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Title: Regarding non-issuance of incentives for exports made during 2019-20 and 2020-21 under Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)

**SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR):** Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the need to encourage our exporters to fight the global competition that is coming from Chinese, Vietnamese and other exporters.

The exporters are given incentives under the MEIS, that is, Merchandise Export from India Scheme. It ranges from 3-7 per cent of their FOB value of exports. Indian exporters take this payable incentive into an account while quoting to their foreign customers. The exporters of safety matches from my constituency get three per cent incentive under this scheme. Unfortunately, the MEI Scheme has been put on hold for the exports made from the last quarter of 2019-20 up to December, 2020. This has put all the exporters on the red side of the financial fund flow. It is requested that the MEI Scheme incentive should be given to the exporters without any further delay so that export does not fall further, which has already been affected by the COVID pandemic.

The MEIS incentive, which has been discontinued, has now been replaced with a new incentive scheme called RODTEP, Remission of Duties and Tax on Exported Products. This has been put into effect on all the exports from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2021. Unfortunately, this scheme has not clearly been notified. Therefore, the industry is getting confused.

Further, the rate of incentive under this scheme has not been spelt. The products to be covered under this scheme have also not been spelt. All the exporters are worried and they are not able to quote to their foreign customers, as they do not know what will be their rate of input under the RODTEP scheme. The exporters of safety matches do not know what will be the rate of incentives under this new RODTEP scheme. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Commerce Minister, through you, Sir, to help the exporters of safety matches and also other exporters from Sivakasi and Virudhunagar to resolve this issue. Thank you so much.