



2017

Performance Report

Department of Trade and Investment Policy
General Treasury
Ministry of Finance and Mass Media
Colombo -01

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Organizational Frame Work

The Department of Trade and Investment Policy focuses mainly on the formulation and implementation of sustainable policies on external trade, tariff and investment for the benefit of Sri Lankan economy and the people. In June of 2006, this Department was established with the broad objective of promotion and facilitation of country's international economic integration and named as "Department of Trade, Tariff and Investment Policy" under the General Treasury, Ministry of Finance. To broaden the functions of the Department, it was renamed in 2012 as the "Department of Trade and Investment Policy"

In 2017, the strategic direction of the Department was re-structured and reformulated its Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives and Organizational Structure in order to provide a better service. The Department constitutes of three Divisions to implement its core business as follows;

- i. Trade Policy Division
- ii. Investment Policy Division
- iii. Administration, Finance and Special Schemes Division

1.2 Vision

Ensuring to establish proactive policies in trade and investment for inclusive development of the country.

1.3 Mission

Fostering a trade and investment friendly environment to facilitate international economic integration for inclusive development.

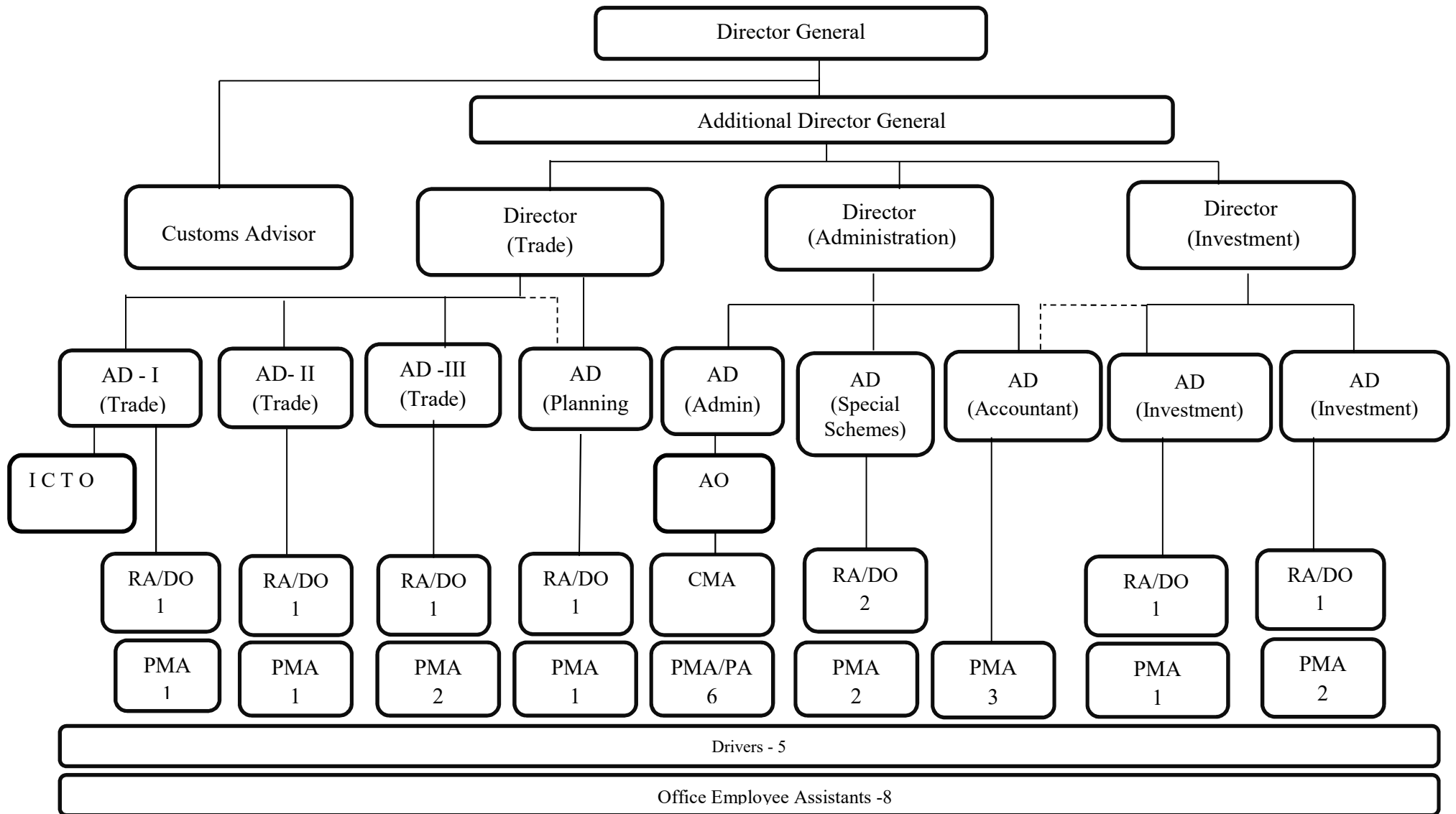
1.4 Goals

- To gain industrial friendly tariff regime
- To improve the position of Ease of Doing Business Index to below 50
- To implement competitive advantage trade agreements for trade
- To promote US\$ 25 billion trading economy by 2020
- To implement tax concessions in order to achieve economic and social goals of the Government
- To promote Sri Lanka as preferred FDI destination in the region

1.5 Objectives

- To eliminate the restrictions which discourage the investment
- To strengthen the Temporary Importation for Export Processing (TIEP) Scheme and Bonded Warehouse Policy
- To organize the dialogue with relevant stakeholders for preparing a policy for SME sector
- To introduce mechanism to improve Small Entrepreneurs to Medium Entrepreneurs and Medium Entrepreneurs to large scale
- To enter into FTAs with China, USA and European Union by 2018
- To assist the entrepreneurs providing necessary information through customer friendly database
- To Preparation of legal guidance for outward investors
- To streamline the issuing of public officers' concessionary vehicle permits
- To minimize tariff related issues below 10%
- To promote free trade agreements based on reciprocal benefits within the asymmetrical nature of island trading economy
- To promote free trade agreements which provide access to the global value chain trading / industries

1.6 Organizational Structure



1.7 Functions

1.7.1 Trade Policy Division

Trade Policy Division is responsible for formulation, implementation and revision of Trade & Tariff Policies related to Trade, Industry and Free Trade Agreements. It is also responsible for co-ordination of Customs Administrations including regulations and appeals. The key functions of this Division can be spelt out as follows;

1.7.1.1 Trade Policy

- i. Analysis of Tariff Policy related Issues and Alternatives
- ii. Enforcement of Special Commodity Levy Act
- iii. Tariff Policy review and update
- iv. Development of Automobile Import Policy on project basics
- v. Organization of Trade/Business Forums
- vi. To conduct Trade Policy Stakeholders' Dialogue
- vii. Coordination with Trade or Tariff related National and International Organizations
- viii. Resolving Trade or Tariff Policy related issues represented by the stakeholders
- ix. Development of Trade or Tariff Policy Papers to the Cabinet of Ministers
- x. Representing the MOF in Agency for International Trade
- xi. Compilation of responses to Trade or Tariff Policy related Court Cases
- xii. Preparation of Cabinet Memoranda / Observations / Comments

1.7.1.2 Tariff Policy

- i. Coordination of 19(A) Duty Waivers
- ii. Development of Information System for 19(A) Duty Waivers
- iii. Facilitation of Promulgation of Regulations under the Customs Ordinance
- iv. Publication of Revenue Protection Order (RPO)
- v. Resolving grievances related to Tariff Anomalies
- vi. Management of HS Code National Sub Divisions
- vii. Review of appeals on Customs cases including valuation
- viii. Review of Audit reports on Customs Administration
- ix. HS Code compliance and transposition
- x. Policy Coordination of TIEP scheme

- xi. Policy Coordination of Bonded Warehouse Facilities
- xii. Preparation of Budget Proposals
- xiii. Implementation of Budget Proposals
- xiv. Parliamentary Affairs on Tariff Policy

1.7.1.3 Free Trade Agreements

- i. Analysis of Fiscal Policy Implementations of Free Trade Agreements
- ii. Coordination Trade or Tariff related matters with the Coordinating Committee on Economic Management
- iii. Trade Policy review and update inline with the FTAs of Sri Lanka
- iv. Tariff Policy Implementation of:
 - India - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA)
 - Pakistan - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA)
 - South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)
 - The SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS)
 - The Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)
 - Sri Lanka Singapore Trade Agreement(SLSFTA)
 - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sector Technical & Economic Co-operation (BIMSTEC FTA)
 - Proposed China Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement(CSFTA), and Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement (ETCA)
 - Joint Trade Committees (Kenya, Vietnam, Japan, Russia etc.)

