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HYPOTHESES

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RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

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## INDIA'S SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES: DEVELOPMENT AND EXPORT PERFORMANCE

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## ABSTRACT

Special Economic Zone policy in India was implemented with many objectives like export promotion, employment generation, earning foreign exchange etc. This paper made an attempt to shade light on the export performance of SEZs. First half of this paper explained the stages of EPZ to SEZ development in India. After fourth stage a brief on fiscal and non-fiscal benefits given to SEZ developers and units are given to focus on the specialty of SEZ policy. Second half of this paper focused on export performance of SEZ for a time series of 18 years followed by zone specific export performance and sector specific performance. By this analysis at first it is found that export of SEZ is increasing in absolute value, it is also found that only few zones and few sectors have fair export performance which raised few questions in concluding remark which opens new window for further research.

## **KEYWORDS**

Export, Central Government (CG) established SEZs, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Stages of development.

## INTRODUCTION

any countries such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia and South Korea adopted the model of export oriented economic growth in the 1960s along with creation of special export oriented facilities such as Free Trade Zone (FTZ), Export Processing Zones (EPZ) where as worlds first export zone was set up in Ireland in 1958. Seven years after, Indian government set up its first EPZ at Kandla (Gujarat) in 1965 which was also the first in Asia. It was followed by the Santacruz export processing zone followed by five other public sector zones at Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Falta (West Bengal), Cochin (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). In 1998 a private sector EPZ became operational at Surat (Gujrat). After implementation of SEZ policy all public sector EPZs are converted in to Special Economic Zones (SEZ). SEZs are recognized as an important mechanism for trade and investment promotion, creation of infrastructure, employment generation, promotion of regional development, increase in foreign exchange earnings, improving export competitiveness and transfer of skills and technology. The basic objective of setting up EPZs/SEZs in India is to promote exports and foreign exchange earnings.

## WHAT IS EPZ AND SEZ

EPZ or Export Processing Zone is that whose economic laws are different from the laws of country but they are designed to help the manufacturing companies that are exporting their entire production. EPZ has the sole aim to produce goods for export. The manufacturing units are given tax holiday for a fixed period of time so as to make the product competitive in the international market.

SEZ or Special Economic Zone is an area in a country that is selected by the government for its development. This area has economical laws completely different from the laws of the country. These laws are made in such a manner so that they are business friendly to attract people to set up manufacturing, trading or service establishments. The establishments in SEZ can be established by foreign or native investments and the products can be sent exported or sold within the country.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- 1) To know the stages of development of exporting zones
- 2) To find the export performance of EPZs/SEZs
- 3) To find the export performance of Government established SEZs.

## METHODOLOGY

Considering the above objectives this paper has used published research papers, working papers and reports for literature review and to find out the stages of development of EPZs/SEZs. To find out the export performance of EPZs/SEZs secondary data is used which is collected from various government reports, books, research articles and web-sights providing data. Instead of using any statistical techniques the export performance is shown by graphical presentation.

### **STAGES OF EPZ/SEZ DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA**

In India there are four stages of development of these exporting Zones<sup>1</sup> which starts after 1960 and reaches at the beginning of SEZ policy instrument. **STAGE 1**<sup>st</sup>

The first stage started with the establishment of Kandla EPZ (KFTZ) in 1965 which was India's as well as worlds first EPZ. This was followed by Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ) which was set up at Mumbai in 1974. At this stage, there was no clarity of objectives for setting up these zones KFTZ was primarily meant for the development of Kutch area. SEEPZ was established for manufacture of electronics. Later on Gems and Jewellery added to it. The Government of India appointed three committees to review the working of these zones. Kaul Committee (1978) to review KFTZ, Review Committee on Electronics in 1979 for the review of SEEPZ. Finally, Tondon Committee (1980) reviewed both the zones. Tondon committee called for establishment of additional EPZs for expansion of India's exports.

