VOICE OF FICCI

SHAPING THE AGENDA

August 2020

From the Secretary General

As India gears up for a gradual and complete Unlock in the forthcoming days, and the government gives a lease of life to the struggling economy by lifting most curbs, the industry its members are taking steps to ramp up business. Though the rising number of cases keeps adding to the challenge.

A FICCI survey has brought out that the industry has been impacted both in terms of revenues and cash flow. Investors and corporates are also re-evaluating their investment plans due to the pandemic.

At the NECM, President FICCI highlighted some immediate priorities for consideration of the Finance Minister. Among the set of recommendations was the creation of a COVID-19 liquidity bridge to support the restructuring of loan requirements for mid-sized and large companies; encourage banks for a one-time restructuring of debt for companies with a right to recompense later; consider issuance of a tax refund certificate to offset any government dues; setting up of a Development Finance Institution for providing finance at competitive rates to the industrial sector. Some have been, accepted others are work in progress.

Tourism and hospitality, aviation, retail, and healthcare have been some of the most battered sectors in this pandemic. FICCI sent in its recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi to allow hotels and their restaurants to reopen to tourists and guests with all safety protocols and guidelines for SOPs in place. Again, accepted.

Considering the present situation and our aspirations to become a $1 Trillion Manufacturing Economy by 2024-25, FICCI has requested the Ministry of Finance to extend the date for availing a 15% tax rate for new investments under Section 115BAB, Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 by two years.

We, at FICCI, commend the government on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 that was released last month. It is encouraging to see that most of the recommendations that were earlier suggested in the FICCI Vision 2030 document have been adopted in the NEP.

At the sports front, while the country prepares itself for a 'Fit India', industry recommendations for clear guidelines necessary for organizing sports camps and staging competitions and events; special provisions necessary for travel, stay and quarantine of international players participating in events; enabling sports retailers to ensure uninterrupted supply of sports and fitness products, have been submitted to the MHA.

India, and India Inc., is at work to get back to normalcy and with the concerted efforts of all, we are sure we will get there soon. We need to keep our chin up in the face of adversities and keep believing that 'we shall overcome'.

Dilip Chenoy

Suggestions for strengthening of logistics sector in West Bengal

Suggestions for strengthening of logistics sector in West Bengal were provided by FICCI WBSC Logistics Committee to WBIDC on:

- Impact of notifying logistics as industry - granting of industry status to logistics sector and bringing logistics on parity with manufacturing industry will recognize it as a critical enabler for growth. The advantages for granting industry status to logistics sector was shared in detail.
- Expectation from West Bengal state logistics policy – the expectation of industry from the state policy on logistics with respect to fiscal and non-fiscal benefits, infrastructure and policy level support.
- Suggestions on working note for state logistics policy – suggestions on logistics centre of excellence, fostering skill development initiatives for the sector & women participation, last mile connectivity and support infrastructure requirements were suggested.

*For detailed note write to
Ms Mousumi Ghose at mousumi.ghose@ficci.com

Representation on Defence on draft DAP 2020

FICCI submitted its recommendations to the Draft Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020. These recommendations were based on the comprehensive study of the feedback received from industry and experts on the Draft DAP 2020. FICCI is committed to implementing 'Atmanirbharta' in Defence Manufacturing and acknowledged the efforts of the committee in bringing out a comprehensive Acquisition Procedure which articulates various contemporary & progressive reforms with a thrust towards indigenization and self-reliance.

This was submitted to Secretary (Defence) and Special Secretary and Director General (Acquisition), Ministry of Defence.

*For detailed representation write to
Mr Vivek Pandit at vivek.pandit@ficci.com

Consolidated industry feedback on GAICT

Global Authorization for Intra-Company Transfer (GAICT) scheme was started by the DGFT to enable faster processing of low risk SCOMET items. However, certain provision under GAICT have prevented industry from accruing the full benefits of the programme. FICCI, in consultation with various industry members submitted their recommendation on how the GAICT process could be refined further.

*For detailed recommendation write to
Mr Vivek Pandit at vivek.pandit@ficci.com

'Voice of FICCI' is a service to all our members and shared with key policy makers and thought leaders. The document is a compilation of FICCI's views on macro-economic issues. These issues come to us directly from members, or through deliberations in conferences and seminars on sectoral issues, as also through Government notifications.

Middle East to India Deepwater Gas Pipeline (MEIDP) & India's Energy Security - A favorable situation for all

India is diverse in its energy endowments and requirements. To fuel its growing economy; the need for a clean and stable supply of energy at sustainable prices will be the need of the hour. Declining oil reserves, uncertainties in future oil supply, fluctuations in oil prices in the global market and growing concern for climate change, however, complicate its prospects for development. To ensure India's energy security, we need to gradually move towards effectively tapping and diversifying the fuel basket. Gas will play a major role in Indian energy mix because it can be used effectively in several demand sectors.

FICCI strongly recommends that Oman - India Pipeline - the Middle East India Deepwater Pipeline (MEIDP) be more actively supported and pursued so that we have another option to bring in gas at a competitive price. Clear cut government policies and guidelines will help encourage transnational gas pipeline projects for transporting natural gas to India and to secure the energy needs of the country. This was submitted to Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

*For detailed recommendation write to
Mr Vivek Pandit at vivek.pandit@ficci.com

Extending the date from March 31, 2023 by an additional 2 years for availing 15% tax rate for new investments under Section 115BAB, Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019.

The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019 with Section 115BAB offers a low tax rate of 15% (plus surcharge and cess) for the company that has been set up and registered on or after October 01, 2019 and has commenced manufacturing on or before March31, 2023. This amendment is indeed a historic step that gives a great stimulus to Make in India initiative and attracting private investment from across the globe.

FICCI understands that most of the investors/ corporates are now deferring their investment plans due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has significantly impacted the cash flow at organizations. Therefore, the potential investors are currently focusing on preserving cash rather than investing for expansion. Also, mid-large Capex investment (500 Cr - 1000 Cr+) typically takes 2.5 years or more from planning to commercialization.

