated the 19thJuly, 2013, the Central Government hereby appoints Sh. R.K Singla as the Director General (Safeguard) for the purposes of the said Rules.

[F.No.528/89/2012-STO9TU)]

Beta Picoline Input Quantity under Nicotinic Acid/Niacin SION Reduced to 0.9 kg from 1.2 kg

41-PN(RE) 02.12.2013 (DGFT) In exercise of the powers conferred under paragraph 2.4 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-2014 and paragraph 1.1 of Handbook of Procedure (Vol. I) the Directorate General of Foreign Trade hereby notifies modification of SION A-315, in respect of the export product **Niacin/ Nicotinic Acid/ Pyridine -3- Carboxylic Acid IP/BP/USP/EP**, as under:

Niacin/ Nicotinic Acid/ Pyridine - 3- Carboxylic Acid IP/BP/ USP/EP	1 kg	Either	3-Cyano Pyridine	0.980 kg
		Or	Beta Picoline	0.9 kg

2. Effect of the Public Notice

Under SION A-315, quantity of import item Beta Picoline has been reduced from 1.2 Kg to 0.9 Kg for every Kg of this export product.

Tariff Value of Gold and Silver Down $9/10 gms and $30/kg Respectively

- Poppy Seeds Tariff Value Up US$225/MTs
- Palmolein Down US$8/MTs; Brass Scrap US$89/MTs

116-Cus(NT) 29.11.2013 (DoR) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), the Central Board of Excise & Customs, being satisfied that it is necessary and expedient so to do, hereby makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), No. 36/2001-Customs (N.T.), dated the 3rd August, 2001, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-3, Sub-section (ii), vide number S.O. 748 (E), dated the 3rd August, 2001, namely:-

In the said notification, for TABLE-1, TABLE-2, and TABLE-3 the following Tables shall be substituted namely:-

"Table-1

SNo.	Chapter/heading/sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value US $ (Per Metric Tonne)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	1511 10 00	Crude Palm Oil	914
2	1511 90 10	RBD Palm Oil	941
3	1511 90 90	Others – Palm Oil	928
4	1511 10 00	Crude Palmolein	949
5	1511 90 20	RBD Palmolein	952
6	1511 90 90	Others – Palmolein	951
7	1507 10 00	Crude Soyabean Oil	1025
8	7404 00 22	Brass Scrap (all grades)	3906
9	1207 91 00	Poppy seeds	2781

Table-2

SNo.	Chapter/heading/sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US $)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	71 or 98	Gold, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 321 and 323 of the Notification No. 12/2012-Customs dated 17.03.2012 is availed	405 per 10 grams
2	71 or 98	Silver, in any form, in respect of which the benefit of entries at serial number 322 and 324 of the Notification No. 12/2012-Customs dated 17.03.2012 is availed	642 per Kilogram

Table-3

SNo.	Chapter/heading/sub-heading/tariff item	Description of goods	Tariff value (US $ Per Metric Tons)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	080280	Areca nuts	1707 (i.e. no change)"

[F. No. 467/01/2013-Cus.V Pt-I]

Global Consortium for Inter Border Trade Notified as Pre-shipment Inspection Agency

39-PN(RE) 26.11.2013 (DGFT) In exercise of powers conferred under paragraph 2.4 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2009-14, the Director General of Foreign Trade hereby makes the following amendments in Appendix 5 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol.I) with immediate effect:-

The following Pre Shipment Inspection Agency (PSIA) shall be added after Sl.No.38 in the Appendix-5 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol.-I), Appendices and Aayaat Niryaat Forms:-

SNo.	Name of the Inspection Agency	Area/Region of Operation
39	Global Consortium for Inter Border Trade Inspection and Certification Ltd.	
	Head Office 145-157 St. John Street, London, EC1V 4PW, United Kingdom, Tel: +44-702-4010-560 E-mail: Info@globalinspections.co.uk	United Kingdom
	Branch Office, North America 2310 SW Vermont St. Portland, Oregon, 97219, USA, Tel: +1-503-987-2501 E-mail: gaurav@globalinspections.co.uk	North America
	Branch Office, South Africa 3, Illovo Road, Emmarentia, Johannesburg, 2195, South Africa. Tel: +27-2300-40-335 E-mail: aasif@globalinspections.co.uk	South Africa
	Branch Office, UAE 5, Industrial Area No.6, Sharjah, UAE Tel: +971-554-680-396 E-mail: ankit@globalinspections.co.uk	UAE
	Branch Office, Singapore No.14,Robinson Road, #13-08, Far East Finance Building, 048545, Singapore. Tel: +65-6698-7450 E-mail: kunal@globalinspections.co.uk	Singapore

Effects of this public notice

One new Pre Shipment Inspection Agency (PSIA) has been notified.

