



# NICCI e-Newsflash

## Inside this Issue

*NICCI Delegation meets Finance Minister* 1

*Nepal needs to rejuvenate IPR system with law and policy as per WTO & WIPO* 3

*IFC to give Nepal \$6bn for hydro projects* 8

*India's exports to cross \$325 b this fiscal: Commerce Secretary* 8



## NICCI Delegation meets Finance Minister

A delegation of Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NICCI) including the Indian Business Forum (IBF) called on Honourable Finance Minister, Dr. Ram Saran Mahat held at the Ministry of Finance, Singha Durbar on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Secretary Mr. Shant Raj Subedi, Jt. Secretary and Convenor of the Revenue Committee Mr. Rajan Khanal, Director General of the Department of Custom Mr. Surya Prasad Acharya and Under Secretary, MoF Mr. Kailash Pokharel were present in the meeting from the Ministry of Finance.

Similarly, H.E. Ambassador of India Mr. Ranjit Rae, Mr. Jaideep Mazumdar DCM and Mr. Ashish Sinha, First Secretary (Com) from Embassy of India, Kathmandu, Mr. Sashi Raj Pandey, President, Mr. Shyam Kumar Lohia, Vice President, Mr. Saurya Rana,



Secretary General, Mr. K M Singh, Director from NICCI, Mr. Budhaditya Mukherjee, Vice President, Mr. Abhimanyu Poddar, Executive Member, Mr. Kanishka Dasgupta, Advisor (Ext Affairs), Mr. H S. Bedi, CEO, Dabur Nepal P Ltd. and Mr. Subraketan Mitra, Head of Finance & IT, SNPL from NICCI IBF Committee were present in the meeting.

H.E. Ambassador of India Mr. Ranjit Rae briefed on the purpose of the courtesy meeting and also informed Honourable Minister about the recent formation of the

Indian Business Forum under the Executive Committee of NICCI and its overall purpose. Mr. Sashi Raj Pandey, President introduced members of the delegation and explained the objectives of today's delegation from NICCI.

*Contd on page 2*

## NICCI Delegation meets .....

Several presentations were made from NICCI and IBF Committee before Honourable Finance Minister and his team. Mr. Budhaditya Mukherjee, Vice President of NICCI and Country Director at Asian Paints (Nepal) P. Ltd. made a presentation on labour issues in Nepal saying that cordial and harmonious employer-employee relationship is required for better productivity, improving competitiveness in domestic and international markets and ultimately strengthening the Nepalese economy. He suggested making the current Labour Law of Nepal investor friendly. He also suggested for clear definitions of the provisions of law so that interpretation does not depend and vary from person to person.

He further said the lack of progressive law in accordance with International standards which should protect the rights of the worker as well as the interests of the investor for which there has to be a structured co-relation between labour discipline and industrial productivity. He also stressed that the legal framework for disciplinary action is weak and leads to work force taking undue advantage of situations. Mr. Mukherjee emphasized on the need for an appropriate "Hire and Fire" policy coupled with Social Security for workers - to be brought in along with "No Work No Pay" policy. Based on this theme, he requested for an investment friendly labour law and also presented a detailed statement of suggestions to be considered in the forthcoming labour laws.

Mr. Saurya Rana, Secretary General of NICCI, Chair of Hydro-power Committee of NICCI said PDAs and PPAs are not being signed, building of transmission lines (including cross border) is being delayed - resulting in continued power shortage. This is increasing dependence on fossil fuels thereby increasing production costs and making Nepalese industries uncompetitive. He further said unreasonable community demands, threats and lack of security in project areas have led to delays and uncertainties in projects.

H.E. the Ambassador also urged the government of Nepal to make an investment friendly atmosphere in Nepal so that the investors are assured that their investments in Nepal are safe and thereby expediting development activities on hydro-power and transmission lines.

Executive Member of NICCI and Managing Director of Surya Nepal Pvt. Ltd, Mr. Abhimanyu Poddar highlighted that laws in Nepal related to IPR are more than 4 decades old and a new Act/Policy needs to be formulated. He highlighted the problems in existing Patent, Design and Trade Mark Act, 1965 and impractical provisions while registering trademarks of India in Nepal as soon as these products are introduced in India.



Briefing the Paris Convention, WTO and WIPO provisions, he suggested to suitably amend existing laws and introduce regulations at par with international provisions and practice. He also suggested for necessary changes in Income Tax Act for loss set off between businesses under same PAN number, issues on foreign remittance procedures & approval lead times etc.