Considering the present situation and our aspirations to become a $1 Trillion Manufacturing Economy by 2024-25, FICCI requests the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India to extend the date from March 31, 2023 by an additional 2 years for availing the 15% tax rate for new investments. This extension will benefit all the industries to promote the Make in India initiative and support the original intent to boost manufacturing activities across the sectors. This was submitted to Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

*For detailed recommendation write to
Mr Manoj Mehta at manoj.mehta@ficci.com

Recommendations of 2nd Helicopter Summit 2020

FICCI in collaboration with Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt of India, and supported by Pawan Hans Ltd. organized the 2nd Helicopter Summit virtually with the theme 'Helicopter – Enhancing Regional Connectivity & Opportunities During Health Crisis' on August 07, 2020. It became a single platform to bring together officials from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, various state government, Non-scheduled operators, helicopter manufacturers, MRO agencies, leasing and financing companies and consultants under one virtual roof to discuss the challenges faced by the industry and how to convert these challenges into opportunities.

Various recommendations from the summit have been sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. These include developing comprehensive policies for encouraging Helicopter based Emergency Medical Services (HEMS), rescue operations, and Airborne Law Enforcement (ALE) in the country. Policies and guidelines are also required for safety during the operation and steps to be taken by the Ministry of Tourism to boost tourism within India through Heli skiing and Heli tracking activities.

There is a need to reduce the overall cost of operations and enhance the viability gap funding so that helicopter operations come within the reach of a common man. This can be done by encouraging Multirole Operations Helicopter with corporate and AMT configurations. The government must develop policies to attract investment and make India self-sufficient in manufacturing, training, and MRO activities of the Civil Aviation Sector. This was submitted to Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.

*For detailed recommendation please write to
Mr Manoj Mehta at manoj.mehta@ficci.com

Label and Leaflets requirements for pesticides and their formulations

CIB & RC acknowledges that the Insecticides Inspectors / concerned licensing officers in the state insist that a label affixed on the container should be, at least, in three languages, including the local language and it is not always possible to adhere to it. The Memo of then Secretary of CIB & RC no. 50/96 dated 07.08.1996 mentions that 'Restrictive interpretation of the legal provision about label affixed on the container-asking printing at least in three languages, including the local Language'. Also, the labels and leaflets will be read together, and leaflets would be treated as an integral part of label. The information that cannot be printed on the label due to the small size of the containers, can be printed on the leaflets.

Many of the industry stakeholders are facing difficulties in getting the principal certificate of the dealers / manufacturers due to lack of knowledge of Telugu language. The industry members are fulfilling the requirement of CIB RC. FICCI recommendation is made to advise officials to endorse new pesticides in the principal certificate of the manufacturers and dealers as Kharif season is on its peak and farmers are facing shortage of some new technology pesticides which are very important to increase agriculture yield and profit. This was submitted to APC and Secretary to Government (Agriculture Cooperation Dept) & Commissioner of Agriculture Government of Telangana.

*For detailed recommendation please write to
Mr Manoj Mehta at manoj.mehta@ficci.com

Regarding proposed annual cash incentives and phased enhancement of BCD

After launching production linked incentive (PLI) schemes for electronics, pharma, medical equipment, the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India is now working on similar PLI schemes for Chemicals &

Petrochemicals sector. In this regard, FICCI has stimulated inputs on preparation of draft guidelines for Production Linked Incentives (PLI) scheme for promoting manufacturing of Specialty Chemicals. Brief are as follows:

FICCI supports and appreciates the proposed incentive scheme to provide a level-playing field to the domestic industry in the global market. This step will make the Indian producers more competitive and will boost domestic manufacturing by attracting large investments in this important sector of the economy. However, as commodity price cycle is volatile for majority chemicals linked to oil prices, we believe, cash incentives should be applicable on % incremental production volumes (and not on sales) that will come into market over indicated base year of 2018-19. Broad submissions are:

- Availing scheme benefits from the year of commissioning.
- Inclusion of other important Chemicals and Petrochemicals for Cash Incentives. Products like High Density Polyethylene (HDPE), Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE), Polypropylene, Propylene Copolymers, Acetic Anhydride and Pyridine & Derivatives.

Additionally, in respect to the proposal for Phased Enhancement of Basic Custom Duty (BCD), FICCI proposes to include High Density Polyethylene (HDPE), Polypropylene, Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE), Propylene Copolymers and inclusion of all articles made of plastics and proposes to exclude Paraxylene (PX) for phased enhancement of BCD. In general, FICCI also appreciated the approach for a phased manner enhancement in duties as well. However, considering the current unprecedented scenario when the demand has contracted significantly, immediate reliefs are essential to bridge the emerging deficit and to fulfil India's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. FICCI also requested to provide immediate BCD enhancement @2.5% on the identified products for the first year, followed by enhancements of 0.5% every year for the next 5 years. This was submitted to Joint Secretary (Chemicals), Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Govt. of India.

*For detailed recommendation write to
Mr Manoj Mehta at manoj.mehta@ficci.com

Representation on Draft Code on Wages (Central) Rules, 2020

FICCI requested government for the removal of nomenclature like Watchman, Chowkidar, Gate Man, Night Guard, Gate keeper from the Code on Wages (Central) Rules 2020. This will not just safeguard low paid employees of the private security agencies but will also give a robust compliance of the Code on Wages with the support of the rule being framed. This was submitted to Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour and Employment (Independent Charge), Ministry of Labour and Employment; Union Minister for Home Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs and Hon'ble Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India.

*For detailed representation write to
Mr Sumeet Gupta at sumeet.gupta@ficci.com

Representation on Draft Code on Wages (Central) Rules, 2020

FICCI requested government for the removal of nomenclature like Watchman, Chowkidar, Gate Man, Night Guard, Gate keeper from the Code on Wages (Central) Rules 2020. This will not just safeguard low paid employees of the private security agencies but will also give a robust compliance of the Code on Wages with the support of the rule being framed.

Also, the definition of principal employer to be made clear. This was submitted to Deputy Director and Assistant Director, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.

*For detailed representation please write to
Mr Sumeet Gupta at sumeet.gupta@ficci.com

Recommendations for Unlock 4.0

The purpose of this document is to provide recommendations to unlock activities that are currently prohibited under the MHA Unlock 3.0 order.

The proposed recommendations can be classified under following heads:

1) SOPs for organizing exhibitions and trade fairs
2) SOPs for international and domestic flight operations
3) Suggestions for States/UTs to open tourism, hotels, restaurants and bars
4) Opening up of Metro rail services
5) Guidelines for organizing sports camps and staging competitions / events
6) SOPs for reopening and remote delivery execution framework for Schools
7) Proposed SOPs for opening up cinema halls

This was submitted to Union Home Secretary and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs.

