

PRESS NOTE

Sub: Visit of Nepal Ambassador to Visakhapatnam.

Against the backdrop of the ongoing transshipment of Nepal bound containers from Visakhapatnam port to Nepal, the Nepal Ambassador to India Shri Bharat Kumar Regmi and Shri Tirtha Prakash Poudel, counselor economic, visited Custom House, Visakhapatnam today i.e. 12.12.2018. At the outset, the delegates were briefed about the facilities provided by the government of India for the movement of Nepal bound containers. India is allowing movement of goods for Import to Nepal through Indian Ports without charging any duties. The facility was initiated in the year 2017 and a total of 10,788 containers carrying the goods valued at Rs. 10820 million were transshipped to Nepal. This earlier process that requires the importer to file various documents was time consuming.

On request of the Nepal Government, the transshipment procedure was simplified and transshipment of goods is now being allowed under electronic cargo tracking system (ECTS) which enables paperless and seamless transshipment and real time tracking of containers. Under this procedure, Nepal Importers need not file any transit declaration to customs and transshipment is allowed on a single document. This procedure freed the Nepal Importers from filing of documents and engaging intermediaries to clear the goods which reduced the time taken for transshipment from Visakhapatnam to Birgunj from 100-120 days earlier to 7-10 days now. The Erstwhile process of clearance of documents from Nepal embassy has also been done away with saving time and cost for Importers. This point was also highlighted in the meeting.

In addition to the above, the issue regarding the pendency of container lying in the Visakhapatnam port prior to introduction of the new modality i.e. ECTS was discussed. Commissioner of Customs informed the Nepal Ambassador that ECTS facility is allowed up to Indian Border only due to restriction by the Nepal Government. He requested the visiting Ambassador to extend the facility to the final destination i.e upto ICD, Birgunj so that the containers can be tracked up to the final destination which will enable the Govt. of India to prevent the risks associated with diversion of cargo during the transshipment.

His Excellency the Nepal Ambassador Shri. Bharat Kumar Regmi expressed happiness over simplified procedure by the Indian Government and faster clearance of Nepal bound containers. He further stated that Nepal Importers are happy with ECTS procedure and the Nepal trade from the port of Visakhapatnam will increase in future as a result of seamless process.

As the representatives from Nepal side Shri Bharat Kumar Regmi, Nepali Ambassador, Shri Tritha Prakash Poudel, Counsellor-Economic were present in the meeting. From the Customs House, Visakhapatnam, Dr. D.K.Srinivas, Commissioner of Customs, Shri. G. Shiril Saroj, Additional Commissioner of Customs and other senior officials were present. Shri. Yelvender Yadav, General Manager, M/s. CONCOR and other stake holders from Shipping companies were also present.


(Dr. D.K.SRINIVAS) 12/12/18
Commissioner of Customs

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