Mr. Shyam Kumar Lohia, Vice President of NICCI and Managing Director at Aarti Vegetable Products P Ltd. said there must be conducive and investment friendly atmos-

phere including favourable labour laws, regular power supply, competitive logistic cost etc. for industrial development with reasonable level playing field for industries. He further suggested making the customs valuation criteria (*Bhansar Mulyankan*) more transparent.

Mr. Sashi Raj Pandey, President of NICCI also raised question regarding laws related to IT, stating they are very old and not compatible with the modern technological world. He also raised the issue of shortage of Indian Currency as people are being limited to INR10,000 at a time, which is not sufficient at all. Mr. Pandey also expressed concern on non ratification of BIPPA that was concluded with India a few years back. The Minister would look into this issue.

Mr. Ashish Sinha, First Secretary (Commerce) at Embassy of India, Kathmandu pointed out a recent notice from the Department of Labour stating that as per the new work permit procedure non-Nepalese workers need to obtain a work permit by 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Mr. Saurya Rana requested the Minister that the Finance ministry officials hold a pre-budget meeting with NICCI to discuss NICCI's concerns. The Minister directed the Finance Secretary and Jt. Secretary in particular, to arrange a meeting within the next few weeks.

The issues were discussed in general with the Minister and officials at ministry of finance and Director General at the department of customs with instances of unusual duty structure and some issues in taxation. Summing up the meeting, Finance Minister Dr. Mahat said India is the single largest trading partner of Nepal, the largest source of FDI in Nepal and nearest market for Nepalese products. He gave necessary instructions to the high officials under Ministry of Finance and requested NICCI to send him, in writing, suggestions and specific issues which would receive the fullest attention and support, if found viable, by the Finance Ministry. Finance Minister said he would convey the issues to concerned Ministry which were not under the portfolio of Ministry of Finance. ♦

## Nepal needs to rejuvenate IPR system with law and policy as per WTO & WIPO

A talk program on “Intellectual Property Right in Nepal” was organized by Embassy of India, Kathmandu in association with Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry on 28th March 2014 in Kathmandu under the monthly business conclave.

### Observation by Mr. Krishna Gyanwali, Secretary at the Ministry of Industry on IPR and its practice in Nepal

Addressing the gathering and making an observation on the IPR in Nepal, Chief Guest Mr. Krishna Gyawali, Secretary at the Ministry of Industry said “To the best of my knowledge, very few numbers of patents have been registered with the Department of Industry under the Ministry of Industry. It shows a kind of ignorance as well as negligence on the part of government as well as the entrepreneurs and industrialists. This may be because of lack of knowledge or lack of attention on the part of the decision makers. But the time has now come to see that this should not be the case. We really have to give deserving importance to this very critical element for the industrial development in the country.”



Sharing the problem in institutionalization of IPR in Nepal, Mr. Gyawali further said “We have become a member of global institutions like WTO (World Trade Or-

ganization), WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization), and have been getting benefits through the resources of WIPO. Our people are getting trained but the problem is mostly to get those trained people retained and utilize their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of the institution. Once they are trained they come back of course, but after certain years, without actually passing on their knowledge, handing it over to their successors, they just flee from their offices, and that is the problem.”

Admitting insufficient provisions for IPR, Secretary Gyawali said, “Basically we do not have a policy that sufficiently deals with intellectual property except for copyright. For the “copyright”; we do have a dedicated separate law and we do have a dedicated office also- Nepal Copyright Registrar’s Office. But incidentally the office does not fall within the Ministry of Industry’s domain; it is rather with the Ministry Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation. So we do not have separate policy for



industrial properties, and as I said earlier, we do not have an updated law, act or regulation on industrial segment of intellectual property. The law that we have now is 49 years old. So, three things are lacking: the Policy, the Act and Regulations and the Institution.”

Secretary Gyawali further said, “So far, we have been working on developing SOP- Standard Operating Procedures, a form of norms and criteria to deal with the administration issues of Intellectual Property. The Department of In-

dustry has been working on developing them, and we hope that they will be finalized soon and approved and enforced by the Ministry”.

Acknowledging the issues created by a vacuum on the part of IPR policies, Mr. Gyawali said, “The consequences of not having all these things in place are that we have several disputes related to industrial segment of intellectual property and lots of cases pending at IP Section of the Department. Law empowers the Director General of the Department with the judicial authority to settle the cases, but his/her decision can be challenged in any Appellate Court.”