*For detailed representation write to
Mr Sumeet Gupta at sumeet.gupta@ficci.com

FICCI e-Commerce Committee submission concerning certain provisions relating to e-Commerce introduced in the Finance Act, 2020

On February 1, 2020, Hon'ble Finance Minister presented Union Budget for FY 2020 and proposed a new section for the purpose of widening the scope of Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on e-commerce transaction i.e., Section 194-O of the Income tax Act, 1961 (the Act). Section 194-O envisages deduction and payment of TDS by e-commerce operators for facilitating sale of goods and services of e-commerce participant through its digital electronic facility or platform and In the Finance Bill 2020, the Government has also widened the TDS rules a per Section 206-C. It is submitted that the introduction of TDS will negatively disrupt the business conducted through the e commerce platforms. The e commerce and Online Merchants in India witness huge number of transactions in a short span of time. Considering the volume of transactions involved, the introduction of TDS (Section 194-O) would cause irreparable loss to the entire Industry as well as derail the initiative of the Government to promote business of MSME initiative, Digital India, Skill India and Start-up India movement through online platforms through banking channels. This was submitted to Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner (MSME).

*For detailed note write to
Ms Leena Jaisani at leena.jaisani@ficci.com

Comments on proposal of decriminalization of Legal Metrology Act, 2009 - Inputs from FICCI

Stakeholder consultation on proposal of decriminalization of Legal Metrology Act, 2009 had been put out by the Department for public comments. Submission on the subject has been made for the consideration of the authorities. This was submitted to Joint Secretary (CA), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India.

*For detailed note write to
Ms Leena Jaisani at leena.jaisani@ficci.com

FICCI Submission on Draft Direct Selling Rules

FICCI Direct Selling Taskforce has shared its inputs and made a submission on the Draft Direct Selling Rules for the kind consideration of the authorities. This was submitted to Secretary (CA), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India

*For detailed note write to
Ms Leena Jaisani at leena.jaisani@ficci.com

Uniform methodology for determination of Average Sales Price for all the bulk minerals

Recommended that there should be a uniform methodology for ASP determination for all the bulk minerals / ore including bauxite, as done in case of Iron Ore, Limestone, Manganese and all other bulk minerals, since monthly data is filed by Captive and Commercial Miners to Indian Bureau of Mines which determines the true ASP as per the prevailing market prices. This was submitted to Secretary, Ministry of Mines.

*For detailed recommendation write to
Mr Arpan Gupta at arpan.gupta@ficci.com

Implementation of the Steel Import Monitoring System

Suggestions were made to the Ministry of Steel to further improve upon the implementation of Steel Import Monitoring System. Since SIMS represents only around half of the total steel imports into the country, FICCI recommended that all steel products be brought under SIMS. Further, FICCI also recommended that SIMS should make the entire registration process standardized, including a standard measuring unit for imports, among others. This was submitted to Secretary, Ministry of Steel.

*For detailed recommendation write to
Mr Arpan Gupta at arpan.gupta@ficci.com

Promoting domestic production of copper

Certain key measures were recommended to increase production of copper, including Introduction of Target Plus Scheme to increase the domestic production of copper which will not only serve the domestic market but will also help in exploring the export opportunities, reviewing the FTA governed imports & correction of the inverted duty structure and expediting the exploration & auctioning of copper reserves. This was submitted to Secretary, Ministry of Mines.

*For detailed recommendation write to
Mr Arpan Gupta at arpan.gupta@ficci.com

FICCI Representation on the Draft Uniform Framework for EPR under Plastics Waste Management Rules, 2016

The representation covers detailed clause-by-clause recommendations followed by some overarching suggestions was submitted to Shri Amardeep Raju, Scientist E, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), GoI. Following are some key suggestions:

- Mechanism for making this framework mandatory & not optional at the state level.
- Government should work with Industry to develop common central guidance on Single Use Plastic (SUP).
- A proper clause needs to be inserted into the PWM Rules, that the third-party manufacturers shall submit the EPR plan of respective brand owner for referenced quantum of production, while applying for new/renewal of consents to operate from respective state pollution control board.
- The mechanism for formalization of informal sector may be articulated in the Framework.
- A single national registry for registration of all stakeholders like producers, importers, brand owners, recyclers, PROs etc. with allocation methods to meet individual state data requirements. Development of an end to end EPR digital transaction platform, which has all producers (Brand Owners, Plastic Manufacturers, Importers and Bulk generators and PRO (waste collectors, sorters & balers, Recyclers, W2E plant operators, cement co-processors, users utilizing plastic in road) empaneled onto the platform 2. It is suggested to define the scope and timelines for activating the national digital platform.
- Penalty of EPR non-compliance shall continue to be monetary in nature with express exclusion of prosecution.
- The fees to be paid by PIBO & manufacturers should be determined by the SLAB and be open to independent audit. The PIBO & manufacturers should not be burdened with the inefficiencies of collection / segregation / poor maintenance of infrastructure by the ULBs.

*For detailed representation write to
Ms Rita Roy Choudhury at rita.roychoudhury@ficci.com

FICCI Inputs & Comments: Draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2020

This representation covers detailed clause-by-clause recommendations and was submitted to Joint Secretary, MoEFCC, GoI. These are majorly in terms of either clarifications sought from the government or some suggestions by the industry members. Some of the key recommendations include:

- The written agreement of the local affected people or stake holders must be taken as official document during public consultation. The same should be mentioned in the public hearing procedure.
- Copy of the public hearing application letter to SPCB by the project proponent and request letter for date by the SPCB to district collector must be submitted to the MoEFCC or uploaded on Parivesh as an information, so that the public hearing be completed within 40 working days.
- In case the project site is covering more than one district or state or Union Territory, the project proponent shall make separate requests to each concerned SPCB or UTPCC for holding the public hearing as per the procedure. However, in

case it is mutually agreeable by concerned SPCB or UTPCC and the concerned District Collector it can be conducted jointly in a single sitting.

- The scope of work of each committee members may be specified with specific accountability that they may be responsible for timely disposal of application.
- Industries shall be allowed to apply for the change in product mix without impacting the overall pollution load through a simple application process.
- Once EC is granted to the project, all amendments regarding any change in the terms and conditions of Prior-EC and Prior EP, the respective SPCBs may be empowered to amend the Consent to Operate (CTO)/Consolidated Consents and Authorization (CC&A) making online application in Form-4.

*For detailed representation write to
Ms Rita Roy Choudhury at rita.roychoudhury@ficci.com

FICCI's Representation on Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Power Market) Regulations, 2020

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission published a Consultation Paper on 'Draft Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Power Market) Regulations, 2020' vide notification no. L-1/257/2020/CERC, dated 18 July 2020. FICCI, under the aegis of FICCI Power Committee, submitted a Representation to Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission on the key provisions of the proposed regulations to CERC.

