

Shri U P Singh, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India visits India Expo Centre & Mart



New Delhi; 28th July 2021 | Shri U P Singh, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India visited India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida to have an overview of the handicraft sector, see the Mart facilities and also discuss various issues/suggestions pertaining to handicrafts sector.

He was welcomed by Mr. Raj Kumar Malhotra, Chairman, EPCH; Thi interactive session was attended by Mr. Kamal Soni, Vice-Chairman-EPCH; Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General-EPCH & Chairman-IEML; Mr. Ravi K Passi - immediate Past Chairman, EPCH, along with prominent exporters from

Moradabad, Agra, Jaipur, Firozabad, Khurja, and Delhi NCR like Mr. Arshad Mir, Chairman, HCSSC; Mr. Nabeel Ahmed, Member-COA; Mr. Avdesh Aggarwal, General Secretary, Moradabad Handicrafts Exporters Association; Mr. Rajat Asthana, President, Handicrafts Exporters Association, Agra; Mr. Prince Malik, Convenor, FASCO; Mr. Lekhraj Maheshwari, Member COA, EPCH & Convenor NWR; Mr. Rajesh Jain, Social Media Head-EPCH; Mr. Hari Dadoo from Khurja; Mr. Lali Sahni from Delhi; Smt. Anu Dhall from Moradabad; Mr. Hari Dadoo from Khurja; Mr. Rajendra Gupta from Firozabad; Mr. Ashok Arora,

Mr. Tafsir Ahmed, Mr. Vineet Bhatia and others. Prominent exporters from Nagaland, Narsapur, Bangalore, Jaipur, Moradabad, Jodhpur, Mumbai and Barmer like, Ms. Jesmina Zeliang from Nagaland; Ms. Dileep Baid from Jaipur; Mr. K N Tulasi Rao from Narsapur; Mr. K L Ramesh from Bangalore; Mr. Hansraj Baheti, Mr. Bharat Dinesh and Mr. Naresh Bothra from Jodhpur; Mr. Neeraj Khanna and Mr. Najmul Islam from Moradabad; Mr. Ashok Boob, Mr. Pradeep Mucchala and Karan Jethwani from Mumbai; and Smt. Ruma Devi from Barmer interacted virtually.

Mr. Raj Kumar Malhotra, Chairman, EPCH, updated the Secretary Textiles, on the journey of EPCH over the last 35 years and also shared the export performance of the sector. Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Director General-EPCH & Chairman-IEML, in his address, gave an overview of the activities and initiatives of India Expo Centre & Mart and EPCH and moderating the entire interactive session, requested the Secretary Textiles to intervene in resolving various issues related to the handicrafts sector and also sought his time in future with his officials for a presentation to discuss doubling of handicrafts exports from current level of Rs. 25,000 crores to Rs. 50,000 crores in next three years.

The exporters raised various issues like restoration of provision of duty-free import of essential embellishments, trimmings, tools consumables for export purposes for the handicrafts sector; high freight charges for containers; establishment of regulatory body of shipping lines; early

release of MEIS benefits; announcement of RoDTEP rates; Policy for B2B ecommerce, warehousing facility, Risky Exporters' list, EGM error and others.

Mr. Avdesh Agarwal from Moradabad raised the issue of RoDTEP rates, release of MEIS benefits, matter regarding risky exporters list and requested for consideration of handicraft sector under textiles category by Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and high container freight charges. Mr. Naresh Bothra and Mr. Bharat Dinesh from Jodhpur as well as Mr. Rajesh Jain from Delhi also raised the same issues. Mr. Dileep Baid from Jaipur raised the issue of B2B E-Commerce policy framework and need for warehousing in overseas markets. Mr. Lali Sahni from Delhi and Smt. Anu Dhall from Moradabad raised the issue of importance of technology intervention in the handicraft sector. Ms. Ruma Devi from Barmer requested for distribution of tools to the artisans at Barmer. Ms. Jemina Zeliang from Nagaland raised the issue of capacity building and design intervention in North-Eastern Region, Mr. Najmul Islam and Mr. Neeraj Khanna from Moradabad spoke about the CSR initiatives taken during pandemic at Moradabad. Mr. Rajat Asthana from Agra raised the issue of EGM error while shipping of Goods.

The Secretary (Textiles) patiently heard all the issues of exporters and assured to take up the issues with concerned departments for early resolution and hoped the handicraft sector with all its hard work would be able to achieve quantum jump in handicrafts exports in the future. ■