1.7.2 Investment Policy Division

The Investment Policy Division is responsible for policy matters related to investment in collaboration with relevant State Institutions. Key functions of the Division are as follows;

- i. Maintain a database on outward and domestic investments
- ii. Attend legislative matters in respect of outward investments
- iii. To consider appeals under Exchange Control Act on behalf of the Ministry of Finance
- iv. Attend matters related to entering with MOUs by Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of Sri Lanka
- v. All approvals in respect of Exchange Control Act
- vi. All approvals in respect of Financial Transactions Reporting Act, Prevention of Money Laundering Act and Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Financing Act

- vii. Approval on Bonded Warehouses
- viii. To maintain a database on Bonded Warehouses
- ix. To develop a Bonded Warehouse policy framework with relevant stakeholders
- x. To attend matters related to Board of Investment Act
- xi. To attend matters related to Private Public Partnership (PPP)
- xii. To attend all activities related to South Asian Association for Regional Countries (SAARC) and SAARC Development Fund (SDF)
- xiii. To attend activities related to International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Commonwealth Secretariat
- xiv. To monitor the implementation of relevant Budget Proposals
- xv. To prepare Budget Proposals relevant to investment
- xvi. Preparation of Cabinet Memoranda/Observations / Comments

1.7.3. Administration and Finance Division

Administration and Finance Division is responsible for management of Human, Physical and Finance Resources. Human resource management is included recruitment, development and placement of the officers within the Department and Physical and Finance Resources management is covered acquisition, maintenance and keeping the records of Physical and Finance Resources.

2. TRADE POLICY

Trade policy includes policy analysis, policy formulation including tariff policy and issuance of regulations and guidelines for implementation of such policy measures in line with the emerging patterns of international and domestic trade and also international obligations within the purview of bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral agreements.

2.1 Trade Agreements

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the main institutional framework under which Sri Lanka conducts its trade relations with some of the most important trading partners, including the United States, European Union, China, India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

Sri Lanka became a founder member of the WTO when the organization was established in 1995. Prior to that, Sri Lanka was one of the 23 founder members of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT). The Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations were undertaken under the auspices of GATT which led to the establishment of the WTO.

The multilateral trading system today is governed by the WTO agreements which govern trade in, *inter alia*, agriculture, trade in industrial goods, banking, telecommunication, industrial standards and product safety, food sanitation regulations, customs valuation, intellectual property and other areas. Trade under the WTO framework is governed by the principles of non-discrimination amongst members and between domestic and international trade. However, there are exceptions to this rule such as free trade agreements and non-reciprocal preferential trade agreements.

This Department has continued to be involved in the process of improving the international trade through effective negotiations and implementation of Bilateral, Plurilateral and Multilateral Trade Agreements. Following are the existing Bilateral, Plurilateral and Multilateral Trade Agreements being implemented by Sri Lanka;

- **Ratified trade agreements**
 - India - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA)
 - Pakistan - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA)
 - South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)
 - Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)

➤ **Trade Agreements at negotiation level**

- Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi - Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Agreement (BIMSTEC)
- Sri Lanka Singapore Free Trade Agreement – SLSFTA
- Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement – ETCA
- China Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement - CSLFTA

➤ **Trade Agreements at Proposed Level**

- Sri Lanka Thailand Free Trade Agreement
- Bangladesh Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement
- Malaysia Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement
- Vietnam Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement

The main objectives of Trade Agreements to Sri Lanka is achieving high per capita income, paradise for tourism, promoting Sri Lanka as a trading and investment hub while protecting and developing its potential industries in a competitive trading environment. Trade in Services is a very sensitive area which needs to be addressed early in the context of anticipated labour scarcity in the agriculture and industry sectors. Accordingly, a high priority was given to attract appropriate investments and to create a favourable environment for trade in services through formulating frameworks for comprehensive economic cooperation.

2.1.1 Progress under Trade Agreements

Appropriate follow ups were taken by the Department of Trade and Investment Policy in consultation with the Department of Commerce to implement tariff revisions under its trade agreements. Accordingly, the status of implementation of its trade agreements including Tariff Liberalization Programme (TLP) is indicated below.

2.1.1.1 India - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA)

The Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA), which was signed on 28th December 1998 and entered into force with effect from 1st March 2000, aims at promoting economic linkages between India and Sri Lanka through enhancement of bilateral trade and investment where the investment has been facilitated by the Bilateral Investment Treaty between Sri Lanka and India. The ISFTA covers only trade in goods and requires the two countries to offer market access for each other's exports on duty free basis or on concessionary basis.

While there has been a reduction in major exports such as vegetable oil, primary copper, margarine, marbles and pepper, a variety of other products have gained market access to India. They include insulated wires and cables, poultry feeds, pneumatic tyres, ceramics, apparel, furniture, air conditioners and coolers, measuring and checking instruments, glass bottles, processed meat products, Medium Density fiber (MDF) boards, rubber gloves, thermal papers, tiles, stones and marbles, boilers and machinery parts, iron and steel articles, panel boards and enclosures, sacks and bags etc.

Table 2.1 Total Imports and Exports value under ISFTA for Sri Lanka - 2016 / 2017

2016		2017	
Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)
27,216	57,576	43,273	72,108

Source: Department of Sri Lanka Customs, 2016/2017

The matters under ISFTA are currently discussing at the meetings of Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement (ETCA).

2.1.1.2 Pakistan - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA)

The Pakistan Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA), which came into force on 12th June 2005, is an instrument for a substantial improvement in trade between the two countries.

Sri Lanka's main exports to Pakistan include pepper, beedi leaves, betel leaves, coconut shell pieces, natural rubber, coconuts and cashew nuts in fresh or dried, wood and articles of wood, edible vegetables and tea. A range of new products have also penetrated into the Pakistan market after the implementation of the PSFTA, including fresh pineapple, sports goods, tamarind with seeds, edible oil, porcelain tableware and kitchenware, ceramic tiles, furniture, electrical switches and sockets, herbal cosmetic products and plastic articles, paints, glass paintings, leather products, frozen fish, prawns, lobsters, crabs, cut flowers and foliage, gems and Jewellery and aquarium fish.

Both Countries have completed its phasing out commitment under the tariff liberalization programme and now have the duty free market access for more than 4500 products between countries. The table 2.2 shows the imports and exports between two countries under the PSFTA.

Table 2. 2 Total Imports and Exports value under PSFTA for Sri Lanka - 2016/2017

2016		2017	
Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)
3,069	9,123	2,325	9,320

Source: Department of Sri Lanka Customs, 2016/2017

There is a discussion in place to upgrade the PSFTA into comprehensive agreement covering investment, service and economic cooperation.

In 2017, the meetings were held with Department of Commerce to discuss on the issue raised on betel leaves.

2.1.1.3 South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)

The Agreement on South Asian Free Trade was signed by the Council of Ministers of the member states of SAARC on 6th January 2004 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The preliminary substantive work towards finalization of SAFTA was entrusted to the Committee of Experts (COE), which was established drawing expertise from the member states. SAFTA aims at further enhancing the programme of plurilateral economic integration through promotion of preferential trade, which began with the establishment of the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) in 1995.

The Fifteenth SAARC Summit held in Colombo, in 2009 emphasized and directed to revise the Sensitive Lists by SAFTA Ministerial Council (SMC) and be implemented early. In this regard, it was recommended and agreed to constitute an adhoc Working Group to commence work on the reduction in the size of the Sensitive Lists. The First Meeting of the Working Group took place on 10th February 2010 and it discussed the modalities proposed for the reduction in the number of tariff lines in the Sensitive Lists. The Meeting recommended the Member states to prepare their Request Lists bilaterally and keep the Secretariat informed. Following the receipts of such requests, the Members States will make their initial Offer Lists to all SAARC Member States through the SAARC Secretariat. The next meeting of the Working Group will take up further detail negotiations on the Request and Offer Lists with a view to finalize them.

The Fifth Meeting of the Expert Group on SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) was held on in February 2010 at the SAARC Secretariat at Kathmandu in Nepal. The Meeting resumed discussion on the Draft SATIS as revised by the Fourth Meeting of the Expert Group and finalized the

Draft SATIS to be signed at a subsequent SAARC Summit by the leaders of the Members States. The Meeting also agreed that the discussion on specific schedules of commitments may commence after the Agreement is signed. Accordingly, the SATIS was signed at the 16th SAARC Summit held in Bhutan on 29th April 2010 by the leaders of the Member States and Sri Lanka ratified this Agreement on 2nd June 2010.

Under the Tariff Liberalization Programme (TLP) under the SAFTA, the Phase I was completed in 2015. The Phase II of the TLP needs to be completed at the end of December 2018. At the Phase II, Sri Lanka has agreed to liberalized 208 items from its existing negative list.

In 2017, the discussions were held with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka Customs and Department of Commerce in regard to the different matters of SAFTA.

The number of products in the sensitive list and the percentage reduction agreed under Phase III of member countries are tabulated as follows.

Table 2.3 Sensitive List items maintained by each member state in Phase II and percentage agreed to reduce in Phase III

Member State	Number of Products in the Original Sensitive Lists	Number of products in the Revised Sensitive Lists (Phase – II)	Percentage Reduction Agreed from the negative list under phase III
Afghanistan	1072	850	20%
Bangladesh	1233 (LDCs) 1241 (NLDCs)	987 (LDCs) 993 (NLDCs)	20%
Bhutan	150	156	Not Applicable
India	480 (LDCs) 868 (NLDCs)	25 (LDCs) 614 (NLDCs)	20% for NLDCs only
Maldives	681	154	Not Applicable
Nepal	1257 (LDCs) 1295 (NLDCs)	998 (LDCs) 1036 (NLDCs)	20%
Pakistan	1169	936	20%
Sri Lanka	1042	837 (LDCs) 963 (NLDCs)	10%

Source: SAFTA Secretariat

LDCs - Least Developed Countries

NLDCs – Non Least Developed Countries

The table 2.4 shows the trade data under the SAFTA in 2016 and 2017.