## STAGE 2<sup>nd</sup>

Second stage starts from 1984 because as per the Tondon Committee's report four new EPZs were established between 1984 and 1987 at Noida, Falta, Cochin and Chennai. Visakhapatnam EPZ in Andhra Pradesh was established in 1989. Thus, this phase witnessed the establishment of 5 zones.

Third stage starts with the reform in India since 1991. Government took several initiatives for revamping EPZ policy. During the period of ten years, about 146 circulars were issued by Central Board of Excise and Customs, DGFT and RBI for relaxation of controls and simplification of procedures relating to operation of

EPZs and Export oriented units (EOU). The scope and coverage of EPZs/EOU scheme was also enlarged in 1992 by permitting agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture sector units. Later on trading, re-engineering and reconditioning units were also included under the scheme.

### STAGE 4<sup>th</sup>

This stage is an important stage of policy reform for the development of Indian export zones. After looking a massive export growth of China the EXIM policy of India for 1997-2002 came up with the concept of Special Economic Zone (SEZ). This concept provided additional benefits to EPZs like extra tax incentives, freedom for work, enhanced infrastructure etc. With this policy change, all the existing EPZs have been converted into SEZs in two phases, year 2000 and 2004 respectively.

### FISCAL AND NON-FISCAL BENEFITS GIVEN TO SEZ DEVELOPERS AND UNITS<sup>2</sup>

i. 100% income tax exemption for a block of five years and an additional 50% tax exemption for two years thereafter

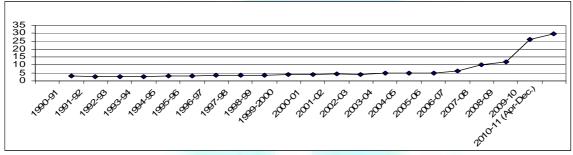
- ii. 100% FDI in the manufacturing sector permitted through automatic route, barring a few sectors.
- iii. External commercial borrowings by SEZ units upto US\$500 million in a year without any maturity restrictions through recognized banking channels.
- iv. Facility to retain 100% foreign exchange receipts in Exchange Earners' Foreign Currency Account.
- v. 100% FDI permitted to SEZ franchisee in providing basic telephone services in SEZs.
- vi. No cap on foreign investment for small scale sector reserved items.
- vii. Exemption from industrial licensing requirements for items reserved for the SSI sector.
- viii. No import licence requirements
- ix. Exemption from customs duties on import of capital goods, raw materials, consumables, spares etc
- x. Exemption from Central Excise duties on procurement of capital goods, raw materials, consumable spares etc., from the domestic market.
- xi. No routine examinations by Customs for export and import cargo.
- xii. Facility to realize and repatriate export proceeds within 12 months.
- xiii. Profits allowed to be repatriated without any dividend-balancing requirement.
- xiv. Job work on behalf of domestic exporters for direct export allowed.
- xv. Subcontracting both domestic and international is permitted; this facility is available to jewellery units as well.
- xvi. Exemption from Central Sales Tax and Service Tax

## **EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN EPZs/SEZs**

### SHARE OF EPZs/SEZs IN TOTAL EXPORT OF COUNTRY

This paper provides summary information on EPZ/SEZ exports across the study period of 18 years. It shows that while EPZ exports in absolute terms increased phenomenally across the 18 years. In 1990-91 it was 986.66 crores followed by 6707.9 crore in 1999-2000 further it has increased to 66638 crore (Refer Annexure A). Figure 1.1 shows that the share of EPZ export in countries export was 2 to 3 percent but after the inclusion of SEZ scheme (as per EXIM policy) share of SEZ/EPZ has remained more than 4 percent.

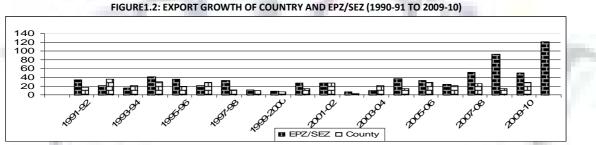




Source: Data compiled from RBI Hand Book, web sight indiastat.com and Ministry of commerce and The performance of India's export processing zones -Kundra, A. (2000).