The key points from FICCI's recommendations on the subject are as follows:

1) Introduction of contracts of more than 11 days on the Power Exchanges With longer tenure contracts of more than 11 days duration on the Power Exchanges, a lot of structured and transparent contracts will now be able to be executed.

2) Enabling provisions of market coupling to allow efficient utilization of transmission resources and leading to maximization of economic surplus in a multi-exchange model The proposed step will help the exchanges to concentrate on improving service qualities and offering better services than the current situation where both buyer and seller has to come to a single exchange as price engine was the most coveted tool and the choice was limited.

   This is also a step towards Market Based Economic Dispatch (MBED), once implemented will shift the complete trade towards exchange and the growth will be exponential. Commission has put that foresight into motion and has introduced MC which will also enable exchanges to now concentrate more on service delivery.

3) Ownership and Governance Structure of Power Exchange

   It is suggested to keep as per the companies act and since they are still governed under the act and it too has lots of mechanism to build a robust corporate governance structure.

4) Representation of members on the Board of Power Exchange

   There can be certain influence by the members at the board, but the members or clients of the exchange also provide deep insights of the market as well as help in different product development and therefore commission in PMR 2010 had taken cognizance of their contribution and inducted into the board but had kept certain cap to the number of directors to be included.

5) Transaction fee charged by Power Exchanges will be regulated by the commission

   CERC has to balance between its objectives of power market development, protecting the interests of the consumers but at the same time improve the business opportunities in the power exchange domain and provide regulatory certainty to the shareholders of power exchange. The cap proposed is welcome move though in a free market, the market forces will determine the fees structure, CERC may provide sufficient margin for the business to thrive and at the same time maintain the interests of the consumers. In a free market, competition should decide on the fee structure and with many players expected to provide multiple services based on IT platform, the commission may leave it to market forces. As such they are only providing advisory services and there is no great pricing power for such advisory roles, the commission may consider deleting such capping.

*For detailed representation write to
Ms Rita Roy Choudhury at rita.roychoudhury@ficci.com

FICCI Representation on Issues faced by Solar and Biomass Power Companies in Punjab & Request to constitute a Government-Industry Group to propose solutions

FICCI Renewable Energy CEOs Council had an interaction with Additional Chief Secretary, Punjab on August 5, 2020. The issues raised during the interaction was submitted as a representation for consideration on August 11, 2020. The broad issues mentioned in the representation were the following:

A) Billing / Payment
   1. Short Payment of April- June Invoices
   2. 10% Tariff deduction circular to SPDs w.e.f July 2020
   3. Meter reading not recorded for first week of April 2020

B) Grid Outage

   Unprecedented maintenance activities are being carried out by various departments in PSPCL and PSTCL during peak generation hours resulting in heavy loss of generation and revenue.

C) Punjab Open Access-Barriers as well as Solution & Provisions
   1) Barriers to Open access
   2) Solutions for Contract Demand surrendering issue

D) Canal river water charges increased by 20 times

E) Stubble Burning - The Government should come up with new plants through an effective mechanism to eliminate the stubble burning problem in Punjab without extra burden on the state exchequer.

*For detailed representation write to
Ms Rita Roy Choudhury at rita.roychoudhury@ficci.com

Submission regarding Merchandise Exports from India Scheme

FICCI has submitted to Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India, on the difficulties faced by our exporters regarding the export incentive scheme MEIS (Merchandise Exports from India Scheme) as the online system (MEIS module) has been blocked from 23 July 2020 from filing / accepting new MEIS applications for shipping bills with 'Let Export Order' (LEO) dated 1 April 2020 onwards. This has led to a lot of uncertainties regarding the present status / continuation of MEIS, and also resulted in wide-ranging speculations about the allocation as well as availability of funds under this specific export incentive scheme. The exporters typically firm up orders after factoring in the MEIS scrips benefits. Therefore, any confusion regarding the scheme's status and/or sudden, premature suspension / withdrawal of MEIS-benefits will have severely negative impact on our exports. In view of this, it was submitted that there should not be any cut in the allocation of funds for MEIS, nor there be any abrupt withdrawal / suspension of the scheme that is widely used by the exporting community. This was also submitted to Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

*For detailed representation write to
Mr Manab Majumdar at manab.majumdar@ficci.com

Representation - Import Dumping in Decorative (Décor) Papers from China

FICCI has submitted to the Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and Special Secretary & Director General, Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), Department of Commerce, regarding the dumping of Decorative (Décor) Papers from China in the Indian Market. The product is chargeable to a duty of 10% under Schedule I of the Customs Tariff Act. However, by virtue of Notification No. 50/2018 – Customs (ADD) dated 30 June, 2018, there is a concession of 29% of the duty in respect of imports under 4802 20 90, and a concession of 30% in respect of imports under 4805 91 00 and hence effective duty rate is ~ 7% - WTO bound rate for this product is 40%. Décor Papers demand in India is at ~60000 MT/annum, growing at a CAGR of 27% over last 4 years. Indian Industry meets 36% of the total demand while remaining (64%) is met through imports, of which substantial quantity is imported from China. Despite the Indian industry making capital investments to ramp up capacities for meeting domestic requirements, imports have been increasing at a much faster rate. While overall Imports have increased at a CAGR of 42% over the last 4 years, imports from China have increased at a CAGR of 56% over the last 4 years. Cheap imports from China have prevented domestic industry to cover its increasing cost of production. Further, imports command a majority share of the market (64%), while the market share of domestic producers has reduced from levels of 60% to 36%. Further, the domestic industry is operating under extremely challenging conditions with substantial quantities of Décor Papers being dumped into the country at cheap prices, especially from China and is forced to match such low prices in the market to survive.

Submission

In order to provide a level playing field to the domestic industry and make Indian industry more competitive, it is recommended that Government may kindly consider:

a. Withdrawal of concession of 29% and 30% on the import duty rate of 10% in respect of imports of Décor Papers from China under the products 48022090 and 48059100 respectively, by virtue of Notification No. 50/2018 – Customs (ADD) dated 30th June 2018.

b. Levying anti-dumping duties on imports of Décor Papers from China, so that the prices are properly aligned and eventually 'dumping' of this item is reduced / stopped.