Explaining the cumbersome judicial procedure with verdicts at different levels taking several years for the final verdict, Secretary Gyawali said, “This is not happening because we want it, we certainly don’t want to invite any trouble to ourselves. The Industry Department officials and Director General are not entertaining these problems willingly; we have been facing this situation because, as I already said, we do not have the policy, we do not have the law/SOPs, we do not have the dedicated institution, and lastly, we do not have the sufficiently trained, competent and motivated staffs working within that section.”

*Continued on page 4*

## Nepal needs to rejuvenate IPR system .....

Speaking on a way out of this situation, he invited the private sector to join hands with the government for a well-accepted policy, law and regulations as per the international best practices and norms, on which the Ministry of Industry has been working for quite some time and hoping to achieve them in the not-so-distant future”.

### **Presentation by Mr. Sajjan Bar Singh Thapa, Advocate, Supreme Court of Nepal**

Making the first presentation in the program, Mr. Sajjan Bar Singh Thapa, Advocate, Supreme Court of Nepal said “Intellectual Property- it is a creation of human mind, regarded as a form of property like any other property, the laws which governs this is called Intellectual Property Right (IPR). The law of IP governs the owner and the user of IP. The above explanation would be a lay man explanation, as the forms of intellectual property outweighs other economic tool in present day because of the knowledge based industry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century technological development. Intellectual property has become a tool for the market determination and market dominance. In intellectual property field there are two segments- one- governs the copyright which is a part of intellectual property and another one – is an industrial property.”



Keeping in mind the audience from entrepreneurs, bankers and corporate sector Mr. Thapa focused more on industrial property such as trademark, patent, design part of the intellectual property.

Defining the IPR concepts, Mr. Thapa opined “As I said earlier it is a right and obligation created by the government in the form of law which your creation gets regulated, meaning- you have

certain rights and the user have certain obligations with regard to using that particular intellectual property. But the intellectual property as other properties, it is not tangible, you may feel it, but you may not see it. This is the reason intellectual property law is also known as a control mechanism of a third party. Law regulates the use by the third party or potential consumers. That’s where the law tries to develop right and obligation between them.”

Recalling the history of IPR in Nepalese context, Mr. Thapa said “We do had IP law which dates back to 1938 AD. My colleagues from the banking sector would know, Nepal Bank Act was enacted in the year 1937 AD (1993 BS) and intellectual property law was enacted around 1938 (1994 BS). I don’t know the reason why IP law remained ineffective and why it just remained on papers. But we have to thank our forefathers that they were far sighted than us because this intellectual property right fever only touched Nepal when we were about



to sign WTO treaty, wherein there was obligation of law relating to IPR. We do have an IP Act at present enacted in the year 1965 (2022 B.S.) The Act gives the department of industries quasi-judicial authority, meaning- it may be only department in Nepal where it can revoke its own decision, that kind of power is vested in the Department of Industries. But unfortunately it’s really sad that till date, the rule to implement the law has not been framed yet. Act is incomplete and as it does not cover all forms of intellectual property, it only covers patent, design and trademark.”

Focusing on India’s perspective, Mr. Thapa further said “We do have other burning issues in intellectual property like Geographical Indication, traditional knowledge. If you look into the development of IPR in Indian context they have sailed through and have law in protecting Geographical Indication. Nepal can learn lot of lesson from the Indian experience of implementing comprehensive IP Act.



Focusing on Nepal’s perspective, based on his personal experience, Mr. Thapa opined “Our Intellectual Property (IP) administration is very poor. Prosecution of IP is not at all scientific, implementation is not effective, and enforcement is very negligible.

*Continued on page 5*

## Nepal needs to rejuvenate IPR system .....

The reason for poor IP administration is due to- the acute shortage of human resources and this is partly because of the government transfer system. Every government employee would be eligible for transfer after two years. By the time the person gets little knowledge and understanding of IP, then the person is ready to be transferred somewhere else. The government invests in its employee by sending abroad for trainings, would gain knowledge. But when the person is about to deliver, she/he will be sent to some other department. So we are wasting our human resources that way. We may have to think about changing our transfer system of the government. Maybe bureaucrats would be able to answer how to change this situation."



creasing and our entrepreneurs are facing problem and international community is getting negative impression about the law of Nepal."

