



Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

NATIONAL APEX BODY OF CUSTOMS BROKERS ASSOCIATIONS & LOGISTICS SERVICE PROVIDERS IN INDIA

[ESTD. 1962]

FFFAI/MISC/244/2026

15.07.2026

Ms. Nidhi Chaturvedi
Director
Rajya Sabha Secretariat
Room no. 414, B-Block
Parliament House Annexe
New Delhi – 110001

Respected Madam,

Sub: Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce – “Doing Business in India: The Way Forward”

We refer to your email dated 8th July, 2026 requesting to share the replies of queries/ concerns of MPs related to FFFAI.

Please find below our replies regarding challenges faced on ICEGATE and Suggested Measures.

1. Accountability for System Downtime and Levy of Late Filing Fee

Under the Customs Act, 1962, the filing of a Bill of Entry is governed by Section 46, while the levy of a late presentation fee for delayed filing is provided under Section 46(3). However, when ICEGATE experiences system downtime, there is presently no mechanism to account for the lost time, and late filing fees continue to be imposed. Furthermore, although the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations (SCMTR) envisage advance filing of the Import Manifest, their full implementation is still pending, making timely filing of Bills of Entry particularly challenging.

It is therefore requested that a transparent and objective mechanism be introduced to record system downtime and to exclude such periods while calculating late filing fees.

2. Issues in the e-Bond Module

The e-Bond facility continues to present operational difficulties due to validation glitches and issues relating to mandatory Bank Guarantees, bond cancellation, and other system constraints. The module requires further refinement and stabilization to ensure seamless operation. Additionally, strict time-bound actions should be avoided until the system functions reliably, so that customs clearances are not disrupted.

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3. Challenges under SWIFT 2.0

SWIFT 2.0 was introduced to provide a unified platform for obtaining clearances from all Participating Government Agencies (PGAs). However, users continue to encounter technical issues and delays in obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs). These concerns need to be addressed to realize the intended benefits of the platform.

We seek your kind support to resolve the issue for the betterment of the EXIM trade.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

For Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

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