Table 2.4 Total Imports and Exports value under SAFTA for Sri Lanka - 2016 /2017

2016		2017	
Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)
908	1,270	1,295	8,879

Source: Department of Sri Lanka Customs, 2016/2017

2.1.1.4 Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)

The Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), formerly known as Bangkok Agreement and was signed in 1975, is one of the Asia's oldest plurilateral preferential trading agreements with six participating States namely Bangladesh, China, India, Laos, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka.

APTA is a dynamic plurilateral agreement which has been instrumental in producing a favourable outcome to Sri Lanka. It is particularly important for Sri Lanka as it is the only trade agreement that facilitates Sri Lanka to do trade with China and the Republic of Korea.

Coir products, tea, natural rubber, apparel, fish products, activated carbon, wooden furniture, silver jewellery and porcelain ware are Sri Lanka's main exports under the APTA.

Further concessions are envisaged at the conclusion of the 4th Round of trade negotiations, which were launched at the Second Session of the Ministerial Council of the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), held on 26th October 2007 in Goa, India. Ministers launched this new round, with a view to further widening products coverage and deepening the tariff cuts and to adopt modalities for the extension of negotiations into other areas such as non-tariff measures, trade facilitation, services and investment. The Third Ministerial Council was held on 15th December, 2009 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. In addition, two framework agreements on Trade Facilitation and Promotion, Protection and Liberalization of Investment were already signed.

In 2017, the 51st Session of the Standing Committee of the APTA was held on 28-29 September in Sri Lanka. And also, the discussions were held with the Director General of Commerce on the implementation of 4th round of duty concessions under APTA.

A summary of the existing duty concessions, granted by the APTA member countries is presented in the Table 2.5.

Table 2.5 Trade Flow of Sri Lanka under the APTA in 2016 and 2017

2016		2017	
Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)	Value (Rs.Mn)
2,328	19,189	3,720	24,431

Source : Department of Sri Lanka Customs, 2016/2017

2.1.1.5 Bay of Bengal Initiatives on Multi - Sectoral Technical and Economic Co-operation (BIMSTEC)

On 6 June 1997, a new sub-plurilateral grouping was formed in Bangkok and given the name BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Co-operation). Myanmar attended the inaugural June Meeting as an observer and joined the organization as a full member at a Special Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok on 22 December 1997, upon which the name of the grouping was changed to BIMST-EC. Nepal was granted observer status by the second Ministerial Meeting in Dhaka in December 1998. Subsequently, full membership has been granted to Nepal and Bhutan in February 2004.

In the first BIMSTEC Summit on 31 July 2004, leaders of the BIMSTEC agreed that the name of the grouping should be known as BIMSTEC the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi -Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.

The main objective of BIMSTEC is to promote technological and economic cooperation among south Asian and south east Asian countries along the coast of the bay of Bengal. Commerce, investment, technology, tourism, human resource development, agriculture, fisheries, transport and communication, textiles, leather etc. have been included in it.

The twentieth Meeting of the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee was held on 07- 09 September, 2015 in the Kingdom of Thailand. It was highlighted the necessity of implementing the decisions taken at the nineteenth meeting which was held on 21-23 February 2011. The Working Groups reviewed the draft Protocol to the amended Framework Agreement which aims to revise issues of period of implementing and reduction of applied MFN tariff rates. Accordingly, the committee agreed to amend the date of entry in to force in to agreement on Trade in Goods as follows under agreed track of tariff liberalization;

Table 2.6 and 2.7 show BIMSTEC tariff liberalization modalities.

Table 2.6 Fast Track Tariff Liberalization

No	Countries	For India, Sri Lanka and Thailand	For Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal
1	India, Sri Lanka and Thailand	01.07.2016 to 30.06.2019	01.07.2016 to 30.06.2017
2	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal	01.07.2012 to 30.06.2021	01.07.2012 to 30.06.2017

Source: BIMSTEC Secretariat

Table 2.7 Normal Track Tariff Liberalization

No	Countries	For India, Sri Lanka and Thailand	For Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal
1	India, Sri Lanka and Thailand	01.07.2017 to 30.06.2022	01.07.2017 to 30.06.2020
2	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Nepal	01.07.2017 to 30.06.2022	01.07.2017 to 30.06.2025

Source: BIMSTEC Secretariat

In 2017, the 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and the 18th Session of BIMSTEC Senior Officials meeting was held on August 07-08 in Nepal and also the discussions were held with Sri Lanka Customs and Department of Commerce on the draft text of the BIMSTEC Agreement.

2.1.1.6 Proposed China - Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement

On completion of joint feasibility study between China and Sri Lanka in March 2014, the results of the feasibility study showed that the construction of the China-Sri Lanka FTA would contribute to further deepening bilateral economic and trade relations, and accord with the benefits of the two countries.

In 2017, the 5th and 6th round of China-Sri Lanka FTA negotiation was held. The two sides exchanged views on issues concerning trade in goods, trade in service, investment, economic and technical cooperation, rule of origin, customs procedures and trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade (TBT), sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) and trade remedy.

2.1.1.7 Proposed Sri Lanka Singapore Free Trade Agreement

By end of 2017, eight rounds of FTA negotiations with Singapore were completed. Accordingly, the proposed FTA with Singapore is a comprehensive in nature covering Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Telecommunications and E- Commerce, Financial services, Intellectual Property, Competition and Transparency, SPS and TBT and Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitations etc.

2.1.1.8 Proposed Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement

The 7th round of negotiations for the proposed India-Sri Lanka Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement was held in December 2017 at Colombo. A joint session of the working groups on general provisions and trade in goods, trade in services and investment was held to discuss the common issues of relevance. And also discussed about the effective steps to ensure that no undue advantage of the trade arrangements between the two countries is taken.

2.2. International Trade under Free Trade Agreements Sri Lanka in 2017.

Table 2.8 Imports and Exports under Trade Agreements by Sri Lanka in 2017

No	Trade Agreement	CIF Value of Imports (Rs. Mn)	FOB Value of Exports (Rs. Mn)
1	India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA)	43,273	72,108
2	Pakistan Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (PSFTA)	2,325	9,320
3	South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)	1,295	8,879
4	SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement Agreement (SAPTA)	30	714
5	Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)	3,720	24,431
Total		50,643	115,452

Source: Department of Sri Lanka Customs, 2017

2.3 Trade Facilitation

The Government of Sri Lanka has identified the need to reform its trade policies and practices in order to support a more business-friendly environment, promote private sector for growth and use the strategic position of the country to improve their competitiveness in the global market and to attract international direct investment through application of simplified border management measures in supporting trade.

The Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of World Trade Organization (WTO) aims at streamlining, harmonizing and modernizing customs procedures will come into force shortly. It contains provision for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. It also sets out measures for effective cooperation between the authorities involved in cross border trade. The TFA will help improve transparency, increase possibilities to participate in global value chains and reduce the scope for delays and circumvention.

The section I of the TFA consists of 12 articles and 36 measures. The TFA contains several provisions relating to number of Customs clearance procedures. The key areas covered by the Agreement include; (a) Norms for the publication of laws, regulations and procedures (Including internet publications) relating to Customs clearance procedures (b) Provision for advance rulings (c) Disciplines on fees and charges on penalties (d) Pre-arrival processing of goods (e) Use of electronic payments (f) Guarantees to allow rapid release of goods (g) Use of “authorized operators” schemes (h) Procedures to expedite shipments (i) Faster release of perishable goods (j) Reduced documents and formalities with common customs standards (k) Promotion of the use of a single window (l) Uniformity of boarder procedures (m) Temporary admission of goods (n) Simplified transit procedures and (o) Provisions for customs cooperation and coordination.

The Government has set priority to improve the trade facilitation measures in line with the Trade Facilitation Agreement to enhance trade and increase its share in international trade with a view to generate employment and to achieve the anticipated economic development. In this regard, the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) was established in 2016 in line with the Sri Lanka’s commitment to the WTO under the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The NTFC is chaired by the Director General of Sri Lanka Customs and co-chaired by the Director General of the Department of Commerce, is committee which has 23 member representing the public (16 Heads of border regulatory agencies) and private sectors (7 representatives from chambers of commerce). The Department of Trade and Investment Policy is representing the Ministry of Finance and Mass Media at the NTFC of Sri Lanka. A Secretariat to the NTFC has been established with the assistance of the World Bank Group to support the NTFC ensuring effective coordination and

implementation of the TFA and any other trade facilitation initiatives in Sri Lanka. Five (5) staff members have been assigned to the Secretariat (2 national consultants recruited by the World Bank Group, 2 officers from Sri Lanka Customs and 1 officer from the Department of Commerce).

A detailed action plan for TFA implementation was developed by the NTFC Secretariat in consultation with all relevant border regulatory agencies. The plan document consists of a consolidated plan as well as agency specific plans for all NTFC implementing agencies. The measures/activities in this plan have been prioritized and sequenced. The plan is for five (5) years (from 2018 to 2022). This planning exercise was assisted by the World Bank Group and International Trade Center (ITC).

The Agreement requires all the members of the WTO to undertake commitments to comply with the provisions into three categories namely Category A, B & C and notify them to the WTO within an agreed timeframe.