Explaining various conventions on IPR, WIPO, WTO provisions and our international commitments Mr. Thapa commented "Under WTO commitment we do need comprehensive Intellectual Property Act dealing on all forms of IP but here, I feel that the devel-

oped countries are also responsible at this juncture. Because the WTO negotiations between the LDCs, developing country and the developed countries in order to reduce the friction, the developed countries postponed the implementation of intellectual

Sharing his own experience on IP in Nepal, Mr. Thapa said "IP is very technical in matter, but there are no orientations, no trainings for existing staffs working in the IP section or IP department. It requires lot of investments from the government side as well because it is not as running other departments. It's really sad to say that the IP department doesn't have electricity backup systems at the time of power outage. I tell you, my juniors came to me and told me the required job could not be completed due to power outage. I think, we may have to improve on this as well."

Mr. Thapa further said "Department of Industries (DoI) has judicial authority, they have right to revoke their own decision, this is the discretion that is given by the law, but I don't think this has been properly implemented, because there are plenty of cases. To be candid, once we lawyers practicing intellectual property thought of moving to "the appeal court" for mandamus order against the department of industries for deposition of pending cases because there are certain cases which are over five years old. If you compare the number of pending cases with court, this would be in a very terrible state, I don't know why they are pending, may be the priority of DOI is something else"

Mr. Thapa further suggested "If the priority of DoI is the industrialization, the government should think of splitting responsibility of DOI. I may not now say how, but if it happens I think it would be a good step. There is the provision of priority claim under the Paris convention in the Act and foreign trademark can be registered in Nepal on the basis of home or foreign registration certificate. The act gives this kind of leverage to foreign brands".

Suggesting a practical way for effective implementation of IP Advocate Mr. Thapa said "Another major issue is about "Well known or Famous Mark". DOI does not have guidelines for Well Known marks, which is our obligation under the Paris convention. We have ratified the Convention; it is as good as law. In case of conflict between local law and the Paris convention, Paris convention prevails. That's the philosophy. Since we don't have the guideline and because of this issue trademark disputes are in-

property law to the LDCs. Initially we were to have an Act in 2005. WTO Hong Kong ministerial meeting postponed to 2011, from 2011 we are again given the leeway to 2013, now the recent Bali Ministerial meeting has given the liberty for LDCs to bring in the comprehensive Act only in year 2021. Its only 2014 now, I don't know how we will manage with this 1965 Act for another seven years."

Mr. Thapa further suggested "Even though we have leverage on implementation of Act by WTO, we do have other international commitments from other intellectual property convention and treaties. I think the way forward for Nepal would be to start reorganize IP system and its administration, follow international commitment in a proper manner, the government transfer system has to be redesigned at this moment so as to improve professionalism, a separate & independent IP office from department of industry along with IP tribunal for dispute settlement mechanism, and obviously awareness campaign, IP education in University & High School curriculum and training of government officials, government attorneys, police, judges and private lawyers would strengthen IP system in Nepal."

Suggesting socializing the IPR Mr. Thapa said "Campaigning of Intellectual property is another major thing that we ought to do. Awareness building from corporate houses to big businesses, medium, small, and cottage industries and I would say, even to small entrepreneurs of a village level is required. I strongly suggest that the intellectual property should be prescribed in university & school courses; R&D has to be the prime focus in the businesses because R&D is the one, which brings all innovations. There should be mechanism to make available intellectual property data centers in universities and other required places of R&D facilities." And foreign companies those who export their products to Nepal should also keep in

*Continued on page 6*

## Nepal needs to rejuvenate IPR system .....

mind that IP laws are only territorial. If the product is exported in other jurisdiction the IP laws of such country should also be looked into and respected, so as to protect from being infringed. It is always wise to get protected than to fall in protracted litigation!!”

Bidding the presentation, Mr. Thapa said “And finally to those who are rampantly copying brands used in neighboring countries, be aware when it is not yours, there is always risk of getting revoked, so investing on which is not yours may not be pragmatic. I have faith in our judiciary; no matter how outdated the IP law is in Nepal. There are dynamic judgments being laid in other jurisdictions, which our own judiciary will also adopt it as “spill over effect”, it is only a matter of some time, hence stop investing in others’ IP - start your own!!”

### **Presentation by Kaushlendra Jha, IPR Consultant & Chartered Accountant:**

Mr. Kaushlendra Jha, IPR Consultant & Chartered Accountant made his Power-Point based presentation on “Intellectual Properties, Current Laws, Regulations and Country’s Position in IP World Environment”.

