

States that Push Exports may Bag Sops from Centre

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The government is considering incentives for states that play proactive roles in promoting exports, commerce and industry minister Suresh Prabhu said on Monday. He also said the ministry was preparing a strategy to promote overall exports and push industrial growth. "We're thinking of ideas whereby we can incentivise states that promote exports. I have mooted this idea before the states and asked them to give their ideas on this," Prabhu said after the third meeting of Council for Trade Development and Promotion here.

During the meeting, Prabhu said Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar suggested that all states should prepare their export policies focused on organic farming, value addition and special economic zones. So far, only 14 states including Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir have done the same.

Members of the council also deliberated on creating a framework

for making the states active partners in boosting exports. India's merchandise exports during April-November 2017-18 increased 12.01% to \$196.48 billion.

When asked about the concerns raised by exporters in the meeting related to GST refund, Prabhu said the issue was discussed and the ministry is working on an electronic wallet system wherein duty paid supplies have to be undertaken and the amount will be credited when proof of exports is made available. The other issues that came up for discussion included role of FDI in promoting exports and enhancing role of states to push shipments. Prabhu said the government wanted to streamline every aspect of foreign trade and an announcement on the review of the FDI policy could soon be expected.

APPLE'S PROPOSAL

Prabhu said the government is awaiting a concrete proposal from iPhone maker Apple Inc to set up manufacturing unit in India.

Apple's director-government affairs Nick Amman and global V-P-operations Priya Balasubramaniam had met Prabhu last Friday. "We are waiting for a good proposal from Apple...Please give us a concrete proposal. If the proposal comes, we will examine it," Prabhu said.

Suresh Prabhu says commerce ministry preparing strategy to promote overall exports