

# Exporters primed to be GST-ready

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**New Delhi, May 31:** Sending out a clear signal that the GST would be implemented on schedule, the government today said exporters and importers would have to declare their Goods and Services Tax Identification Number (GSTIN) from July 1 to carry out trade.

"Declaration of valid GSTIN in customs documents (BE/SB) would be mandatory w.e.f. 0000 hrs of July 1, 2017, the likely implementation date of GST, to avail IGST credit on imports or GST refund on exports," the revenue department said.

The 15-digit GSTIN is issued by the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), the IT backbone of the proposed tax regime. The declared GSTIN would be validated for correct IEC (Import Export Code Number)/PAN linkage.

The process to enroll taxpayers on the GSTN portal, suspended on April 30, will start again on June 1 for 15 days.

"All concerned may make use of the special drive by GSTN from June 1 to June 15, 2017 for the updation of IEC in GSTIN," the department's advisory said.

Exporters, meanwhile, have raised concerns over the tax refund process under GST. They are demanding that the current system of ab initio

## DEADLINE CALL

- Exporters must declare identification number for GST



- Without ID, exporters will not get GST refunds

- Exporters opposed to GST refunds and wants status quo on current mode of exemptions

(from the beginning) exemption should be continued in GST.

Under GST, exporters will have to first pay the required duty and seek a refund. According to estimates, working capital of up to Rs 1.85 lakh crore annually could get stuck.

The apparel exporters have demanded that the government should continue with the rebate on state levies scheme (ROSL) under GST.

The Apparel Exports Promotion Council (AEPC) said it has made a presentation to finance minister Arun Jaitley to continue with the scheme.

"The big jump in apparel exports is the result of recently implemented incentive called ROSL on export of garments, as it helped the industry increase the production at very competitive rates for a larger share of global markets. It is important that ROSL is continued even in GST era to ensure sustained growth momentum," AEPC chairman Ashok G. Rajani said.