*For detailed representation write to
Mr Manab Majumdar at manab.majumdar@ficci.com

Suggestions pertaining to North Western Railways

The following suggestions pertaining to North Western Railways was submitted to Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committee (ZRUCC)

1. The Delhi – Alwar Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) should include major industrial towns Bhiwadi, Tapukara and Khushkhera (BTK) on the route alignment as they are home to major industries and floating population.
2. The nearest station on Delhi – Mumbai Freight Corridor for Bhilwara is Kishangarh which is around 130 KM. It is suggested that Bhilwara should be connected to Kishangarh by a separate freight corridor line / terminal for faster movement of export goods and inward movement of imported goods.

*For detailed suggestions write to
Mr Atul Sharma at atul.sharma@ficci.com

Re-opening of Hotels in Delhi

Allow hotels in Delhi and their restaurants to reopen to tourists and guests with all safety protocols and guidelines for Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in place. This was submitted to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Delhi.

*For detailed inputs write to
Mr Manish Ahuja at manish.ahuja@ficci.com

FICCI's representation at the meeting with the Chambers, Trade Associations and Tourism Industry in an initiative led by Mr Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (IC)

1. FICCI has requested for few specific relief measures such as an extension of another 6 months on the moratorium for all statutory dues, restoration of the Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) scrips for duty credit of 10% to Tourism industry and the long standing request to grant infrastructure status to all hotels.
2. FICCI had also requested to create a separate Tourism fund under the aegis of Ministry of Tourism to help businesses to stabilize till Tourism gets back on track.
3. Create air travel bubble between India and other countries such as Russia and Goa
4. A national tourism policy should be issued by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India which covers common protocols for entry of a tourist into a state. This will act as a uniform guideline for all states to follow.
5. Incentivize domestic travel, appoint PR agencies abroad and brand ambassador, focus on the demand by addressing the safety concerns and build on a positive campaign.
6. Hotels should be given permission to host all kinds of banquets and

conference in the hotel, with a ceiling of 50 per cent of venue capacity and maintaining social distancing norm to allow hotels to earn revenue when other sources of income have dried up.

*For detailed representation write to
Mr Manish Ahuja at manish.ahuja@ficci.com

Letter submitted on Debt Restructuring

The letter was submitted to Chairperson, RBI, Expert Committee on Debt restructuring.

1. RBI's resolution framework: One-time rescheduling of principal and interest dues of borrowers in hospitality sector may be permitted in line with the revised estimated cash flows of each project. While the proposed capping of extension in repayment tenor is 2 years based on the assumptions on which the projections are made, if the situation does not improve as expected, a provision should be made to extend this to 3-4 years. Further, the requirement of additional provisioning should be linked to the tangible security available with lenders, viz., additional provisioning at 5% for security cover more than/equal to 1.5-Times.
2. Allow restructuring for companies that have defaulted for up to 60 days.
3. Given the current situation and the future of the hospitality industry which looks bleak, we request if banks can be mandated to reduce the interest rate of borrowing to between 7-8 per cent.
4. At the end of the tenure of the restructuring, the interest which has accumulated should be converted into a Funded Interest Term Loan (FITL) and the payment schedule of the principal will continue as scheduled over the remaining period of the loan.
5. In case of projects under implementation: The sudden nation-wide lock-down and subsequent migration of labour, etc., has seriously hindered on-going construction work of various projects. Therefore, considering for the locked-down period & the remobilization efforts, the banks/FIs may be permitted to extend the DCCO by 1 year, without treating it as restructuring (in addition to the time period already allowed).
6. Stimulus package to stabilize and support the sector in the near term, including a workforce support fund to ensure that there are no job losses. Hospitality sector being a large employment generator and worldwide, various governments are providing monetary support to the extent of 60-80 per cent of salary expenses for the next 2-3 years as a special relief to keep retrenchments/job losses at lower side.
7. Lending to MSMEs in the hospitality sector may be treated as 'Priority Sector lending', which will enable increased access to bank finance. GOI may consider supporting borrowers in the hospitality sector with payment/reimbursement of six month's interest and providing 5 per cent interest subventions for coming 2-3 years to ensure continuity in business operations/ survival of players in the hospitality sector.

*For detailed representation write to
Mr Manish Ahuja at manish.ahuja@ficci.com

Recommendations for action agenda of India-Japan Annual Summit

The Corona virus pandemic lead to a fall in the exports to Japan and disrupted the supply chains of Japanese companies. This has led to adopting de-risking strategies by companies all over the globe including Japan. Japan also declared a special incentive package to help Japanese companies shift their manufacturing bases. This provides India a unique opportunity to attract fresh Japanese investments. FICCI suggested some policies applicable for India to fuel global investments and from Japan as an integral part of future agenda for India-Japan economic relations. This was submitted to DPIIT & PMO.

*For detailed representation write to
Mr Gajendra Badgujar at gajendra.badgujar@ficci.com

Inputs for 5th India-Korea Finance Ministers meeting

Brief on issues of Indian companies for doing business in Korea and Korean investors in India was submitted to DPIIT.

*For detailed inputs write to
Mr Gajendra Badgujar at gajendra.badgujar@ficci.com

Recommendations for encouraging investments from Japan

FICCI has also been actively promoting the idea of making India an integral part of global manufacturing value chains amongst all relevant stakeholders including Japan and have conducted several virtual discussion with leading Japanese investors and companies to understand and gauge their issues and policy reforms requests for the Government of India. In this regard, through a series of discussions and deliberations held with Japanese Ambassador and heads of JETRO, JCCII on this subject, FICCI has jointly prepared a joint statement of recommendations for encouraging investments from Japan and make India a preferred destinations for both Greenfield investments from Japan and diversification of existing supply chains. This was submitted to Secretary, DPIIT.

*For detailed recommendation write to
Mr Gajendra Badgujar at gajendra.badgujar@ficci.com

Note for Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Capital Goods Industry

The capital goods sector is of strategic importance in enabling robust manufacturing sector growth, contributing to 12 per cent which translates to 2 per cent of GDP. It employs around 1.4 million people directly and around 7 million people indirectly. Importantly, the sector has a significant multiplier effect on overall economic growth as it provides the foundational building blocks for a large number of user industries by providing critical inputs. The Indian capital goods sector has grown at the 'business-as-usual' pace in the past, hampered by various technological & economical issues. Targeting net zero trade deficit in capital goods will add another 0.8-0.9 per cent to the GDP, bring down import bill by $20-25 billion, and could generate four lakh direct jobs, and total of 40 lakh jobs. Therefore, there is a need of Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Capital Goods Sector as well by providing financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing & invest in required infrastructure to compete globally. This was submitted to Mr Sanjay Chavre, Senior Development Officer, Department of Heavy Industry, Government of India.

