



FREIGHT SYSTEMS
Supply Chain Solutions

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW OF MR. MANISH MALIK

Special Feature - Debate on Union
Budget 2016-17

The biggest expectation of logisticians is the recognition of logistics as an industry which will help in creation of transparent policies towards overall development of this sector.

Subsequently, GST rollout is expected in the upcoming budget.

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The provision for proper infrastructure which includes development of a better transportation system and setting up of warehouses is another important anticipation. Additional railway tracks to ensure no piling up of containers at inland ports and better infrastructure at metro cities along with development of major airports as cargo hubs will supplement India's growing EXIM (Export-Import) trade. Increased allocation for creating the inland waterways project and also pushing forward to revive the Sagar Mala plan for coastal areas is a must.

The development of logistics parks across the country for speedy delivery will add a lot of value. Facility of a single window clearance for permission prior to the exports of products to simplify processes, reduce documentation and ambiguities on the customs regulatory front will help facilitate exporters.

The removal of 25-30 per cent of custom duty levied on fuel used by Indian ships is a must as is solving other logistical hurdles to push for more usage of the sea routes for both domestic and international cargo. The refined policy of setting up AFS should be present across the country. The existing CFS should be promoted to have AFS facility and later new independent facility of AFS should be considered.

Time-based hiring of ships for imports to be exempted from payment of service tax. The service tax on freight and all related services should be exempted. The creation of a separate cell to act as information nerve centre forecasting the demands and supply of container rakes at various ports and ICDs are the major requirements that the government must take into consideration.

--This article was carried in Cargo Talk, February Issue