

Exporters to get duty relief as part of Jan. 1 RoDTEP scheme

The rebates range from 0.5% to 4.3% of the FOB value of outbound consignments

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The Centre on Tuesday notified the rates and norms for the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme, with Commerce Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam asserting it would put 'direct cash in the pockets of exporters' soon.

The RoDTEP scheme had kicked in from January 1, replacing the earlier Merchandise and Services Export Incentive Schemes (MEIS and SEIS) that were in violation of WTO norms.

A budgetary allocation of ₹12,454 crore has been made for 2021-22 under the scheme which covers 8,555 tariff lines, accounting for



Spinning shades: Yarns and fibres have been granted the highest rebate, toffees the lowest. ■ ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

about 75% of traded items and 65% of India's exports. **To enable zero rating of exports by ensuring domestic taxes are not exported, all taxes, including those levied by States and even Gram Panchayats, will be refunded**

under the scheme.

The rebates under RoDTEP, which Director General of Foreign Trade Amit Yadav said is WTO-compliant as per legal advice, range from 0.5% to 4.3% of the Free On Board value of outbound

consignments. The lowest rate is offered on items like chocolates, toffees and sugar confectionary, while yarns and fibres have been granted the highest rate.

"Steel, pharma and chemicals have not been included under the scheme because their exports have done well without incentives," said Mr. Subrahmanyam. "There are a couple of more schemes in the pipeline to help exporters, but RoDTEP, which is valid till March 31, 2024, will be our flagship scheme."

The top trade official also assured of a resolution of the pending dues under the MEIS and SEIS by the first week of September, through a 'staggered' mechanism.