Sri Lanka has finalized its implementation schedule under the WTO TFA with categories of A, B and C already submitted to the WTO. Section II of the TFA recognizes the difficulties that developing and least developed countries (LDC) would face in implementing the provisions of the Agreements and it provides Special and Differential (S&D) Treatment for developing countries and LDCs. These S&D provisions allow all developing countries to determine when to implement their commitments and notify them to WTO in three categories namely category A, B & C. Category 'A' include the provisions that the member will implement by the time the Agreement enters into force. Category 'B' includes provisions that the member will implement after a transitional period following the entry into force of the Agreement and Category 'C' includes provisions that the member will implement on a date after a transitional period following the entry into force of the Agreement and requiring the acquisition of assistance and support for capacity building. Sri Lanka is receiving technical assistance and capacity building support from the World Bank Group and International Trade Centre for implementation of its commitments under the categories B and C under the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The National Single Window (NSW) and the Trade Information Portal (TIP) are among the key priorities of the TFA action plan. PM Group — an international consultancy firm hired by the World Bank Group for developing the blueprint of the National Single Window and establishing the Trade Information Portal (TIP) commenced the project work in November 2017. The completion of the NSW blueprint and the launch of TIP site is aimed by July 2018.

2.4 Import Tariff Structure

“Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System” commonly known as Harmonized System (HS) is the Customs Tariff Nomenclature and Classification used for the purpose of identifying goods and levying Customs Duties and other taxes on imported and exported goods. It is also useful for the collection of import and export trade statistics. Sri Lanka has allocated 08 digits HS codes accordingly, where the last two digits of the HS codes correspond to the National Sub Divisions created for specific requirements of Sri Lanka.

Trade and Tariff Policies are implemented on the basis of legislative provisions contained in the Revenue Protection Act No. 19 of 1962 and the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235) amended, (Table 5.3 (Annex - III)), Special Commodity Levy Act, Ports and Airports Development Levy Act and the Export Development Board Act.

Considering the impact on the various stakeholders, different duty rates were imposed on different items in 2017. Except for few items, in general, raw materials, intermediate goods for local industries are kept at zero or lower duty and higher duty rate for finished products. Sri Lanka has adopted a three band Tariff system consisting of 0 band, 15% band and 30% band in 2017 to facilitate the trade flows with a very few alternative rates. The tariff structure showing the numbers of HS Codes under each tariff rates at the end of the year 2017 are given in the Table 2.9.

Table 2.9 Tariff Structure as at December 31st, 2017

No	Tariff Rate	No. of Tariff Lines (HS 2017 : 8 Digits)	Percentage
1	Free	4,064	54.64
2	5%	2	0.03
3	10%	9	0.12
4	15%	1,534	20.62
5	25%	25	0.34
6	30%	1,454	19.55
7	75%	03	0.04
8	85%	01	0.01
8	125%	05	0.07
9	Specific	72	0.96
10	Specific & Ad-valorem	269	3.62
Total		7,438	100.00

Source: Department of Trade and Investment Policy, 2017

Table. 2.10 Changes made in Tariff Structure from 2010 to 2017

No	Tariff Bands	No. of Tariff Lines (8 digits)							
		2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
1	Free	4,064	3,938	3,922	3,410	3,379	3,024	3,024	2,967
2	2.5%								
3	5%	2	2				410	412	415
4	6%								
5	7.5%				188	184			
6	10%	9	9						
7	15%	1,534	1,309	1,324	1,601	1,590	1,587	1,508	1,516
8	25%	25	25		1,450	1,415			
9	28%								
10	30%	1,454	1,430	1,457			1,504	1,323	1,327
11	Luxury Rates	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
12	Specific/ Unit Rates	72	65	67	84	84	84	77	60
13	Specific or Ad-valorem	269	255	186	184	183	200	162	193
Total		7,438	7,042	6,965	6,926	6,844	6,818	6,515	6,487

Source: Department of Trade and Investment Policy, 2017

2.4.1 Newly Added National Sub Division's (NSDs) to the Harmonized System in 2017

In 2017, total no. of 69 National Sub Divisions were locally created to facilitate the trade, investment and industry as summarized in the Table 5.1 (Annexure 1). However, in the year 2017, the Harmonized System was changed by the World Customs Organization and created new HS Codes internationally. Accordingly, 369 no. of HS Codes were newly created locally and internationally in 2017

2.4.2 Revisions made under Revenue Protection Act No. 19 of 1962

The details of Revenue Protection Order, published under Act No. 19 of 1962 (Customs Import Duty) are in the Table 5.2 (Annexure II). In 2017, a total of 04 orders were made under Revenue Protection Act to facilitate the trade and Industry.

2.4.3 Special Commodity Levy (SCL) Act No. 48 of 2007

The SCL as a single composite levy on imports of selected special commodities has also been imposed in 2017 with appropriate revisions by publishing Gazette Notifications on the basis of legislative provisions under the Special Commodity Levy Act No. 48 of 2007. Regular revisions were made in

order to maintain affordable prices for consumers while facilitating the local producers during the harvesting season. (e.g. Potatoes, Red Onions and B-Onions). A total of 32 orders were made under the Special Commodity Levy Act in 2017 to promote its objectives (Table 5.4)

2.5 Duty Waivers

Customs Import Duty (CID) could be waived off on approved basis including Special Projects as approved by Cabinet of Ministers under the Section 19(A) of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235). Accordingly, in 2017, duty waivers were granted to the projects covering the areas of road and highways, airport and aviation, ports and fisheries harbors, water supply and irrigation, electricity, housing schemes, construction of hospitals and universities etc. A summary of Customs Import Duty Waivers granted in 2017 is summarized in Table 2.11.

Table 2.11 Duty Waivers granted under the 19(A) of the Customs Ordinance in 2017

No	Sector	No. of letters issued for Duty Waivers
1	Defense	203
2	Education	92
3	Health	68
4	Infrastructure	193
5	Water Supply	270
6	Other	1,219
Total		2,045

Source: Department of Trade and Investment Policy, 2017

In terms of Section 19(A) of the Customs Ordinance ‘*the Minister may, if he deems it expedient in the public interest so to do, by order, exempt any goods imported by, or consigned to any person specified in the order from the whole or any part of the duties of customs liable thereon, subject to such conditions as may be specified in the Order*’. Accordingly, this Department has been assigned to implement the granting of duty waivers in accordance with the powers vested with the Hon. Minister of Finance. A summary of general duty waivers granted during 2017 are tabulated in table 2.12.

Table 2.12 General Duty Waivers granted under Section 19(A) of the Customs Ordinance

S. No	Item	Gazetted CID Rate	Duty Waiver	Recoverable CID	Period
1	Diesel	Rs.15 per Liter	Rs.03 per liter	Rs. 12 per liter	01.02.2017 to 14.12.2017
			Rs.06 per liter	Rs. 9 per liter	15.12.2017 to 21.12.2017
			Rs.11 per liter	Rs. 4 per liter	22.12.2017 to follow up 2018
2	Petrol	Rs.35 per Liter	Rs.10 per liter	Rs. 25 per liter	01.02.2017 to 14.12.2017
			Rs.20 per liter	Rs. 15 per liter	15.12.2017 to 21.12.2017
			Rs.23 per liter	Rs. 12 per liter	22.12.2017 to follow up 2018
3	Wheat Grain	15% or Rs.12 per kg	Rs. 3/-Per Kg	Rs. 9 /-Per Kg	10.12.2016 to 01.08.2017
			Rs. 6/-Per Kg	Rs. 6 /-Per Kg	02.08.2017 to follow up 2018
4	Milk Powder	20% or Rs. 225/- per Kg	Rs. 180 per Kg	Rs. 45 per Kg	20.12.2016 to 07.07.2017
			Rs. 223 per Kg	Rs. 2 per Kg	08.07.2017 to follow up 2018
5	Cashew Nuts	30%	30%	0%	07.10.2017 to follow up 2018

Source: Department of Trade & Investment Policy, 2017

3. INVESTMENT POLICY

3.1 Foreign Outward Investment

Prior approval needs to be obtained from the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject of Finance in terms of Section 17(2) of the Exchange Control Act for any outward investment. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka submits such proposals with their recommendations to the Department of Trade and Investment Policy in order to obtain the approval from the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject of Finance. During the year, approvals for the outward investments were given in a controlled manner while maintaining a healthy foreign reserve in the country. Accordingly, during the year 2017, approvals which have been granted for the outward investments are mentioned in the Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Outward Investments approved in 2017

No	Company	Sector of Investment	Amount of Investment	Country	Remarks
1	Kotagala Plantation	Plantation	USD 4mn	Cambodia	To remit USD 4mn back to their outward investment account
2	Sampath Bank PLC	Finance	BDT 131.05 mn	Bangladesh	To invest in Lanka Bangladesh Finance Ltd
3	Guardian Capital Partners PLC	Finance	USD 7 mn	Mauritius	To invest in SEAF Guardian Sri Lanka Growth Fund in Mauritius
4	Vidulanka PLC	Power	USD 2.8 mn	Uganda	To acquire 100% of the equity of Muvumber Hydro Pvt Ltd of Uganda
5	hSenid Business solutions	Software	22% ownership *	Singapore	Pay Asia Pte Ltd
6	LTE Energy (Pvt) Ltd. (LEPL)	Energy	USD 7,818,000	Nepal	To invest in Makari Gad Hydropower (pvt) Ltd of Nepal
7	M/s Lakdhanavi Ltd	Energy	USD 30 mn	Bangladesh	To build 114 MW Thermal power plant
8	Hemas Aviation	Aviation	8000 Shares *	Thailand	To acquire 8000 shares in LTV Asia Aviation