## EXPORT GROWTH OVER LAST YEAR FOR INDIA AND EPZs/SEZS

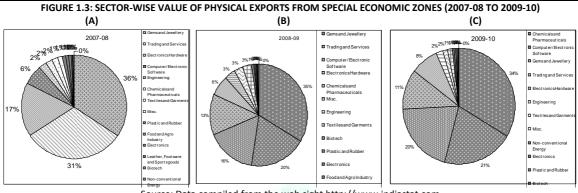
EPZ/SEZ export has increased in India in absolute values it seems impressive. Was it a natural rate of growth? To address this question we analyzed the export growth of EPZs/SEZs and export growth of country over last year. It is interesting to note from this analysis that except four years from 1990-91 to 2007-08 all other years shows grater export growth of EPZs/SEZs over last year than India's total export. It is also important to note that in some years export growth of the zones is more than double than countries export growth (Refer figure 1.2).



Source: Data compiled from RBI Hand Book, web sight indiastat.com and Ministry of commerce and 'The performance of India's export processing zones' -Kundra, A. (2000).

### SECTOR-WISE VALUE OF PHYSICAL EXPORTS FROM SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES OF INDIA

Figure 1.4 provides a view of the sectoral patterns of EPZ/SEZ exports. In the 2007-08, Gems and Jewellery sector accounted for the largest share (36%) in exports followed by Trading and Services and Electronics hardware in that order with 31 and 17 percent share. By the late 2008-09, the share of Electronics hardware started declining and it went on third position. Gems & jewellery and Trading & services remained on first and second position respectively. In 2009-10 Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals took first position with 34 percent share followed by computer/Electronic software (21%) and Gems and jewellary (20%). Trading and services went on fourth position with 11%. Other sectors namely Engineering, Textiles and Garments, Non-conventional Energy, Electronics, Plastic and Rubber, Biotech, Leather, Footware and Sports goods, Food and Agro Industry and Handicraft comprises very little share in EPZ/SEZ exports.



Source: Data compiled from the web sight http://www.indiastat.com

## **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED SEZs**

## SUMMARY OF PHYSICAL EXPORT FROM SEZS: BY CATEGORY

SEZs can be categorized on the basis of their establishment as Central Government (CG) SEZs, State govt/pvt. SEZs prior SEZ Act 2005 and SEZs notifies under this Act. The export from this category of zones shows 20.26 percent export from central government established SEZs during 2009-10. These zones are namely Kandla SEZ, SEEPZ SEZ, Noida SEZ, MEPZ SEZ, Cochin SEZ, Falta SEZ and Visakhapatnam SEZ.

TABLE 1.1: SUMMARY OF PHYSICAL EXPORT FROM SEZS DURING 2009-10
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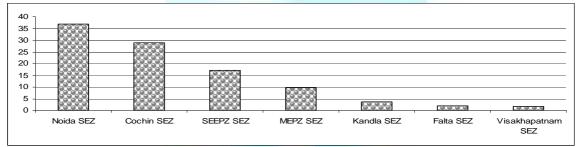
.86	26.20
	26.30
.93	20.26
5.6	53.44
1 <mark>.39</mark>	
	.93 5.6 1.39

Source: Data compiled from the web sight http://www.indiastat.com

## **EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED SEZS**

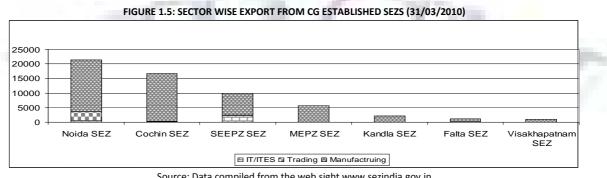
Of the operational seven CG established Special Economic Zones only two SEEPZ and Noida SEZ have well in their export performance. SEEPZ has contributed more than 40% in total export of public sector zones since 2003-04 to 2006-07 where as Noida contributed between 12 to 31 percent. Though Kandla zone got fame for its old establishment but it has contributed only 6 to 8 percent during this period. Other public sector zones like Madras SEZ, Cochin SEZ, Falta SEZ and Visakhapatnam SEZ have very little export performance and contributing only 2 to 10 percent in total export of these seven zones. Recently data available on www.sezindia.gov.in shows that as on 31/03/2010 Noida SEZ contributed around 37% of the total export from CG established SEZs, followed by CSEZ (29%), SEEPZ (17%) and MEPZ (10%).