Indonesia-Sri Lanka Talk Wheat and Tea Trade

Indonesia and Sri Lanka held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 9th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference (MC9 WTO) in Nusa Dua, Bali, on 3 December. The Indonesian Vice Minister, Bayu Krisnamurthi, met the Sri Lankan Minister of Industry and Trade, Rishad Bathiudeen, to discuss efforts to enhance the trade relationship between Indonesia and Sri Lanka that can benefit both countries.

"Indonesia is currently exploring investments in hospitality and travel sectors in Sri Lanka," stated the Vice Minister. Indonesian companies that have invested in Sri Lanka include PT. Kalbe Farma and PT. Dexa Medica (pharmaceutical products), PT Jembo Cable (electrical cables), Indorama Group (raw materials for textile), PT Agro Indomas (palm oil processing) and PT Usaha Tani Lestari (coconut products).

In the agricultural sector, Sri Lanka is also known as the world's second largest exporter of tea. Apart from that, this country is also recognized as an exporter of wheat, rubber, coconut, and fiber. Its rubber production amounts to 36% of the world's rubber production.

Sri Lanka specifically expressed its concern on its access to the wheat market in Indonesia. Indonesia is the target destination of around 80% of Sri Lanka's wheat exports to the world. However, Sri Lanka's current access to the wheat market in Indonesia is obstructed by Indonesia's implementation of safeguards to Sri Lankan wheat.

Brazil Ethanol Exports Threatened by 68% Cut in US Biofuel Mandate

Raizen Energia SA, Brazil's biggest ethanol exporter, is the sugar-cane processor most at risk from a U.S. plan to cut biofuel mandates, threatening the South American country's $6.4 billion export market.

The joint venture between oil producer Royal Dutch Shell Plc (RDSA) and Cosan SA Industria & Comercio produced 2.32 billion liters (612.1 million gallons) of ethanol in the 12 months through March. More than half was exported and most of that was shipped to the U.S.

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposal to reduce the amount of biofuels refiners must blend with petroleum-based fuel may curtail demand for Brazilian sugar-cane ethanol next year by as much as 68 percent, Morsy said. That will cut into Raizen Energia's export revenue, which reached 1.97 billion reais in fiscal 2013. The company produces at least 40 percent of the ethanol U.S. refiners import from Brazil and will be the Brazilian supplier most affected.

Export Prices

The Sao Paulo-based company's ethanol exports sell at average prices 36 percent higher than it gets from Brazilian distributors, Cosan said in its earnings report for fiscal 2013, which ended in March. Cosan is the energy and infrastructure company whose chairman is Brazilian billionaire Rubens Ometto.

A press official for Raizen Energia, who asked not to be identified because of the company's policy, declined to comment on the impact of the EPA policies. The closely held company posted gross profit of 1.59 billion reais in fiscal 2013 on sales of 8.47 billion reais, according to the Cosan report.

The EPA proposal last month calls for U.S. refiners in 2014 to use about 2.2 billion gallons (8.3 billion liters) of so-called advanced biofuel, an alternative to standard corn-based ethanol. The agency is soliciting public comments until Jan. 28 before it makes a final decision.

That's down from the 3.75 billion gallons called for under 2007 legislation designed to cut carbon emissions and reduce dependence on petroleum. This is the first time the EPA has called for reducing the total biofuel blend requirement and may set a precedent for future reductions.

Cane Ethanol

One component of that blend requirement may be met with Brazilian sugar-cane ethanol, which created a market for as much as 820 million gallons of the fuel this year. That may shrink 68 percent to about 260 million gallons next year, Morsy said. Under the original policies in the EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard, cane-ethanol mandates were set to increase to as much as 2.5 billion gallons in 2022, according to New Energy Finance forecasts, about 40 percent of Brazil's current ethanol output.

Ethanol from sugarcane was designated an advanced biofuel in 2010 by the EPA. The decision, along with a drought that slashed the U.S. corn harvest last year, helped Brazil triple exports to the U.S. to 2.05 billion liters last year from 2011, said Martinho Ono, president of ethanol trader Sociedade Corretora de Alcool.