Source: Department of Trade & Investment Policy, 2017

* Values are not available

Due to the unavoidable issues faced by the investors, they request to divest their investment in outside Sri Lanka. As per the provisions of the Exchange Control Act it is needed to obtain prior approval of the Hon. Minister of Finance. Accordingly, during the year 2017, approvals have been granted for the investors to divest their shareholdings are shown in the Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Divestment approvals given in 2017

No	Company	Sector of Investment	Country	Remarks
1	Heritage Teas	Plantation	Hong Kong	To divest 300,000 shares in TWG Heritage Tea Company Limited
2	Expo Lanka Holdings PLC	Hotel	India	To divest 500,000 shares Akquasun Holdings India (Pvt) Ltd
3	Jinasena New Technology Holdings (Pvt) Ltd	Technology	Canada	To divest from CAMSO
4	Star Packaging (Pvt) Ltd	Packaging	India	To divest shares of M/s Regal Pack Boxes
5	Lanka Orix Leasing Company	Finance	Cambodia	To divest shares of Prasac Microfinance Institution

Source: Department of Trade & Investment Policy, 2017

3.1.1 Importation for Export Processing Scheme (TIEP)

TIEP scheme has been introduced as an export trade facilitation measure to promote exports in order to bring sufficient income (Foreign Exchange) to the country. Also, it has been expected to strengthening the small and medium sector entrepreneurs by allowing them to import machinery and raw materials at a lower cost so that they can compete with the international market.

This scheme facilitate to the registered investors, under the section 16 of the BOI Act, which are not entitled to import of inputs on duty free basis for the export purpose. Department of Trade and Investment Policy has facilitated the Department of Sri Lanka Customs and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for approval process for the requests made by investors.

3.1.2 Exchange Control Matters

Department of Trade and Investment Policy receive the appeals from the Investors, Authorized Dealers, Money Exchangers to annul / reduce the penalty imposed by the Exchange Control Department for contravention of the provisions of the Exchange Control Act No. 24 of 1953 as amended. By virtue of the power vested to Hon. Minister as per the Section 52(8) of the Exchange Control Act, Minister may confirm / annul / reduce the penalty imposed by the Exchange Control Department.

Accordingly, appeals received under the Exchange Control Act, during the year 2017 are as per the Table 3.3.

Table 3.3 Appeals received under the Exchange Control Act in 2017

No	Appellant	Appeal	Section of the Exchange Control Act
1	Hatton National Bank	Appeal to waive off the penalty	Appeal under Section 42(7) of the ECA No. 24 of 1953
2	Deutsche Bank	Appeal to waive off the penalty	Appeal under Section 52(8) of the ECA No. 24 of 1953
3	Fortex Trading Ltd	Appeal to waive off the penalty	Appeal under the ECA No. 24 of 1953
4	Kamal Enterprises	Appeal to waive off the penalty	Appeal under the ECA No. 24 of 1953
5	Hatton National Bank	Appeal to waive off the penalty	Appeal under the ECA No. 24 of 1953
6	Peoples' Bank	Appeal to waive off the penalty	Appeal under the ECA No. 24 of 1953
7	City Finance Corporation Limited	Appeal to waive off the penalty	Appeal under the ECA No. 24 of 1953
8	Hatton National Bank	Appeal to waive off the penalty	Appeal under Section 52(7) of the ECA No. 24 of 1953
9	Indian Overseas Bank	Appeal to waive off the penalty	Appeal under Section 52(7) of the ECA No. 24 of 1953
10	Royal Money Exchange	Appeal to waive off the penalty	Appeal under Section 52(7) of the ECA No. 24 of 1953

Source: Department of Trade & Investment Policy, 2017

3.2 International Co-operation

3.2.1 SAARC Development Fund (SDF)

Requirement of a single umbrella financing mechanism for South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) related programs and projects were recognized by all the SAARC member countries to minimize operational issues with the proliferation of multitude of funds within the SAARC region. In the context of this broad consensus, the SAARC Development Fund (SDF) was established by the member countries.

This Department is functioning as the Sri Lanka Counterpart Agency of the SDF to perform the activities including the overall coordination, recommendation of project proposals, review of project progress, making annual contributions, facilitating SDF officials visiting to Sri Lanka etc. With the view of performing these tasks, the Deputy Secretary to the Treasury and the Director General of Department of Trade and Investment Policy were nominated as the Director and Alternative Director respectively to represent Sri Lanka. Accordingly, during the year, they have attended for the meetings scheduled in the Table 3.4.

Table 3.4 Participation of SAARC Development Fund Meetings in 2017

No	Name of the Meeting	Participant	Date and Venue
1	26 th Board of Directors meeting	Mr. K. A. Vimalenthirarajah Director General Department of Trade and Investment Policy	Colombo, Sri Lanka from 8 th -11 th February 2017
2	27 th Board of Directors meeting	Mr. C. Jayasuriya Additional Director General Department of Trade and Investment Policy	Thimphu, Bhutan from 18 th – 19 th July 2017
3	28 th Board of Directors meeting	Mr. C. Jayasuriya Additional Director General Department of Trade and Investment Policy	Thimphu, Bhutan from 20 th -22 nd December 2017

Source: Department of Trade & Investment Policy, 2017

With a view to expedite the implementation of the projects, funded by the SDF, this Department conducted four progress review meetings to closely monitor the quarterly progress as per annual activity plan.

Projects implemented with the financial assistance of SDF;

1. Strengthening the livelihood Initiatives for home based workers in SAARC Region (Phase I and II)
2. Strengthening Maternal & Child Health Including Immunization
3. South Asia Initiative of End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)
4. Post-harvest management and value addition of fruits in production catchment in SAARC Countries
5. Strengthening of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Services in Sri Lanka

3.2.2 SAARC Finance Meetings

SAARC Finance was established on September 9, 1998 as a regional network of the SAARC Central Bank Governors and Finance Secretaries as agreed during the 10th SAARC Summit held in Colombo on July 29, 1998. SAARC Finance obtained formal recognition during the 11th SAARC Summit held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in January 2002.

The basic objective of SAARC Finance network is to promote co-operation among central banks and finance ministries in SAARC member countries and learn from shared experiences among member countries on macroeconomic policy challenges facing the region. The broad objectives SAARC Finance included the following:

- To promote co-operation among central banks and finance ministries in SAARC member countries through staff visits and regular exchange of information
- To consider and propose harmonization of banking legislation and practices within the region
- To work towards a more efficient payment system mechanism with the SAARC region and strive for higher monetary and exchange cooperation
- To forge closer co-operation on macroeconomic policies of SAARC member states and to share experiences and ideas
- To study global financial development and their impact on the region including discussions relating to emerging issues in the financial architecture, IMF and World Bank and other international lending agencies
- To monitor reforms of the international financial and monetary system and to evolve a consensus among SAARC countries in respect of these reforms
- To evolve, whenever feasible, joint strategies, plans and common approaches in international forum for mutual benefit, particularly in the context of liberalization of financial services
- To undertake training of staff of the ministries of finance, central banks and other financial institutions of the SAARC member countries in subjects relating to economics and finance

- To explore networking of the training institutions within the SAARC region, specializing in various aspects monetary policy, exchange rate reforms, bank supervision and capital market issues, and
- To promote research on economic and financial issues for the mutual benefit of SAARC member countries

During the year following meetings of the SAARC Finance were held with the participation of the bellow mentioned officers of this Department.

Table 3.5 SAARC Meetings, SDF Meetings and Seminars in 2017

No	Name of the Meeting	Participant	Date
1	25 th SAARC Finance Coordinators meeting	Director (Investments)	09-10 th April 2017 Dhaka, Bangladesh
2	SAARCFINANCE Seminar	Director (Investments)	8-9 th June 2017, Kathmandu, Nepal
3	Counterpart Agency Meeting and Combined meetings of the SDF	Director (Investments)	4-6 th October 2017, Thimbu, Bhutan
4	26 th SAARCFINANCE Coordinators' Meeting:	Assistant Director (Finance)	26-27 August, 2017 Cox's Bazar,
5	Counterpart Agency Meeting and Combined meetings of the SDF	Director (Investments)	26 th – 28 th December 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Source: Department of Trade & Investment Policy, 2017

3.3 Bonded Cargo

In terms of the provisions in Section 69 of the Customs Ordinance, the Director General of Customs may appoint warehouse or place, after obtaining the approval of Minister of Finance, for imported goods to be warehoused or kept as bonded cargo, having secured the duty and other levies for specific purposes under specific conditions.

Under the provisions of Section 84 of the Customs Ordinance, it shall be lawful for the Director General of Customs, in the interest of economic development of the country to permit the processing, manufacture or assembly of any goods in any warehouse approved under Section 69 of the Customs Ordinance. Presently, the following categories of bonds exist.

