



EEPC REGIONAL AWARD PRESENTATION FOR 2012-13

NORTHERN REGION, Delhi

September 15, 2014

Address by Mr. Anupam Shah, National Chairman, EEPC INDIA

Shri Pravir Kumar, Director General Foreign Trade

Shri Ravi Capoor, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce

Shri Pradeep Agarwal,

Shri Gunit S. Rana,

Shri Bhaskar Sarkar,

Fellow Exporters,

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you, Mr. Agarwal, for your warm words of welcome. I am glad to be present here on the occasion of the 44th EEPC INDIA Northern Regional Award for Export Excellence for the year 2012-13. May I also welcome our Chief Guest, Shri Pravir Kumar for his gracious presence on this auspicious occasion and profusely thank him for kindly acceding to our request to present the Awards to the member exporters of the Council from the Northern Region. A very warm welcome to Shri Capoor who is a friend, philosopher and guide to EEPC India.

At the outset, let me congratulate the Award winners for their achievements for the year 2012-13. It is the success of the winners that makes us a premier trade facilitating institution. The achievers are our real strength and I hope that this illustrious legacy will continue in the years to come. The EEPC Export Excellence Award, be it at the Regional Levels or at the National Level, is an extremely competitive selection process and therefore a coveted award that can only be earned by the bravest of the member exporter through sheer hard work.

Often when I interact with fellow members and listen to the challenges they face, I am reminded of the famous story of **Jonathan Livingstone Seagull**. This is the story of a seagull that is bored with the daily squabbles over food. Seized by a passion for flight, he pushes himself, learning everything he can about flying, until finally his unwillingness to conform results in his expulsion from his flock. An outcast, he continues to learn, becoming increasingly pleased with his abilities as he leads a peaceful and happy life.

One day, Jonathan meets two gulls that take him to a "higher plane of existence" in that there is no heaven but a better world found through perfection of knowledge. There he meets other gulls that love to fly. He discovers that his sheer tenacity and desire to learn makes him "pretty well a one-in-a-million bird."

In this new place, Jonathan befriends the wisest gull, Chiang, who takes him beyond his previous learning, teaching him how to move from one place to another instantaneously anywhere in the Universe. The secret, Chiang says, is to "begin by knowing that you have already arrived."

Not satisfied with his new life, Jonathan returns to Earth to find others like him, to bring them his learning and to spread his love for flight. His mission is successful, gathering around him others who have been outlawed for not conforming. Ultimately, the very first of his students, Fletcher Lynd Seagull, becomes a teacher in his own right and Jonathan leaves to teach other flocks.

We exporters are like Jonathan Livingstone Seagull. We are always restless and looking to take our products and our country to a "higher plane of existence". We want to be the best in the world and aspire to fly all over the globe. We seek freedom to do just that!

Today's Award Ceremony is in that sense a celebration of the indomitable spirit of my fellow member exporters in general and the award winners in particular. While we celebrate we must also contemplate on how we can reach the "higher plane of existence". Friends for long our country has been a "follower" in technology producing "me too" products. We as a nation need to contemplate on what enablers are needed for India to be a hot-bed of innovation to become leader in technology in times to come to fulfill the aspiration of the people of this great nation.

Let me now turn to some brass-tacks. The current macroeconomic situation brings with it considerable optimism. The economy has crossed the sub 5% growth for the first time in the last two and half years. Quarterly GDP at factor cost at constant (2004-2005) prices for the first quarter of 2014 was estimated at Rs 14.38 lakh crore, as against Rs 13.61 lakh crore in first quarter of 2013-14, showing a growth rate of 5.7% over the corresponding quarter of previous year. The new Government has initiated some measures to kick-start the growth process. There is also some comfort on the balance of trade front. The trade deficit for April-July, 2014-15 was US \$ 45.31 billion, which is lower than the deficit of US \$ 59.91 billion during April-July, 2013-14.

This turnaround for India's Engineering Exports is indeed remarkable considering that our engineering exports fell by 3% to USD 56.79 in 2012-13 as compared to USD 58.55 billion in 2011-2012. Engineering exports began its revival in 2013-14, when our exports crossed USD 60 billion to touch USD 61.62 billion recording a growth of 8.51% in the last fiscal. In current fiscal too, our exports in the first five months have been buoyant and we hope to be in the vicinity of USD 70 billion for 2014-15.

Friends, trade acts as the main engine of growth and so if we fail to invest in boosting our exports, we will continue to remain constrained by the vicissitudes of global capital flows. The new Government is expected to announce its Foreign Trade Policy soon and that would enable us to understand the focus of the new Government with regard to trade policy.

EEPC India has been advocating progressive measures that should be incorporated as part of our national trade policy. EEPC India is willing to walk the extra mile with you so that we can succeed in promoting exports in a big way. I am glad to inform you that India has accepted the invitation to be the Partner Country at the Hannover Fair in 2015 where our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi along with Vice-Chancellor Madam Merkel of Germany will inaugurate the fair. EEPC India has been honored with the responsibility of "Lead Agency" for this grand occasion. We will also be hosting the IESS IV in Mumbai during December 16-18, 2014 along with Hannover Fair as a partner. I do believe that under the dynamic and inspiring leadership of Shri Modi India has the ability to meet the challenges of the future and we can certainly look to a bright future for our people.

With these words, may I congratulate the award winners, once again, and wish you all the very best.

Thank you.

