



the pioneer

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Bid to make industry familiar with ATA Carnet System

Lucknow (PNS): State Minister, independent charge, SSI and Export Promotion, Government of UP, Bhagwat Sharan, made the inaugural

address at the workshop on ATA Carnet System organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in association with the Indian Industries Association (IIA) and in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The workshop was organised on Wednesday at the IIA Bhawan. Its focus was on familiarising the industry representatives with the operational aspects of using an internationally accepted customs document, ATA Carnet.

While speaking on the occasion the minister said that the exports played a crucial role in the economic growth of the country. "The contribution that this sector makes to employment is of utmost importance to our vision of equitable and inclusive growth. The export sector is also important as it is a medium to project India in overseas markets as a source of quality products," said the minister. In order to take part in the exhibitions, trade fairs, conferences and other such events, the minister said, one should carry exhibits and samples to the exhibiting country which allowed them there on a temporary basis without

charging any import duty. He said that the question which naturally arose was how to carry these goods there duty-free and without any difficulty.

Highlighting the benefits of ATA Carnet at the workshop, Nirankar Saxena, the Senior Director of FICCI stated that ATA Carnet was an international customs document created to facilitate duty-free and tax-free temporary imports of goods in 72 countries. He said that it was a joint initiative of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and the ICC World Chambers Federation (WCF). He also pointed out that the usage of ATA Carnet in India was low whereas in countries like Switzerland and Germany it was five times higher per annum. S Vijayalakshmi, Deputy Director, FICCI, in her presentation said that the exporter using carnets should refrain from selling goods under ATA Carnet as it was allowed to 'temporary import' goods into another member country. She further stated that the carnets were intended for re-exportation and not for sale in the country of temporary admission.

The speakers said that the ATA Carnet was a temporary admission document which simplified the customs procedures and clearances in a foreign country without paying duty or a bank guarantee for temporary imports there. Like a passport for goods, ATA Carnet allows the goods for which it was issued to enter any of the participating countries for a period lasting one year. An ATA Carnet holder can avoid customs declaration and can do away with security deposit or guarantees in the country of importation, he added. In India, the FICCI is the sole national guarantor for ATA Carnets.

The speakers said that the ATA Carnet covered several areas for use, including trade fairs, shows, exhibitions, meetings etc. for temporary exports into a country which was a signatory to the conventions governing ATA Carnets. Goods must be re-exported out of every country and re-imported into India within a year. It was stated that at present 72 countries recognise ATA Carnet, including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Spain, UAE, UK and USA.