The current mandates call for biofuel use to increase alongside projected growth in gasoline consumption, which hasn't risen as much as regulators anticipated. Refiners are required this year to use so much ethanol with their gasoline that the mixture is reaching the so-called blend wall, that point at which there's concern the amount of ethanol in the fuel mixture may damage the engines of U.S. vehicles.

Sugar Shift

Cane producers may also choose to turn more of their crop into sugar, potentially exacerbating a global surplus of the sweetener. Sugar prices fell to a three-year low of 16 cents a pound in July.

The EPA's move may not reduce imports as much as expected, said Enrico Biancheri, a director at Biosev SA, Brazil's biggest cane processor after Raizen Energia. He expects the country's exports to slip by 300 million liters to 500 million liters in 2014.

Brazil consumed 17.8 billion liters of ethanol last year, data from the country's oil regulator show, and 300 million liters would be enough for about 6 days.

California Demand

If the EPA proposal is approved, Brazilian exports may shift toward California, where a state incentive program encourages the use of efficiently-produced biofuel, including sugar-cane ethanol, said Ono of Sao Paulo-based Sociedade Corretora de Alcool. The state's Low Carbon Fuel Standard program may attract more fuel from Brazil than all other U.S. states combined.

Brazilian Raw Sugar Discount Widens on Harvest, Indian Shipments

Buyers of raw sugar from Brazil, the world's top producer, are getting a bigger discount for their sweetener as harvesting advances and competition with India's exports increases, according to Swiss Sugar Brokers.

Brazilian sugar for loading this month at the port of Santos, the country's biggest, was offered at a discount of 0.6 cent a pound to the price of the March futures on ICE Futures U.S. in New York last week, the Rolle, Switzerland-based broker said in a report on 2 December. That compares with a discount of 0.5 cent on Nov. 10. The sweetener traded at 0.75 cent a pound under the futures last week, the broker said.

Mills in the center south, Brazil's main growing region, produced 13 percent more sugar in the first half of November than a year earlier, industry group Unica said last week. That signals this year's crop will "have a long tail" and final output will surpass the expected 34 million metric tons, according to Marex Spectron Group. India, the second-biggest producer, will export as much as 3 million tons of sugar in the 2013-14 season started there Oct. 1, the Indian Sugar Mills Association said.

There's a "general consensus that sugar production will end over 34 million tons," Naim Beydoun, a broker at Swiss Sugar Brokers, said in the report, referring to output in Brazil's center south. India probably sold about 600,000 tons of raw sugar for exports and that had an impact on the Brazilian cash values, he said.

Raw sugar futures traded in New York, down 13 percent this year, are heading for a third annual decline, the longest slump since 1992. Global supplies will beat demand by 4.73 million tons in the 12 months started Oct. 1, a fourth year of surplus, according to the London-based International Sugar Organization. Excess supplies were a record 10.6 million tons in 2012-13.

Brazilian raw sugar for loading in January at the port of Santos was at a discount of 0.4 cent to 0.5 cent a pound to the futures, data from Swiss Sugar Brokers showed. That compares with a discount of 0.25 cent to 0.5 cent on Nov. 10. The sweetener for February traded at a discount of 0.25 cents. Sales were "in line with the progress of the crop," Beydoun said.

Raw Sugar Extends Longest Slump since August 2012 on Supply Glut

Sugar extended the longest slump in more than 15 months as processors are beginning to turn cane into sweetener in India, the world's second-biggest producer, at a time when inventories are swelling to a record.

Mills in Uttar Pradesh, the largest cane grower in India, will start operating by Dec. 12, and output won't be affected by the delay caused by a shutdown over a dispute on crop prices, C.B. Patodia, president of Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association, said on 2 December. Thailand, the top shipper after Brazil, aims to increase sugar production by 10 percent to 11 million metric tons even after crushing was delayed, the Office of the Cane and Sugar Board said.

Global stockpiles will increase 0.5 percent to an all-time high of 43.379 million tons in the season ending by September for most countries, from a year earlier, as production outstrips consumption for a fourth year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Nov. 21. Prices are heading for a third straight annual decline, the longest slump in 21 years..

Ethanol Producer

Brazil, the largest producer of ethanol from sugarcane, may start making the biofuel from corn, after a record harvest of the grain caused domestic prices to slump below cost, Neri Geller, the agriculture policy secretary, said in a telephone interview on 3 December.

Brazil's real fell to the lowest since Sept. 3 against the dollar, increasing the incentive for growers to increase exports priced in the U.S. currency.

Indian Sugar Pricing Plan Seen Reviving Nation's Mills

Sugar mills in India, the world's largest grower after Brazil, are banking on a proposal to link the price of cane to the sweetener to reverse record losses.