#### FIGURE 1.4: EXPORT FROM SEZS ESTABLISHED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT (31/03/2010)



Source: Data compiled from the web sight www.sezindia.gov.in

Sector wise distribution of export from CG established SEZ shows that share of manufacturing export is very large for each zone. Export from trading is on second number where as IT/ITES stands on third number. (Ref. Figure 1.5).



#### Source: Data compiled from the web sight www.sezindia.gov.in

### CONCLUSION

The India's Special economic or export zones have gone through four stages of development where in fourth (not last) stage abundant fiscal and non fiscal incentives are given. But by the above analysis there are four concluding remarks for export performance of EPZs/SEZs. At first it can be concluded that export performance of Special Economic Zones is fair and accounted for nearly more than 4 percent of the total export from the India than that of 2 to 3 percent before the SEZ scheme. Exports have increased over a time in absolute value and good export growth over a last year than countries export growth. But considering the Fiscal and non-fiscal benefits given to SEZ developers and units is it a satisfactory export performance? This question opens new window for further research. Second it is observed that among the seven public sector zones export performance is centered to only SEEPZ and Noida SEZ. So again there is a question on the

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zone specific export performance. Third, sector-wise export performance is concentrated to five sectors (only). They are namely Gems and Jewellery, Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals, Trading and Services, Computer/Electronic software and Electronics hardware. Can this few sector specific performance face the market risks? So there is still long way for the better export performance of Special Economic Zones.

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### ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE – A: ABSOLUTE EXPORT OF EPZ/SEZ AND INDIA, SHARE OF EPZ/SEZ IN COUNTRY'S EXPORT, GROWTH OVER LAST YEAR FOR BOTH. (1990-91 TO 2007-08)

Year	Export from EPZ/SEZ (Rs	Export from Country (Rs	Share of EPZ/SEZ in	Growth of EPZ/SEZ export	Growth of
	in Crore)	in Crore)	total export	over last year	county's export over
					last year
1990-91	986.66	32557.6	3.03	33.74	17.71
1991-92	1192.08	44041.8	2.70	20.81	35.27
1992-93	1379.59	53688.3	2.56	15.72	21.90
1993-94	1959.91	69751.4	2.80	42.06	29.91
1994-95	2658.06	82674.1	3.21	35.62	18.52
1995-96	3235.62	106353.3	3.04	21.72	28.64
1996-97	4309.09	118817.1	3.62	33.17	11.71
1997-98	4809.2	130100.6	3.69	11.60	9.49
1998-99	5252.5	139753.1	3.75	9.21	7.41
1999-2000	6707.9	159561.4	4.20	27.70	14.17
2000-01	8552.3	203571	4.20	27.49	27.58
2001-02	9189.55	209018	4.39	7.45	2.67
2002-03	10056.62	255137.3	3.94	9.43	22.06
2003-04	13853.58	293366.8	4.72	37.75	14.98
2004-05	18314	375339.5	4.87	32.19	27.94
2005-06	22840	456417.9	5.00	24.71	21.60
2006-07	34615	571779.3	6.05	51.55	25.27
2007-08	66638	655863.5	10.16	92.51	14.70
2008-09	99689	840755	11.85	49.6	28.2
2009-10	220711	845534	26.10	121.4	0.6
2010-11 (April-Sept. 2010)*	2,23,132	-		47	-

\* Provisional

Source: Data compiled from RBI Hand Book, web sight indiastat.com and Ministry of commerce and The performance of India's export processing zones - Kundra, A. (2000).



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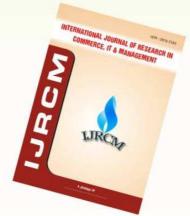
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