- Bonds for supply of goods including sugar and rice for home use and re-export
- Bonds for supply of goods to Export Oriented Enterprises

- Service Bonds, Feeder Bonds and Duty Free Shops at Seaport or Airport
- Bonds for supply of goods to Ships/Air Crafts
- Bonds under Customs Manufacture- in- Bond Scheme
- Bonds for Multi Country Consolidation
- Bonds for clearance of Unaccompanied Passenger Baggage (UPB)
- Bonds for clearance of express cargo (Courier)

The main responsibility of this Department is to study the recommendations of the Director General of Customs in relation to bond operations and to obtain the approval of the Hon. Minister of Finance. During the year 2017, 04 applications were forwarded to the Hon. Minister of Finance and approval was granted for 01 Bonded Warehouses 01 was directed to apply through the Director General of Sri Lanka Customs, others are in the process for approval.

Further, considering the current requirements and Government's priority of facilitating international trade and to meet the current needs created in the area of industrial development, we prepared a new Policy Framework for appointing of Public Customs Bonded Warehouses under Section 69 of the Customs Ordinance.

4. PERFORMANCE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

4.1 Administration

The Department headed by the Director General, is comprised of a total of 47 staff members. The approved cadre of the Department is 58 and 11 posts were vacant at the end of the year 2017. The details of the cadre is shown in Table 4.1 Matters related with internal administration and human resources development of the Department are handled by the Administration and Finance Division. Statistics relating to the human resources management are tabulated in the Tables 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5

Table 4.1 Cadre Position as at December 31st, 2017

No	Designation	Approved Cadre	Present Cadre	Vacancies
1	Director General (SLAS Special Grade)	01	01	-
2	Additional Director General (SLAS Special Grade)	01	01	-
3	Director (SLAS I)	03	02	01
4	Deputy Director /Asst. Director (SLAS II, III)	07	04	03
5	Deputy Director /Asst. Director (SLPS II, III)	01	01	-
6	Accountant (SLAcS III)	01	00	01
7	Administrative Officer (PMAS Supra Grade)	01	01	-
8	Information and Communication Technology Officer (ICTS 2/1)	02	01	01
	Research Assistant / Development Officer	08	07	01
10	Public Management Assistant	20	17	03
11	Driver	05	04	01
12	Office Employee Service	08	08	-
	Total	58	47	11

Source: Department of Trade & Investment Policy, 2017

Table 4.2 Officers Joining to the Department in Year 2017

No	Name	Designation	Date of Joined
01	Mr.C. Jayasuriya	Additional Director General	2017.04.18
02	Mrs. M.A.C.N. Senevirathna	Assistant Director	2017.08.13
03	Mrs.G.K.C.K. Priyadharshani	Public Management Assistant	2017.01.03
04	Mr.M.B.A. Pieris	Public Management Assistant	2017.01.16
05	Mrs.A.W.I.P. Athuraliya	Public Management Assistant	2017.01.24
06	Mrs. N.W.K.A.S.C. Alwis	Public Management Assistant	2017.05.24
07	Mr.R.A.D. Nandakumara	Driver	2017.01.04
08	Mr.H.D.N. Gunasekara	Driver	2017.03.01
09	Mr. D.A. ArunaShantha	Driver	2017.03.09
10	Mr.A.G.W.M.N. Wijesingha	Driver	2017.05.09
11	Mr.K.P.D.R. Karunanayaka	Office Employee Service	2017.01.03

Source: Department of Trade & Investment Policy, 2017

Table 4.3 Officers Left from the Department in year 2017

No	Name	Designation	Date of Left
01	Mr.K.D.N. Ranjith Asoka	Director General	2017.02.14
02	Mr.K.A.S.K. Perera	Additional Director General	2017.04.19
03	Mr.B.P.C. Kularathna	Director	2017.01.08
04	Mrs.W.E. Godagama	Accountant	2017.10.16
05	Mr. S.W.G.M. Karunarathna	Information & communication Technology Officer	2017.03.29
06	Mr. M.B.A. Peiris	Public Management Assistant	2017.02.08
07	Mrs.W.A.N. Wickramasinghe	Public Management Assistant	2017.03.31
08	Mrs.R.A.S.C. Ranathunga	Public Management Assistant	2017.10.23
09	Mr.K.D. Thusitha	Driver	2017.01.08
10	Mr.H.D.N. Gunasekara	Driver	2017.03.14
11	Mr.D.A. ArunaShantha	Driver	2017.05.16
12	Mr.L.A.V.C. Jinendra	Driver	2017.05.16

Source: Department of Trade & Investment Policy, 2017

Table 4.4 Officers Attended Foreign Training Programmes /Workshops and Meetings, in 2017

Designation	Name	Country	Purpose	Period
Director General	Mr. K.A. Vimalenthirarajah	Australia	Training	20.03.2017 24.03.2017
		India	Delegation	03.04.2017
		Singapore	Delegation	05.04.2017 07.04.2017
		India	Delegation	24.04.2017 26.04.2017
		Thailand	Delegation	11.07.2017 13.07.2017
		India	Delegation	04.10.2017 06.10.2017
		Singapore	Delegation	16.10.2017 18.10.2017
Additional Director General	Mr. K.A.S.S.K. Perera	Singapore	Training	23.01.2017 27.01.2017
	Mr. C. Jayasuriya	Bhutan	Meeting	23.07.2017 27.07.2017
		Bhutan	Meeting	20.12.2017 22.12.2017
Director	Mrs. M.N.D. Gunarathna	India	Training	23.01.2017 10.02.2017
		Bangladesh	Meeting	09.04.2017 10.04.2017
		Nepal	Seminar	08.06.2017 09.06.2017
		Bhutan	Meeting	04.10.2017 06.10.2017
	Mr. M.D.J.C. Murage	Thailand	Delegation	11.01.2017 13.01.2017
		Singapore	Training	20.02.2017 24.02.2017
		Bhutan	Meeting	14.06.2017 15.06.2017
		India	Training	11.09.2017 15.09.2017

		Dubai	Seminar	20.11.2017 22.11.2017
Assistant Director	Mrs. H.G.T. Prasangika	Singapore	Training	23.01.2017 27.01.2017
		India	Training	20.03.2017 31.03.2017
		Bhutan	Meeting	22.11.2017 23.11.2017
	Mr. G.D.S.P. Kumara	Singapore	Training	20.01.2017 24.01.2017
		Pakistan	Meeting	12.04.2017 13.04.2017
		China	Training	21.04.2017 11.05.2017
	Mr.R.L. Weerasekara	Singapore	Training	20.02.2017 24.02.2017
		Bhutan	Meeting	12.07.2017 13.07.2017
		Australia	Training	20.11.2017 15.12.2017
	Mrs. D.T. Sudarshan	China	Training	06.04.2017 26.04.2017
Accountant	Mrs. W.E. Godagama	Singapore	Training	23.01.2017 27.01.2017
		Bangladesh	Meeting	26.08.2017 27.08.2017
Research Assistant	Mr.K.D.J. Wasantha	China	Training	16.03.2017 05.04.2017
	Mr. D.M.A. Dissanayaka	China	Training	18.04.2017 08.05.2017
Development Officer	Mrs. S.M. Mahagedara	China	Training	18.04.2017 08.05.2017
	Ms. M. Nandani	India	Training	11.12.2017 15.12.2017

Table 4.5 Officers Attended Local Training Courses/ Seminars in 2017

Designation	Name	Course	Period
Director General	Mr. K.A. Vimalenthirarajah	Technical Training on Data Analysis	2017.09.14 2017.09.15
		The New Foreign Exchange Act No 12 of 2017 Regulation	2017.12.06
Director	Mrs. M.N.D. Gunarathna	Technical Training on Data Analysis	2017.09.14 2017.09.15
		Training for pilot Implementation of integrated Treasury management System (ITMIS)	2017.10.24 2017.10.27
Assistant Director	Mrs. H.G.T. Prasangika	Technical Training on Data Analysis	2017.09.14 2017.09.15
		The New Foreign Exchange Act No 12 of 2017 Regulation	2017.12.06
	Mr. G.D.S.P. Kumara	Macroeconomic Diagnostics	2017.08.21 2017.08.25
	Mrs. D.T. Sudarshan	Technical Training on Data Analysis	2017.09.14 2017.09.15
	Mrs. M.A.C.N. Senevirathna	Macroeconomic Diagnostics	2017.08.21 2017.08.25
		Capacity Building Programme for Officers of the SLAS Class III	2017.09.25 2017.09.29
		Capacity Building Programme for Officers of the SLAS Class III	2017.11.20 2017.11.24
Administrative Officer	Mr. E.A.P.P. Chandana	IT Fundamental Training	2017.05.17 2017.05.19
		ITMIS Asset management Module	2017.11.30
Information & communication Technology Officer	Mr. B.L.D. Sudarshana	Technical Training for ITMIS	2017.06.22 2017.06.29
		Technical Training on Data Analysis	2017.09.14 2017.09.15
Research Assistant	Mr. K.D.J. Wasantha	IT Fundamental Training	2017.01.09 2017.01.11
		IT Fundamental Training	2017.06.12 2017.06.14
		Workshop of IT Management	2017.07.12 2017.07.13
		Technical Training on Data Analysis	2017.09.14 2017.09.15

Development Officer	Ms. K.M.G.A. Kasthuri	IT Fundamental Training	2017.04.04 2017.04.06
		EU-Sri Lanka Trade related Assistance echnical Capacity Building on Economics of Trade &Trade Agreement	2017.08.23 2017.08.24
		Structured High-level Training Programme on International Trade and External Sector Issue Offered by CBSL	2017.11.27 2017.11.30
	Ms. M. Nandani	Diploma in English for Junior Executives (DEJE)	2017.04.24 2017.07.10
		Diploma in English for Junior Executives (DEJE) - level 2	2017.09.28 2017.12.14
	Mrs. J.A.D.U. Ranasingha	IT Fundamental Training	2017.01.27 2017.01.30
		Diploma in English for Junior Executives (DEJE)	2017.04.24 2017.07.10
		IT Fundamental Training	2017.06.12 2017.06.14
		Diploma in English for Junior Executives (DEJE) - level 2	2017.09.28 2018.01.18
	Mrs. S.M. Mahagedara	Technical Training on Data Analysis	2017.09.14 2017.09.15
Public Management Assistant	Mrs. A. Dissanayaka	IT Fundamental Training	2017.04.04 2017.04.06
		Diploma in English for Junior Executives (DEJE)	2017.04.24 2017.07.10
		Training for pilot Implementation of integrated Treasury management System (ITMIS)	2017.10.16 2017.10.23
	Mrs. M.N. Dilrukshi	IT Fundamental Training	2017.01.09 2017.01.11
		Public Finance & Accounting Skills	2017.08.16 2017.08.17
		Disciplinary Procedure in the Public Sector	2017.10.16 2017.10.17
		File management and General Office Administration	2017.12.27 2017.12.29
	Mrs. M.G.M.D. Wimalarathna	IT Fundamental Training	2017.01.16 2017.01.18

		Training for pilot Implementation of integrated Treasury management System (ITMIS)	2017.10.24 2017.10.27
Mrs. W.S.P. Perera		IT Fundamental Training	2017.01.16 2017.01.18
		IT Fundamental Training	2017.06.12 2017.06.14
Mrs. K. Madiwanan		IT Fundamental Training	2017.01.24 2017.01.26
Mr. T.M. Amaradasa		IT Fundamental Training	2017.01.27 2017.01.31
		IT Fundamental Training	2017.06.12 2017.06.14
		Certificate in Human Resource Management	2017.06.15 2017.07.20
		ITMIS	2017.09.18 2017.09.19
		Training for pilot Implementation of integrated Treasury management System (ITMIS)	2017.10.24 2017.10.27
		ITMIS	2017.11.06 2017.11.07
Mrs. M.D.S. Mallawaarachchi		IT Fundamental Training	2017.01.27 2017.01.31
		Training for pilot Implementation of integrated Treasury management System (ITMIS)	2017.10.16 2017.10.23
Mrs. W.A.N. Wickramasinghe		Computerized Government Payroll System (Payroll)	2017.02.13 2017.02.15
Mrs. G.K.C.K. Priyadarshani		Computerized Government Payroll System (Payroll)	2017.02.13 2017.02.15
		CIGAS for Year 2018	2017.12.27
Mrs. W.R.N. Feranando		IT Fundamental Training	2017.05.17 2017.05.19
Mrs. E.A.P.I. Gunasekara		IT Fundamental Training	2017.05.23 2017.05.25
Ms. I.B.A. Jayasekara		IT Fundamental Training	2017.05.26 2017.05.30

	Mrs. L.A.S.P. Wijebandara	IT Fundamental Training	2017.05.26 2017.05.30
	Ms. W.R.R. Wickramasinghe	Diploma in English for Junior Executives (DEJE)	2017.04.24 2017.07.10
		IT Fundamental Training	2017.05.31 2017.06.02
		Training for pilot Implementation of integrated Treasury management System (ITMIS)	2017.10.24 2017.10.27
		ITMIS	2017.11.06 2017.11.07
		CIGAS for Year 2018	2017.12.27
	Mr. C.P.K. Wijesooriya	IT Fundamental Training	2017.06.05 2017.06.07
		Training for pilot Implementation of integrated Treasury management System (ITMIS)	2017.10.24 2017.10.27
	Mrs. S.G.Nilanthi	IT Fundamental Training	2017.06.12 2017.06.14
	Mrs. N.W.K.A.S. Alwis	Training for pilot Implementation of integrated Treasury management System (ITMIS)	2017.10.16 2017.10.23
	Mrs. A.W.I.P. Athuraliya	Training for pilot Implementation of integrated Treasury management System (ITMIS)	2017.10.16 2017.10.23
Procurement Procedure for Junior Staff		2017.10.26 2017.10.27	

4.2 The Special Scheme Projects

4.2.1 Scheme for the Public Officers to Import Vehicles under Concessionary Terms

In the year 2017 under the Trade and Investment Policy Circular No. 01/2016 dated 14.07.2016, this Department has issued 150 licenses to the Ministry of Finance and Mass Media and the officers who are serving in the Departments and Institutions belonging to the General Treasury. Also, the terms and conditions of the taxes and conditions specified by the Trade and Investment Policy Circular No. 01 dated 01.06.2017 were revised and the Circulars on Trade and Investment Policy Circular No. 01/2016 (II) were issued. The budget proposals submitted in November 2017 drew down the amounts of taxes and conditions applicable to the said circular.

4.2.2 Concessionary Scheme for Importation of Motor Vehicles under PAC 22/99 for Senior Public Officers who retired from the Government Service.

Under Public Administration Circular No. 22/99 and Revised Provisions, 254 Import vehicle permits were issued.

4.3 Finance Division

With the view to achieving the objectives of the Department, a sum of **Rs. 52,932,000** from which **Rs. 49,732,000** for recurrent expenditure and **Rs. 3,200,000** for capital expenditure were provided in the estimates for the year 2017 under Head 244, Programme 1 and Project 1. The actual expenditure incurred during the year under review against this provision was **Rs. 45,636,303** consisting of **Rs. 44,924,154** and **Rs. 712,149** as recurrent and capital expenditure respectively. The utilization of the budgeted provisions is shown in the Table No. 4.6.

Table 4.6 Utilization of Budget Estimate in 2017

No	Description on Expenditure	Budget 2017 (Rs.)	Actual Expenditure 2017 (Rs.)	Percentage (%)
1	Recurrent Expenditure			
	Personal Emoluments	33,250,000	30,187,638	90.8
	Traveling Expenses	6,100,000	5,955,540	97.6
	Supplies	2,725,000	2,682,261	98.4
	Maintenance Expenditure	1,450,000	1,246,712	86.0
	Services	5,257,000	4,069,667	77.4
	Transfers	950,000	782,334	82.4
	Sub Total	49,732,000	44,924,154	90.3
2	Capital Expenditure			
	Rehabilitation and Improvement of Capital Assets	200,000	16,579	8.3
	Acquisition of Capital Assets	1,800,000	114,590	6.4
	Capacity Building	1,200,000	580,980	48.4
	Sub Total	3,200,000	712,149	22.3
Grand Total		52,932,000	45,636,303	86.2

Source: Department of Trade and Investment Policy, 2017

The Department was able to operate the public officer's advance 'B' account during the year within the limits approved by the Parliament as shown in the Table 4.7.

Table 4.7 Public Officers' Advance 'B' Account in 2017

No	Description	Approved Limit (Rs.)	Actual Amount (Rs.)
1	Maximum Limit of Expenditure	3,500,000	3,146,486
2	Minimum Limit of Receipts	1,400,000	1,692,019
3	Maximum Limit of Debit Balance	12,000,000	9,032,501

Source: Department of Trade and Investment Policy, 2017

4.4 Audit Queries

Audit queries raised by the Auditor General's Department and the Internal Audit Section Audit during the year under review were responded and remedial measures were taken to rectify the weaknesses where necessary.

5 . ANNEXURES

Annexure - I

Table 5.1 NSD's to the Harmonize System in 2017

No	HS Code	Description	Duty Rate
1	0303.99.10	Tuna heads	15%
2	0303.99.90	Other	15%
3	0304.47.10	Sharks	15%
4	0304.47.90	Other	15%
5	0304.56.10	Sharks	15%
6	0304.56.90	Other	15%
7	0304.88.10	Sharks	15%
8	0304.88.90	Other	15%
9	0304.96.10	Sharks	15%
10	0304.96.90	Other	15%
11	0305.54.10	Sprats	Free
12	0305.54.90	Other	Free
13	0305.59.30	Sharks	15%
14	0507.10.10	Shark teeth	15%
15	0507.10.90	Other	15%
16	0511.91.30	Shark jaws	15%
17	0709.99.11	Sweet corn certified for sowing and rendered inedible by	Free
18	0709.99.12	Other	30%
19	0709.99.20	Other	30%
20	1212.29.10	“Live Rock” as certified by the National Aquaculture	15%
21	1212.29.90	Other	15%
22	1504.10.10	Shark liver oil	15%
23	1504.10.90	Other	15%
24	2505.10.91	Silica sands and quartz sands from rivers*	Free
25	2505.10.99	Other	Free
26	2922.42.10	Mono sodium glutamate	30%
27	2922.42.90	Other	Free
28	3921.90.12	Polyethylene porous sheets with printed mark “Separator Only	Free
29	3921.90.13	Polyethylene porous sheets with printed mark “Separator Only	Free
30	4013.90.10	Of a kind used on three wheelers & motorcycles	30%
31	4013.90.90	Other	30%
32	4103.90.10	Of sharks	15%
33	4103.90.90	Other	15%
34	5208.11.20	Plain weave, weighing not more than 30 g/m ²	Free
35	5208.21.10	Plain weave, weighing not more than 30 g/m ²	Free
36	5208.21.90	Other	Free
37	6402.19.10	Football shoes and rugby shoes	Free
38	6402.19.90	Other	Free
39	6403.19.10	Football shoes, rugby shoes	Free