His focus was on existing issues and solution without much time, efforts and resources such as what are bare minimum expectation with present IP Authority in existing situation. He deliberated on what could be future issues, prospects and move to be well positioned in IP world and briefed on international status & progressive development of International Intellectual Property Law.

He shared his experience and practice in intellectual property Laws and WTO in India for last 10 years. He also shared concerns of his colleagues regarding the scope for him in this sector in Nepal when Mr. Jha decided to be back to Nepal. Their concern towards colleague was based on their observations that there was nothing in Nepal practicing on IPR in Nepal.

He further said “IP is something which is not physical, so intellectual and intangible assets. Being a Chartered Accountant, I know the values of the intellectual properties or intangible assets.”

Defining the Intellectual Properties with histories of various trademarks and logos like Unilever, Asian Paints, Dabur, Surya Nepal, KFC, Medanta etc and deliberating on Intellectual Property, he focused his presentation on

- Current laws, regulations and country’s position in IP world environment
- Existing issues and solution without much time, efforts and resources
- Bare minimum expectation with present IP authority in prevailing situation
- Future issues, prospects and move towards well positioned in IP world
- Brief international status & progressive development of international intellectual property law

Citing the instance of Medanta India which joined hands with Norvic Hospital as their joint venture in Nepal, Mr. Jha made a question on another local Medanta hospital which he noticed in Kathmandu, heart of the capital, Nepal.

He further made a comparison on Intellectual Property Laws, Regulation and practice in Nepal vis-à-vis international provisions/practice regarding Patent , Design and Trade Mark Act 1965, Patent/Trade Mark / Design Rules vis-à-vis their manuals/procedure, Geographical Indication (GI) Act Rules vis-à-vis Manual/Procedure, Copy Right Act 2002 and Copyright Rules 2004. He also discussed on Nepal’s membership of Paris Convention, Berne Convention and Madrid Agreement for International Registration of mark and Protocol Relating to Madrid agreements, membership of Hague Agreement Concerning the International Deposit of Industrial Design, membership of Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of

Goods and Services for the Purpose of Registration of Mark as well as possibility of autonomous IP office in Nepal and MoU with India on Intellectual Property Right.

Mr. Jha also deliberated on bare minimum Expectation with present IP Authority in prevailing situation, adoption of policy

towards Intellectual Property future issues, prospects and move towards well positioned in IP world and briefed on International Status & Progressive Development of International Intellectual Property Law.

Explaining geographical indications in IP, Mr. Jha said “Currently we don’t have geographical Indications concept in IP. But I believe Nepal’s future would be in IP much dominated by the geographical indications. Because of peculiarity in nature, like Darjeeling Tea, Ilam tea, unique locations for products like handicrafts, carpets, pashmina which are now getting their low value because of advancement in technology. Nepal’s carpet business has gone down because of the cost involvement. But if we tie up the products with IP, people get attracted with these products not because of the high cost but because of the sensitivity, because of their IP”.

Bidding the presentation Mr. Jha said, “If government of Nepal can enter into MOUs with the top ten trading partners many things will get resolved.” Suggesting for easier registration of IP in other countries, Mr. Jha said “If Nepal would be a member of Madrid Agreements, the contracting parties (countries) would not require separate registration”

*Continued on page 7*



Nepal needs to rejuvenate IPR system .....

In the program, **H.E. Ambassador of India Mr. Ranjit Rae**, who was enthusiastically listening the earlier presentations wherein the development in IPR in Nepal was very sluggish in giving Act, Policy, and Regulations for practicing trademark, patent, design, and IPR related issues with international norms, said “We in the Government of India would be very happy to work together with the Government of Nepal towards developing and building an IPR Framework as said by the speakers, there is a very big development and experiences in India in terms IPR Protection and we would be very happy to share experiences, offer training facilities and programs to officials and other people from Nepal, and would be willing to work with you in any way possible to strengthen the IPR system in this country.”

Appreciating the free and frank presentations he further said “I am very thankful to NICCI who have started a public discussion on this matter and to Secretary Gyawali for his very candid presentation in terms of a current situation, in terms what we can expect in the future and how the Ministry in the Government of Nepal propose to go ahead.”



