

# AILBIEA Hopeful of Ironing out Regulatory Issues With Customs

CBEC promises to look into the problems of liquid bulk trade sympathetically

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Members of the All India Liquid Bulk Importers & Exporters Association (AILBIEA), the organization that provides effective and integrated pan-India forum for all stake-holders in the liquid bulk trade, are hopeful of getting some of their major grievances redressed in the near future.

According to the association members, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) chairman S Dutt Mazumder has assured them to look at some of the issues that they have presented before him.

Mr Mazumder was the chief guest of a function organized by the association last week in Mumbai to celebrate its decade of achievements.

According to the sources, some of the

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major issues to be dealt with by the board are withdrawal of notification of denatured ethyl alcohol, providing EDI compatibility for liquid bulk cargo and revising classification and duty structure for some liquid bulk items.

The CBEC chairman has assured the gathering to address

the issues. He has also called for holding interacting meetings to discuss matters.

"The point is to get an assurance from him about addressing our issues. He will have to look into the technicalities of the issues concerned. In such cases promises in terms of assurances are good enough," opined Jayant L Lapsia, presi-

dent of the association.

For Mr Lapsia, the major success of the event, which was graced by many dignitaries from the Customs, port and industries, was that it helped in breaking ice with the Custom and port authorities.

"They have also recognized that liquid bulk is an unique trade in Customs and that it requires very specialized treatment because it is of highly sensitive items whose clearance should be done with speed, and demurrages means huge outflow of foreign exchange," he said.

A leading player of the country's exim trade, the liquid bulk industry has been contributing nearly 65% of the Customs revenues. However, it has been at the receiving end due to host of issues many of which are not in the full know of the authorities.

Besides having a seminar on Customs procedures and trade related matters, the function also saw honouring indi-



**NB Godrej, MD, Godrej Industries receiving the Ailblea Stellar Award for outstanding contribution to the trade from Mr Mazumder**

viduals and companies for their outstanding contribution to the country's liquid bulk trade.

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