



# SME EXCELLENCE

## Empowered SMEs will accomplish 9% GDP Growth

The challenges that SMEs have been facing for past many years are mainly related to marketing, export promotion, finance, banking system, adequate water supply, power and other essential infrastructure facilities. These problems remain unsolved till date, despite promises from authorities. Unless the basic requirements are met and proper encouragement is initiated by the Government, SMEs will continue to remain an unorganised sector, but given encouragement and support, it has the potential to achieve the targeted GDP growth of 9 per cent.

Although the concerned agencies of Central and State Governments have been discussing, formulating policies, rules and regulations for providing required assistance, problems of the SMEs have not been effectively addressed.

One of the main problems is availability of adequate and timely finance from banks. A proposal from an SME unit takes at least three to four months for disbursement of loan, and in most instances, the amount is not what the SME is actually entitled for, as per rules.

SMEs do not get sufficient financial assis-

The SME Sector has the potential to meet the Hon'ble Prime Minister's expectations of above 9% GDP, with sensible support from the Govt

tance for market development, export promotion, education and training on export activities. We hope that the Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Commerce and Industry will take appropriate initiatives and ensure that Indian Embassies abroad support SMEs on a priority basis; this will go a long way in enhancing export promotion of SME Sector.

SME Chamber of India, SME Export Promotion Council of India and India International Trade Centre are organisations that support SMEs and young entrepreneurs. That there are schemes and fi-

ancial assistance available from various Government agencies but because of lack of information and connectivity, SMEs are unable to access these facilities.

Indian SMEs play a vital role for national development as also provide a platform for enhancement of employment and overall social development - but there are issues that need to be resolved.

*The above article is authored by Chandrakant Salunkhe who is the President of Small and Medium Business Development Chamber of India*