

Open House Meet with Dr. Rahul Khullar, IAS, Commerce Secretary, Government of India - September 17, 2009



Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) in association with Federation of Indian Export Organization (FIEO, Karnataka Chapter), FKCCI and VITC organized an Open House Meet with Dr. Rahul Khullar, IAS, Commerce Secretary, Government of India and Mr. R S Gujral, IAS, Director General, Foreign Trade on Thursday, September 17, 2009.

The objective of the Open House Meet was mainly to discuss on the New Foreign Trade Policy and also the issues faced by the exporters viz-a-viz the Customs and Central Excise.

Mr. K R Girish, President represented the Chamber at the Open House Meet.

In his key note address, the Commerce Secretary said that India's export had contracted by 31.3% during the period April – August 2009-10 i.e. to 63.9 \$m as against 93.1 \$m in the same period last year in view of the demand weakened traditional markets such as US, European Union and Japan.

He said in view of the current piquant situation, the Government is constrained not to give any sops and concession to the exporters and hopefully if the situation improves they may revisit on this issue in the next financial year. He appealed to the industries to use this downturn as an opportunity to invest and look forward to diversified markets and enhance their product base.

The Director General of Foreign Trade, Mr. R S Gujral along with Dr. Rahul Khullar answered several queries raised by the participants at the Open House Meet. Delivering his concluding remarks and Vote of Thanks, Mr. K R Girish appealed to the Union Government to take a sympathetic look towards extending tax benefits under Section 10A which is going to expire as on March 31, 2009 for another period of 3 years.

He also requested Government to come out with detailed guidelines on the following issues.

- a) Deemed benefits to the exporters
- b) Shifting of IEC Code (Practical difficulties)
- c) SEZ Regulations, Single Window Clearance, etc.,

He also thanked FIEO for giving the Chamber an opportunity to jointly associate to this event and proposed a hearty Vote of Thanks to Dr. Khullar, Mr. Gujral and other participants.