



एस. रमेश

अध्यक्ष

S. Ramesh

Chairman



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10th August, 2018

Dear *Colleagues,*

As you are aware, the 29th meeting of the GST Council was held on 4th August, 2018. This special meeting was aimed to discuss the issues of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and a Group of Ministers for matters pertaining to this sector has been formed. In fact, the MSME sector is the biggest employer after agriculture sector in the country and the Government has always been attentive to the difficulties faced by them. That being so, I would urge the Zonal Chief Commissioners to take this opportunity to highlight the facilitation measures extended for the benefit of the MSME sector. They are also requested to continue handholding and addressing the issues faced by this sector.

I am happy to inform that another initiative of CBIC in streamlining HR management will become operational with implementation of NIC's eOffice Lite (SPARROW, PIMS) for Group B and C cadres. SPARROW will enable online filing of APARs and IPRs as well as online storage of scanned copies of old APARs, while PIMS will enable management of all relevant personnel information. Chief Commissioners/Directors General are expected to coordinate with eOffice team in DGHRD to ensure smooth rollout, by March 2019, and subsequent management of eOffice Lite. I congratulate all officers and staff of DGHRD for this staff welfare measure.

The threshold monetary limits for filing Departmental Appeals in Central Excise and Service Tax cases have been enhanced as a measure of Tax payer facilitation. In pursuance of the same, I am sure all Zones would have taken

action by now to file the requisite applications in the various appellate fora for the withdrawal of pending appeals that are below monetary limits as specified *vide* instruction dated 11th July, 2018. I hope the process of filing the requisite applications is complete as we intend to complete the withdrawals by 10th September, 2018.

I am glad to inform that, the papers titled "*Using AI for Hybrid Risk Management and Facilitation in Customs Tax administration*" by Shri Suvir Misra, ADG Systems, Mumbai and Shri Anish Upadhyay, DD, Systems, Mumbai, as well as "*An assesement of Behavioural response of importers to Trade Facilitation initiatives*" by Shri V. S. Chauhan, Commissioner, Nhava Sheva have been selected for the 13th WCO PICARD Conference, 2018 at Turkey. I congratulate the officers on their pioneering achievement.

LIMBS (Legal Information Management and Briefing System) is being successfully implemented by various Ministries under Government of India. LIMBS enables us to capture legal information pertaining to different courts/tribunals and cater to wide range of requirements for effective handling of court cases. In this regard, Member (Legal) *vide* her DO F. No.1080/10/DLA/Tech/e Samiksha/18 dated 26th July, 2018 has requested all Zones to ensure and report that all the cases are uploaded by 14th August, 2018. I am confident all the Chief Commissioners shall keep the timeline.

With profound grief, I inform the sad demise of Ms. Binny Sharma, an outstanding officer of the 2009 batch. We held a condolence meeting to pray for the departed soul. May God give strength to the bereaved family in this hour of grief.

With *best wishes,*

Yours sincerely,

S. Ramesh
(S. Ramesh)

To,

All officers and staff of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs