

Resource-rich Jharkhand looks at boosting exports



LEFT: Mr Debashish Gupta, Development Commissioner, Govt of Jharkhand Chief Guest delivering his address. Seated from left Mrs Debdatta Nandwani, Dy. Director General, FIEO (ER); Mr A P Singh, Principal Secretary, Dept. of Industries, Govt. of Jharkhand; Mr Sanjeev Nandwani, Development Commissioner, SEZ(E&NE); Mr M S Hasan, Adl. Commissioner, Customs, Patna; Mr H C Ghosh, ADGFT, Cuttack; and Mrs Tapasi De, Regional Manager, ECGC Kolkata. **RIGHT:** A view of the participants.

FIEO organized an Export Awareness Workshop in association with the Industries Department, Jharkhand, on May 30, 2012 at Ranchi. The aim of the workshop was to familiarize exporters and IEC holders with the service provided by various facilitatory agencies, including the Office of ZJDGFT, Customs, ECGC and FIEO.

The workshop is in keeping with Jharkhand and FIEO's objective to act as catalysts for improving the growth of exports from the State. The products which have been identified for exports from Jharkhand are auto parts, processed food and vegetables, handicrafts and handlooms. The Industries Department was also keen that FIEO take an active role in this region and as a part of this objective has also allotted office space at the Ranchi Area Industrial Development Authority (RIADA) Bhavan at Namkum.

The Office of ZJDGFT, Kolkata, Customs Commissionerate, Patna, ECGC and FIEO presented services provided by their bodies to the nearly 116 delegates who too part in the workshop. These also included members of the press.

The chief guest was Mr Debashish Gupta, Development Commissioner, Government of Jharkhand and the guest of honour was Mr Sanjeev Nandwani, Development Commissioner, SEZ (E&NE), Government of India.

Initiating the workshop, Mrs Debdatta Nandwani, Dy. Director General (Eastern Region) provided a brief overview of the services of FIEO and welcomed the chief guest and the guest of honour to the occasion.

Mr A.P. Singh, Director of Industries, Government of Jharkhand, in his address stated that the Government of Jharkhand was committed to developing industries in Jharkhand. Providing a brief outline, he stated that in industry, houses such as Essar, AV Birla etc have already set up IT hubs in addition to an STPI which is already based at Ranchi. Presently, an SEZ which is being set up in Jamshedpur on 90 acres of land is awaiting the Centre's clearance from the Forest Department. Jharkhand's steel production, at 13 million tonnes, is the second highest in India. In addition, cement and aluminium industries are also based in Jharkhand and are doing well.

Jharkhand is also focusing on development and promotion of handicrafts and handlooms through Jharcraft an autonomous body under the Department of Industries. Jharcraft has registered organic silk internationally which has evinced interest from several buyers and is presently being exported to Germany. Some countries, including China, have evinced interest in importing the same from Jharcraft.

The present focus of the Jharkhand Industries Department is to develop industrial clusters and parks. This they do by inviting investment in PPP model from industrialists based all over India.

Mr Gupta, the chief guest, provided an overview of the focus of the State for development of industries. He stressed on the need for more focus on export industries from Jharkhand and welcomed FIEO's initiative in setting up an office for promotion of exports from the state and providing the necessary facilitatory services to exporters. He expressed hope that the office provided by Jharkhand to FIEO will be activated soon.

Mr Sanjeev Nandwani provided a brief

background of the export focus of India, stating that though the focus of O/o DGFT was earlier in controlling import and exports from India, it has now changed to being that of a facilitatory organization. He said the SEZ Act is now undergoing changes and will be announced soon taking into consideration factors like land, skilled and unskilled workers, and infrastructure. He also briefly outlined the origin and role of WTO and anti-dumping duty among others.

The policy session commenced with a brief presentation by Mr H.C. Ghosh, ADGFT, Cuttack, on the role and functions of DGFT and the benefits under Foreign Trade Policy, followed by a presentation by Mr M.S. Hasan, Addl Commissioner, Customs, Patna, who provided an overview of the services rendered and documentation require-

ments for export and import of goods and the e-billing and payment system through the Icegate site.

The session ended with an overview of the SEZ Act and rules for setting up an SEZ, by Mr Sanjeev Nandwani.

In the technical session, the role of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation was provided by Mrs Tapasi De, DGM & Regional Manager, ECGC, followed by an overview by Mr Arun Khemka, President, Jharkhand Small Industries Association, Ranchi, on the state of industry in Jharkhand. He added that an organization like FIEO should be helpful in acting as a catalyst for facilitating with various related organizations which was required urgently in order to sensitize the related organization on the importance of exports and

employment generation from the state.

The last presentation on FIEO delivered by Mr P.T. Srinath, Dy. Director, FIEO (Eastern Region) dwelt on the facilitatory services provided by FIEO and the recent tie-up with e-Bay from promotion and sale of items online which was useful for micro and small enterprises.

The sessions were followed by a lively and active interactive session where the entrepreneurs desired to know more about the services provided by the related organizations.

Mrs Debdatta Nandwani delivered the vote of thanks. She thanked the Department of Industries, Jharkhand, for organizing the workshop and for the pro-active steps taken by them in providing office space to FIEO. ■