An accord to tie cane prices to sugar rates from the 2014-15 season would be "historic" and encourage banks to extend credit to factories in Uttar Pradesh, India's biggest cane producer, said Abinash Verma, director general of the Indian Sugar Mills Association. Mills agreed to resume output on Dec. 1 after a two-week protest shutdown when the Uttar Pradesh government said it would consider the pricing plan..

A panel headed by Chakravarthy Rangarajan, chief of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, this year recommended linking cane prices to 70 percent of the value of sugar and by-products, while scrapping state controls on sale of sugar in the local market.

Government 'Assurance'

The Uttar Pradesh administration has set up its own panel headed by the state's chief secretary to "look at all the different modalities for fixing of cane price," and the Rangarajan committee's suggestions, said Rahul Bhatnagar, principal secretary for sugar in Uttar Pradesh. Any change will come into effect from the next crushing season, he said.

Balrampur Chini reported a record loss of 1.22 billion rupees ($19.6 million) in the three months ended Sept. 30, whileBajaj Hindusthan Ltd. (BJH), India's biggest sugar producer, posted a 5.1 billion rupee loss in the quarter.

Prices Tumble

Sugar prices in India have tumbled 16 percent in the past year, prompting factories in the two top producing states of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh to sell below cost. The two states account for 62 percent of Indian output. Raw sugar in New York has fallen 14 percent this year. Futures for March delivery fell 0.9 percent to 16.81 cents a pound on ICE Futures U.S. in New York 2 December.

Sugar Inventories

It cost mills in India an average 36 rupees to produce 1 kilogram of sugar in Uttar Pradesh, while the mean selling price at the factory gate was about 31 rupees in 2012-2013, according to ISMA.

Mills in Uttar Pradesh owed farmers as much as 24 billion rupees for cane supplied last season and that figure may jump if sugar prices don't improve, ISMA's Verma said.

Inventories in India surged to a five-year high of 8.85 million tons at the start of this season, enough to meet demand for four months, according to the mills' association. The reserve may expand to 10 million tons by the close of the season on Sept. 30, 2014 if the nation fails to export any sugar, it estimates.

Cabinet Approves Proposal for Extension of Rice and Paddy Central Order for One More Year

The Union Cabinet on 28 November approved the proposal for extending the validity of the Central Order No. S.O.2968 (E) dated 20.12.2012 for a further period of one year that is from 1st December, 2013 to 30th November, 2014 in respect of rice and paddy.

The main objective of Control Orders is to enable State Governments to continue to take effective de-hoarding operations under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 by fixing stock limits/licensing requirements etc. in respect of these commodities especially in view of rising prices in the prevailing circumstances. This is expected to help in the efforts being taken to tackle the problem of rising prices and also improve the availability of these commodities for the general public especially the vulnerable sections.

Customs Valuation Exchange Rates

22 November 2013		Imports	Exports
Schedule I [Rate of exchange of one unit of foreign currency equipment to Indian Rupees]			
1	Australian Dollar	59.20	57.80
2	Bahrain Dinar	171.40	162.00
3	Canadian Dollar	60.75	59.35
4	Danish Kroner	11.50	11.15
5	EURO	85.30	83.35
6	Hong Kong Dollar	8.15	8.05
7	Kuwaiti Dinar	228.65	215.40
8	New Zealand Dollar	52.55	51.25
9	Norwegian Kroner	10.40	10.10
10	Pound Sterling	102.25	100.00
11	Singapore Dollar	50.85	49.75
12	South African Rand	6.40	6.00
13	South Arabian Riyal	17.25	16.30
14	Swedish Kroner	9.55	9.30
15	Swiss Franc	69.40	67.55
16	UAE Dirham	17.60	16.65
17	U.S. Dollar	63.30	62.30
Schedule II [Rate of exchange of 100 units of foreign currency equivalent to Indian rupees]			
1	Japanese Yen	63.35	61.80
2	Kenyan Shilling	75.05	70.85

(Source: Customs Notification 112(NT)/21.11.2013)

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Owned, Edited, Published and Printed by Arun Goyal and Printed at Mercury Printers, 602 Choori Walan, Delhi
Published from 24/4866, Sheeltara House, Ansari Road, New Delhi 110002. (INDIA) Phone: 2328 1314; Fax: 91-11-2324 0230
Email:academy.delhi@gmail.com; Website: worldtradescanner.com
This issue contains 8 pages in all