

SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY, HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY ADDRESSING THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE 186TH AGM OF CALCUTTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON OCTOBER 15, 2017.

Union Minister C R Chaudhary today asked the chambers to act as facilitators to raise employability in the small scale sector. "The government is working on three planks -- maximum production with quality, maximum employment and maximum export," C R Chaudhary, the minister of state for Consumer Affairs and Commerce & Industry said at the inaugural session of the 186th AGM of the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce.

"We are aiming at more production, more export, more investment and more employment," he said, Expressing his government's resolve to encourage small enterprises, including start-ups, he said the government is committed to promote start-ups and financial incentives are being given to them depending on the viability of the project. "The chambers can act as facilitators," he said and added, there is no dearth of brain in the country but the employability of the present generation needs to be ensured. The minister felt demonetisation and GST, initiated by his government, will transform the economy.

"After the exporters talked about a problem with regard to GST, I requested the Union Finance Minister to sit for a meeting with them. In a series of discussions afterwards on October 6, this liquidity issue faced by the exporters was addressed and we are evolving a mechanism that may take just a couple of days' time," he said. The central government is working on mechanisms to further speed up the GST refund process for exporters.

In a relief to exporters, the government recently announced that it would immediately refund exporters for the month of July and August through cheques from October 10 and October 18, respectively.

Following a GST Council meeting, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley told reporters that this would be an interim relief, and as a long term measure e-wallets will be created for all exporters by April 1, 2018, to carry forward the refund process. Chaudhary said large scale reforms like GST will often lead to hiccups and inconvenience during inception but it will be beneficial in the long run. "Rise in export data for September shows that initial hiccups of GST roll out is stabilising," he added.