

Government reviews target of doubling exports by 2014

The government is reviewing the target of \$500 billion in exports by March 2014 in view of the global and domestic economic slowdown.

The commerce department has held a review meeting and decided to float a discussion paper as part of the mid-term review. It will identify various factors contributing to lower exports and also suggest steps which need to be taken to boost shipments from India.

"The doubling of exports by 2013-14 projected two years back was based on the economic conditions prevalent at that time and was optimistic in its approach," a commerce ministry official said.

"Presently, there is a need to review the same in view of changed global and domestic economic environment," the official added.

The review will also focus on the competitiveness of Indian industry with regard to other countries particularly South-East Asian countries which have done well in exports during 2012-13 despite the global slowdown.

It will also examine the impact of rupee devaluation and its impact on Indian exports. Officials also discussed the need to focus on identifying the sectoral strengths and weaknesses. There was a discussion on moving away from conventional exports as well as examining the potential of sectors that can perform well in the years ahead.

The commerce department is of the view that there is a need to work out a separate strategy for the 12th Plan period based on the findings of the medium-term strategy.

Indian exports have slowed significantly in the past year due to the slowdown in key markets such as the US and Europe. But in the past three months, there have been some signs of a pick up.

(Economic Times)