*For detailed note write to
Mr Chetan Bijesure at chetan.bijesure@ficci.com

Commercial Credit Card Program for B2B payments

The government has taken many recent measures to boost liquidity of the MSME sector. A mid- to- large sized corporate purchases goods and/or services from a MSME supplier. The supplier raises an invoice on the corporate, and usually the B2B purchase involves a deferred payment term (i.e., payment post 30-90 days from the date of invoice) negotiated by the buyer with the supplier. In the real world these B2B payments are further delayed for different reasons, creating a financial stress in the supply chain for the MSMEs. In order to tackle this problem an innovative solution could be the commercial credit card program. By subscribing to a commercial credit card program of a bank, the corporate can make an early invoice payment by leveraging the bank credit in lieu of the trade credit from the supplier. Advantages of Targeted Commercial Credit Card Program For MSME supplier include, early settlements of invoice dues from large corporate buyers (mitigates the pain of delayed payments for MSME), reduced cost of working capital and improved liquidity coupled with transparency of digital payment solution (mitigates the pain of access to bank credit for business expansion needs) and competitive 'off balance sheet' finance alternative as commercial credit card receivables are without recourse in case of a buyer default on the card program (mitigates the pain of placing large collaterals to get finance).

The advantage for banks include increased penetration of digital payments in the B2B payment space leading to improved visibility to the MSME B2B flows and another avenue to meet their obligations under PSL norms and to increase their participation in the MSME growth story.

Feasibility of inclusion of a commercial credit card program involving B2B payments by a corporate to a MSME supplier of goods and/or services for Priority Sector Lending (PSL) can be examined by the government. This was submitted to Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Secretary, Financial Services.

*For detailed note write to
Mr Anshuman Khanna at anshuman.khanna@ficci.com

Post Pandemic Recovery - Recommendations for Paperless Financial Onboarding

A meeting on FinTech related issues was held today on 24.08.2020 at 3:00 PM through Video Conferencing. The meeting was chaired by Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME. On behalf of FICCI, Mr Adhil Shetty, Co-Chairman, FICCI Fintech Committee & Founder & CEO, Bank Bazaar gave some suggestions relating to the subject of digital onboarding of customers for delivery of financial services.

FICCI has suggested that for promoting growth of the fintech industry there is a need for regulatory support with regard to Video-KYC, Central-KYC and E-KYC. While industry appreciates introduction of the Video-based Customer Identification Process (VCIP), and allowing digitally signed valid documents sourced through Digi-Locker or an issuing authority as 'equivalent e-document' for KYC related purposes, in a post-COVID world, there is an immediate need to move to a completely digital, paperless, and presence-less process of conducting customer due diligence for all regulated entities thereby doing away with the need of conducting face-to-face customer meetings and verification. FICCI suggests that to scale up video KYC process, customer can be required to read out a One Time Code flashed on the video KYC screen on a real time basis thereby confirming that the video KYC is live and not pre-recorded, and bank official reviews and approves video files on batch basis versus in real time thereby significantly increasing productivity. FICCI has also suggested that an explicit mention by RBI is required in Master KYC Directions to the effect that CKYC Registry API level checks combined with enhanced due diligence measures i.e. the first payment is to be effected through the customer's KYC complied account with another RE, should be considered as full KYC by all REs. Further, pursuant to MoF notification dated May 9, 2019, any non-banking RE that applies to UIDAI through its concerned regulator and meets with the prescribed requirements should be notified as an entity allowed to use the E-KYC facility. This was submitted to Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner (MSME), Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

*For detailed recommendation write to
Mr Anshuman Khanna at anshuman.khanna@ficci.com

FICCI's suggestions for economic recovery (NECM)

President FICCI highlighted some immediate priorities for consideration of the Finance Minister -

- Creation of a COVID-19 liquidity bridge to support restructuring / additional loan requirement of mid-sized and large companies whose balance sheets have impaired due to COVID.
- Encourage banks to do a one-time restructuring of debt for companies with a right to recompense later.
- Some of the most battered sectors such as tourism and hospitality, aviation, retail and healthcare are under - or un-provided for. She emphasized on the dire need for undiluted support just as is the case in many other countries.
- While Income Tax refunds have started, Government may consider issuance of a tax refund certificate to offset any government dues.
- Despite significant steps announced both by the Government and the Reserve bank of India, liquidity remains a key concern for businesses. Banks remains extremely cautious.
- It is important that emergency credit line guarantee scheme (ECLGS) reaches to deserving MSMEs. According to the TransUnion CIBIL analysis, almost 81 per cent of eligible MSMEs in ECLGS are structurally strong. It is critical to find and fund these MSMEs that are structurally strong to refuel Indian economy.
- Set up a Development Finance Institution for providing finance at competitive rates to industrial sector. Consider using some part of forex reserves for such funding.

*For detailed note write to
Mr Anshuman Khanna at anshuman.khanna@ficci.com

FICCI's suggestions for improving competitiveness of Indian industry

President and Senior FICCI members met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on 14 August. They presented some key suggestions for improving the competitiveness of Indian industry, which is the key to realizing the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat. These included - Launch a National Level Campaign to rebuild confidence:

Undoing start-stop approach to lockdowns

- Stimulating demand through Direct Money Transfers, Front loading Infrastructure Expenditure

- Extension of Easing of Working Capital Financing
- Increase Permissible Loan to value ratio against pledge of gold ornaments and jewellery for NBFCs: The recent announcement made by the Reserve Bank of India pertaining to increase in the permissible loan to value ratio for loans against pledge of gold ornaments and jewellery for non-agricultural purposes from 75 per cent to 90 per cent is a positive and will certainly ensure greater support to households, entrepreneurs and small businesses. However, as of now this scheme can only be executed by Scheduled Commercial Banks. Since NBFCs have the maximum outreach in extending credit to semi urban/rural areas, the scheme should be extended to NBFCs as well.
- Continue nurturing the agriculture sector, which is the only bright spot at present.
- Re-start the Services Sector. The Government should come out with a support package for sectors such as tourism, aviation, hospitality, retail, health and wellness
- The Government can look at leveraging Ayushman Bharat by increasing the coverage to 90 crore people instead of the present 50 crores.
- Maintaining India's Export Competitiveness by continuing the MEIS scheme, ensuring that exchange rate doesn't appreciate on REER basis.
- Reduce the pace of import dependence by calibrating it with our domestic manufacturing. Begin by identifying clusters (especially those with proximity to ports) across country and map products where import substitution can be executed easily like toys, furniture, electronics etc.
- Begin with Atmanirbhar Bharat through API Policy by creating a single window clearance system for establishing an API manufacturing unit in India for all licences, expanding the policy to include exports, launching financial incentives for investments and R&D, accelerating planned investments in infrastructure for 'bulk drug parks', simplifying regulatory pathways by reducing complexity in approval process and creating a stable and supportive regulatory environment for the industry.
- Bringing reforms in factors of production, especially through implementation of open access in power, ensuring affordable cost of capital by establishing development finance institution for industry, fixing NBFCs.
- For ease of doing business, Government must review various compliances requirements and limit the same to ones that are absolutely essential.
- Undertake judicial reforms