Commenting on the presentation of Secretary of Ministry of Industry Mr. Krishna Gyanwali regarding deserving and dedicated manpower for implementing the IPR effectively in Nepal, the **former secretary at the Ministry of Commerce &**

**Industry** and Independent Professional on Trade, Transit, Transport, Investment and Institutional Development **Mr. Purushottam Ojha** suggested to have *Intellectual Property Authority*, which is out of ambit of the civil service and the authority’s staff will not get transferred anywhere. With this framework, the IPR related issues could be settled very smoothly, efficiently and effectively through the trained manpower.

Making an observation on the presentation by Mr. Kaushlendra Jha, Mr. Ojha suggested actually Madrid convention allows registering the trademark in a single entry point. And you don’t need to go to different countries to register the trademark. Our colleagues from the Pashmina has faced that problem in the past, however, they have already registered in 42 countries, which was very clumsy and very bureaucratic process. He also urged the ministry to consider Madrid Convention provisions.

Making another remark on the Presentation by Mr. Thapa Mr. Ojha opined “Actually in the TRIPS Agreement it is not only the flexibility, it also talks about the capacity building of the least developed country and support from the developed countries. It



is already mentioned in the concerned article of the TRIPs Agreement. Actually it is not only the flexibility of time, but we have to be able to harness benefit out of it because there are opportunities for capacity development”

**Mr. Ashish Sinha, First Secretary Commerce at Embassy of India** highlighted the program on Intellectual Property Right in his welcome remarks and also moderated the program.



Bidding the vote of thanks **Mr. Sashi Raj Pandey, President of NICCI** said “Today all our speakers reiterated that the first step and the most important one for an investor is to secure intellectual property rights, which safeguards their product. I am sure our friends from GoN, the business fraternity and media will agree that it is high time we structure a strong IPR policy in Nepal. We in NICCI strongly believe that we all need join hands with the Government and help it to develop laws and policies that will act as a balance between stakeholders, employers, employees and customers.” ♦





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## IFC to give Nepal\$6bn for hydro projects

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has pledged financial support worth \$6 billion to develop 3000 MW hydropower projects in Nepal.

IFC Executive Vice President Jin -yong Cai expressed the IFC's willingness in assisting Nepal during his meeting with Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC.

During the discussion, Cai revealed that IFC is particularly interested in supporting the construction of hydropower projects that will cater to the domestic consumption demand as well as generate enough electricity for export to neighbouring countries.

"For this, IFC is expecting the government's support in facilitating the process, including PDA agreement by Nepal Investment Board for the implementation of power projects," said Cai.

Both sides acknowledged the progress made in the construction of Kabeli Power Project of 38 MW, the project started by IFC, a private sector developer and government's participation.

Moreover, Cai showed interest in financing projects in other competitive sectors such as in tourism and telecommunication.

In the meeting, the finance minister assured IFC that the government will take all necessary decisions to facilitate the IFC investment in Nepal.

"The government is willing to provide fiscal incentives to hydro projects," said Mahat, citing the example of recent government decision to allow IFC to issue local currency bond. ♦

## India's exports to cross \$325 b this fiscal: Commerce Secretary

India 's exports will cross \$325 billion in the current fiscal — the targeted figure that was missed in 2013-14, Commerce Secretary Rajeev Kher has said.

Endorsing former Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke's optimism on the state of the global economy, Kher said it would get reflected in India's trade performance.

"US economy is certainly going up. The EU is not going down. India's performance will also improve," Kher told reporters on Wednesday at a standards conclave organised by the Government and CII.

### Export target

While refusing to put a figure on India's export target this year as the foreign trade policy was still in formulation, Kher said it would be definitely more than \$325 billion.

India missed the export target of \$325 billion in 2013-14, as exports posted just a 4 per cent growth over the previous year to \$312 billion.

The shortfall was mainly due to low demand in key markets, loss of preferential market access in the EU and quality issues faced by pharma exports.

### Curbs on gold imports

On the issue of the existing restrictions on gold imports, Kher said that in the long-term the policy needs to be rationalised. India's imports in 2013-14 declined due to a sharp drop in gold imports and slowdown in manufacturing sector.

Export sectors that took a hit in 2013-14 include gems & jewellery, electronics and pharmaceuticals. Apart from gold, import of project goods and machinery posted a decline. ♦

*(This article was published on April 16, 2014)*

**We solicit suggestions/feedback from all members and readers for NICCI e -Newsflash at [secretariat@nicci.org](mailto:secretariat@nicci.org)**

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