*For detailed note write to
Mr Anshuman Khanna at anshuman.khanna@ficci.com

Issues related to pending payment from Government and Issues faced in Bank Financing

Some of FICCI members had raised issues with regard to pending payments from the government/bank financing related concerns. Specific details were collated on the unresolved concerns/unsettled claims and shared with the Finance Ministry. In addition to the detailed company wise list of pending payments and bank financing issues, FICCI also shared some other issues with the Finance Minister, namely -

(i) In respect of working capital facilities sanctioned in the form of CC/OD to borrowers, the Reserve Bank of India, had permitted lending institutions to recalculate the 'drawing power' by reducing the margins and/ or by reassessing the working capital cycle. This was initially permitted till May 31, 2020 and was later extended until August 31, 2020. The announcement has really helped corporate India in terms of easing out the working capital situation. Request was made for extension of this scheme till March 31, 2021.

(ii) As part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package a series of relief measures were announced by the Government in May 2020 – which is truly appreciated. The package included two significant support measures for contractors - Extension of up to 6 months (without costs to contractor) to be provided by all Central Agencies and Government agencies to partially release bank guarantees, to the extent contracts are partially completed, to ease cash flows. However, some of the state Governments/State utilities are not complying with this order and bank guarantee to the extent of project completion is not being released. Request was made to issue a suitable notification by the Ministry of Finance to the state Governments/Utilities to pass on the benefits to the contractors in letter and spirit.

*For detailed note write to
Mr Anshuman Khanna at anshuman.khanna@ficci.com

FICCI's Submission on OTR scheme

The Reserve Bank of India announced the One Time Restructuring scheme on August 6, 2020, but broad contours of the scheme indicate a somewhat restricted approach. By laying down strict eligibility criteria for the scheme and by setting deadlines for the various phases of the restructuring plan, the operational freedom of the players seems to have been restrained. FICCI has made some suggestions in this regard -

- Support should be made available for restructured accounts which have already been classified as NPAs. The provisioning should not be impacted, but the benefit of restructuring should be made available.
- Potentially viable accounts having a default of more than 30 days may not be able to service their account to remain standard before the invocation, therefore such accounts must be given additional 30 days, which is 60 days from September 1, 2020.
- In cases where the closure has not been completed for reasons beyond the control of lenders and the party, the lender may be allowed to extend the window for further two months maximum.
- Lenders may be given due flexibility to decide coupon & amortization schedule of non-convertible debt securities in line with expected cash flows, keeping overall yield of such securities similar to term loan.
- In case the Resolution Plan could not be closed within the aforementioned timelines for reasons beyond the control of the corporate or the lender, the latter may be permitted to extent the window for implementation by another 90 days with the approval of the consortium.

- While NBFCs, like banks, can extend the restructuring window to their customers, they are not allowed to avail the restructuring mechanism from their lenders, primarily the banks. The lender should support the NBFCs at least to the extent of loans restructured by the latter.

*For detailed note write to
Mr Anshuman Khanna at anshuman.khanna@ficci.com

RBI notification dated 06.08.2020 titled Loans against Gold Ornaments and Jewellery for Non-Agricultural End Uses

The RBI notification inadvertently left out the entire category of Gold Loan NBFC's addressing only All Scheduled Commercial Banks, including Regional Rural Banks. It is therefore requested to RBI to revise the omission through an appropriate corrigendum.

*For detailed note write to
Mr Anshuman Khanna at anshuman.khanna@ficci.com

Submission from FICCI on the NBFC Sector

Based on the recent assessments the FICCI NBFC Committee, the following suggestions have been submitted to the RBI Governor; Secretary, DFS and Secretary, Economic Affairs:

1. Liquidity enhancement measures - To consider a separate direct line of credit for non-bank lenders at a pre-fixed rate; extend the tenure of special liquidity scheme to at least 1 year; encourage banks to lend to NBFCs in ordinary course and not only under special circumstances.
2. Relief to NBFCs under One-time restructuring scheme - NBFC on their borrowings from banks may also be allowed to be restructured under the onetime restructuring scheme.
3. Reduce cost of borrowing by not charging any fees for credit lines for NBFC.
4. Accounting treatments be modified for NBFCs.
5. Deferment/modifications of certain provisions contained in RBI circular dated March 13, 2020 regarding implementation of Indian Accounting Standards or INDAS.
6. Request to allow sale to ARC by NBFCs/HFCs under SARFESI as true sale.

*For detailed note write to
Mr Anshuman Khanna at anshuman.khanna@ficci.com

Pre-Packaged & Pre-arranged insolvency resolution processes and the new framework for MSMEs

Post the interaction with Dr Sahoo, Chairman IBBI, FICCI has made a comprehensive submission on the framework for insolvency resolution of MSMEs as well as pre-packs. FICCI has also suggested that both the pre-pack framework and the MSME framework should be placed for public comments prior to notification as they will impact all businesses in the country. Public consultations on these frameworks will ensure that the regulatory changes meet the needs of all businesses.

*For detailed note write to
Ms Abha Seth at abha.seth@ficci.com

Overseas Listing by Indian Companies

FICCI has submitted that awaiting finalization of regulatory framework, permission be granted to convert existing Global/American Depositories Receipts of Indian companies into equity shares. Companies which have issued Depository Receipts in the past have cleared scrutiny of the Regulator and are already listed on overseas stock exchanges and thus could be allowed to convert their Depository Receipts into shares in the first instance. This suggestion can be immediately implemented through an ordinance.

*For detailed note write to
Ms Abha Seth at abha.seth@ficci.com

Practical difficulties related to Form PAS-6 (for filing Reconciliation of Share Capital Audit Report)

Based on representations received from members, FICCI has submitted practical challenges w.r.t. filing of Form PAS 6 on Reconciliation of Share Capital Audit Report. These relate to the period for which the Form is to be filed, number of forms required to be filed, securities to be covered, applicability in case company has become an exempted company and so on.

*For detailed note write to
Ms Abha Seth at abha.seth@ficci.com

FICCI Suggestions on implementation of barcode/QR code on packaging of drugs

The following FICCI suggestions on implementation of barcode/QR code on packaging of drugs was submitted to Joint Secretary, MoH & FW:

1. Allow the implementation of QR code guidelines under the aegis of single ministry/agency:

   The main concern currently is existence of multiple and overlapping regulations and different technologies that have been issued or are being proposed by various Government Ministries/Departments. This leads to confusion during implementation and causes delays.

2. Technical Capabilities and Infrastructure:

   Given that multiple technologies may be available for this, we suggest that these technologies are examined thoroughly. The capability of last point in the value chain should also be assessed to adopt the technology.

3. Sufficient time-gap should be provided for smooth & easier implementation of QR codes. There should be a one-time price revision allowed for both Schedule and Non-Schedule drugs to allow industry to recover the investments in this new technology.

   We further request that a roadmap for implementation of bar code/QR code be prepared and a 1-1.5 years from the date of notification must be provided to industry for smoother execution especially taking into consideration the COVID 19 pandemic.

4. Space constricts on the labels due to amendment of rules related to labelling norms to avoid repetition/duplication on packs.

   Suggestion: rationalization of the information requirements on the labels should be considered to take away some of the information. To avoid duplication/repetition of labels on the pack sizes, the D&C rules should be amended as per the need to include QR codes.

5. Imported products- For the product imported from other countries,

the labels includes 2D bar codes as per regulatory requirements of exporting country, the additional bar code may create confusion hence flexibility should be provided to use the bar code from exporting countries as well.

*For detailed note write to
Mr Praveen Mittal at praveen.mittal@ficci.com

FICCI Inputs on NLEM Revision

The following overall inputs/comments were submitted to Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM):

- The revision of the NLEM should be delayed until Q1 2020 because of the COVID pandemic that has caused an unprecedented impact on the industry. China origin API and KSM's prices are very volatile. New products in the list will create affordability challenges and hence availability will be impacted.
- Currently, when the industry is struggling to keep the supply chain intact, the NLEM revision process is a significant distraction.
- As per the Supreme Court order, products in the essential list should get into price control – hence delay needs to happen at ICMR/SNCM level.

Process issues:

- The list should be limited to the specified strengths and dosages as envisaged in the WHO EDL and the NPPP 2012
- Essentiality should be the 'sole' criteria for the revision of the NLEM. Popularity/sales are not equal to essentiality.
- The revision should be approached to select the most optimum number of drugs that can cater to the maximum healthcare needs of the wider population.
- Appreciate this therapeutic wise consultation and seek similar consultation for other therapies. Reasonable time should be given for getting the right experts to join stakeholder consultation.
- Size of the addressable patient base should be a key criterion – drugs that are indicated for niche population segments and require specific genetic markers should not be in the NLEM.
- Antibiotics that have lost efficacy must be removed (Piperacillin -Tazobactam)
- Endangered Antibiotics that are rapidly losing efficacy and will become ineffective if included must not be included (carbapenems)
- WHO definition of WATCH category antibiotics – medicines for limited infections and having higher resistance potential must be heeded and considered for any inclusion/exclusion decision

*For detailed note write to
Mr Praveen Mittal at praveen.mittal@ficci.com

Medical Value Travel: Sector proposal submission to MoH&FW (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) under Champion Services sector scheme

Under the Champion services scheme, MVT sector services have been allocated a said outlay budget, for the development and promotion of the sector. FICCI MVT Committee submitted a draft proposal to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, under various sub-heads for the utilization of the committed outlay for the sector under the scheme.

*For detailed note write to
Mr Praveen Mittal at praveen.mittal@ficci.com

Recommendation Note- Amendments in D&C Act, 1940

A sub-committee was formed by the Ministry of AYUSH on evaluation of the amendments in the proposed Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. A meeting of the said sub-committee was held on 13 August 2020, wherein recommendation on the given amendment in the D&C Act were requested from the members. FICCI AYUSH Committee submitted recommendation note prepared on AYUSH specific amendments in D&C Act 1940 in consultation with members of Committee and AYUSH industry associations

*For detailed note write to
Mr Praveen Mittal at praveen.mittal@ficci.com

Unlock 4.0 Recommendation for Sport Sector

The following industry recommendations from Sports & Youth sector was submitted to MHA:

- Clear guidelines necessary for organizing sports camps and staging competitions / events. Special provisions necessary for travel, stay and quarantine of international players participating in events.
- Based on risk involved in spread of the infection, the sports should be classified into different categories as follows:
  a) **No risk**: No physical contact. Shooting, racquet games (Badminton and Tennis), all track and field events (Running, Shot Put, Javelin, etc.), volleyball, cricket, archery, etc.
  b) **Low Risk**: Limited physical contact. Football, handball, Hockey, etc.
  c) **Mid-High Risk**: Physical contact and common resource. Wrestling, boxing, kabaddi, swimming, judo, etc.
- No risk or Low Risk: Games with minimal physical contact and where large number of spectators are not required can start in Unlock 4.0 while utilizing one-third capacity of infrastructure.
- Strict adherence to SOPs and sanitization norms & players/staffs should go through regular COVID-19 tests. Some gap can be maintained in terms of organizing events at same venue or same player's participation in consecutive games.
- Gradually, complying with SOPs and observing stringent safety norms, the mid risk games could also be allowed to resume.
- Sports training facilities, located in cities where the COVID-19 rate is declining & those tier 2 & 3 corona free cities should be allowed to restart in Unlock 4.0 with strict adherence to SOPs and every human resource going through the COVID-19 test, as required.
- To enable the nation, maintain healthy lifestyle, increase immunity, sports retailers should be facilitated to ensure uninterrupted supply of sports and fitness products. This enables the sports retailers deliver indoors sport/fitness products in districts still categorized as containment zones and districts under lockdown.

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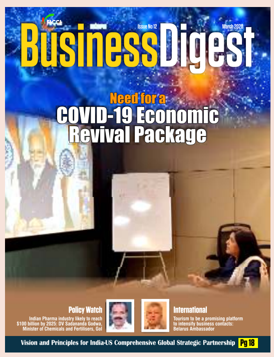

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