40	6403.19.90	Other	Free
41	7610.90.20	Equipment for scaffolding, shuttering, propping or pit-	Free
42	8428.10.10	Scissor lifts	Free
43	8428.10.90	Other	Free
44	8472.90.10	Braille typewriters	Free
45	8472.90.90	Other	Free
46	8473.40.10	Parts for braille typewriters	Free
47	8473.40.90	Other	Free
48	8473.50.10	Parts for braille typewriters	Free
49	8473.50.90	Other	Free
50	8479.89.50	Solar tracker without solar cells	Free
51	8481.80.40	Taps, cocks and valves less than 2'' made of copper alloy for	Free
52	8481.80.50	Taps, cocks and valves less than 2'' made of other metal alloy	Free
53	8481.80.60	Taps, cocks and valves less than 2'' made of PVC or other	Free
54	8703.90.11	With wankel rotary engine	30%
55	8703.10.11	Electric Golf cars	Free
56	8703.10.19	Other	15%
57	8703.10.21	Electric Golf cars	Free
58	8703.10.29	Other	15%
59	8703.90.19	Other	15%
60	8703.90.21	With wankel rotary engine	30%
61	8703.90.29	Other	15%
62	8708.91.10	Radiators	30%
63	8708.91.20	Parts	30%
64	8804.00.11	Paragliders	Free
65	8804.00.19	Other	Free
66	8804.00.90	Other	Free
67	9506.29.10	Non-motorized kite surfing equipments	Free
68	9506.29.20	Articles and equipment for swimmers or divers	Free
69	9506.29.90	Other	Free

Source: Department of Trade and Investment Policy, 2017

Table 5.2 Revenue Protection Act No. 19 of 1962 (Customs Import Duty)

No	RPO No. Description	Gazette No. & Date	Effective Date	Description
1	RPO/01/2017	2000/86 of 06.01.2017	07.01.2017	New HS Codes (National Sub Divisions) were created for rice varieties of Kakulu, Nadu and Samba to facilitate importation of Rice to meet estimated supply in the local market.
2	RPO/02/2017	2006/42 of 16.02.2017	17.02.2017	<p>1. As a result of post Budget 2017 deliberations, it was decided to revise applicable Customs Import Duty on identified Tariff Lines to facilitate local industries and trade flows. Accordingly, importation of ingredients for animal feed production, importation of alloy steel bars for manufacturing of leaf spring and importation of steel for manufacturing of prefabricated buildings were brought under the List of Exemptions.</p> <p>2. Customs Import Duty was revised on Importation of polymers in primary forms, soya beans, tyres, steel, ball bearings, sparking plugs and batteries.</p> <p>3. HS Code National Sub Divisions were created for bamboo floor panels, end cap for metal cans and concrete pump trucks</p>
3	RPO/03/2017	2031/49 of 11.08.2017	12.08.2017	To amend description of selected HS Codes/ Creation of new HS Code National Sub Divisions in order to give effect to the

				industry requests and also to the policy decisions/ directives
4	RPO/04/2017	2044/31 of 09.11.2017	10.11.2017	<p>Budget Proposals – 2018</p> <p>i. Revision of Customs Import Duty including exemption and concessions</p> <p>ii. Revision of HS National Divisions</p> <p>iii. Revision and adoption of HS 2017 System as amended by the World Customs Organization with appropriate HS National Sub Divisions</p>

Source: Department of Trade and Investment Policy, 2017

Annexure - III

Table 5.3 Changes under the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 235)

The following policy changes were made on 2017 for the implementation of the Customs Import Duty.

No	Legal Basis	Gazette No. & Date	Effective Date	Changes
1	Regulations under Section 101	2010/20 of 15.03.2017	15.03.2017	To prescribe a method for determination of Customs Value for disposal of machinery and equipment imported under exemption of Customs Import Duty on conditional basis by enterprises in the business of manufacturing and exporting apparel .
2	Regulations under Section 101 and Schedule E of the customs Ordinance	2032/2 of 14.08.2017	15.08.2017	This Gazette Notification issued to determine the Customs value for disposal of motor vehicles imported under an approved scheme of exemption of duty on conditional basis.

Source: Department of Trade and Investment Policy, 2017

Table 5.4 Duty Revisions under Special Commodity Levy Act No. 48 of 2007

No	Gazette No & Date	Effective Date	Items	Changes
1	2000/85 – 06.01.2017	07.01.2017	Rice	Introduced SCL duty Rs 15/- Kg to rice varieties of kekulu, nadu and samba
2	2002/29 – 18.01.2017	19.01.2017	Maldiva Fish, Sprats, Black gram, Chillies, Coriander, Turmeric, Black gram flour, Canned Fish and Vegetable oils	Reduced duty on vegetable oils by Rs 20/- with a view to manage domestic price level of coconuts and related products (applicable new duty for crude 130/-, crude plam olen 135/-, refine plam oil 155, refine other veg.oil 150) and extended the validity period of other items.
3	2003/43 – 27.01.2017	28.01.2017	Rice	Granted Rs.10 /-Kg duty waiver under Section 5 of SCL Act to apply Rs 5/-Kg SCL duty for rice varieties of kekulu, nadu and samba for a period of 30 days.
4	2006/41- 16.02.2017	17.02.2017	Potato, B'Onions and lentils	Extended validity period of the SCL Duty on Potato, and B'Onions (Rs.40/- Kg) and increased duty on lentils by Rs 5/- kg considering the decline on international market price (Whole lentils Rs. 5 to 10 and Split lentils Rs.10 to 15)
5	2007/38 – 23.02.2017	24.02.2017	Vegetable oils	Reduced duty on vegetable oils by Rs 20/- with a view to manage domestic price level of coconuts and related products (applicable new duty for crude 110/-, crude plam olen 115/-, refine plam oil 135, refine other veg. oil 130)
6	2007/44 – 26.02.2017	27.02.2017	Rice	Extended the Rs.10 /-Kg duty waiver granted under Section 5 of SCL Act to

				apply Rs 5/-Kg SCL duty for rice varieties of kekulu, nadu and samba for a period of 30 days.
7	2009/5 - 07.03.2017	08.03.2017	Mackerel fish, Peas, Chickpeas, Cowpeas, Kurakkan, Brown/Raw Sugar,	Extended validity period for 6 months on prevailing duty rates with the view to facilitate the local sugar farmers and price stabilization.
8	2012/16 – 28.03.2017	28.03.2017	Rice	Extended the Rs.10 /-Kg duty waiver granted under Section 5 of SCL Act to apply Rs 5/-Kg SCL duty for rice varieties of kekulu, nadu and samba from 28 to 31 March 2017
9	2012/17 – 28.03.2017	01.04.2017	Rice	Revised the duty rate on rice Rs.5 per Kg (Reduce 15 to 5 under Section 2 of the SCL Act) with effect from 01.04.2017 for the period of 60 days.
10	2012/52 – 31.03.2017	02.04.2017	Dried fish, Yogurt, Butter,Garlic, Oranges,Grapes, Apples, , Mathe seed, Kurakkan flour Ground nut, Mustard seeds, Salt	Extended validity period for 6 months with effect from 02 April, 2017, under the same duty rate aiming at maintaining fixed market price as a concession for consumers.
11	2018/2 – 08.05.2017	08.05.2017	Fish, Green gram, Magoesteen, dried Oranges, Pears, Cherries, Plums , Kiwifruit and Pomegranate	Extended validity period for 6 months with effect from 08 May, 2017, under the same duty rate aiming at maintaining fixed market price as a concession for consumers
12	2019/21 19.05.2017		Red onions, Dates, Dried grapes, Cumin, Fennel, Brown rice	Introduced concessionary rate of SCL of Rs, 5/ Kg for importation of Brown Rice same as Kekulu, Nadu and Samba rice considering the decision by Cabinet Sub Committee on Cost of Living as the shortage production of

		21.05.2017		local rice and to extend the validity period for other items on another 6 months.
13	2021/7 – 30.05.2017	31.05.2017	Rice	Decided to extend the importation of selected varieties of rice under concessionary rate of SCL duty of Rs. 5/kg until August 31, 2017 by Cabinet Sub Committee on Cost of Living, considering the upward movement of price of rice in the market. Accordingly, extended validity period.
14	2022/7 – 06.06.2017	06.06.2017	Margarine Sugar	Extended validity period of the existing SCL duty on importation of Margarine for another 6 months and increase the SCL by Rs 10/- Kg on importation of White Sugar and Brown Sugar.
15	2022/8 – 06.06.2017	07.06.2017	Fish	Granted Rs. 25 /-Kg duty waiver under Section 5 of SCL Act to apply Rs 50/- Kg SCL duty for fish for a period of 30 days.
16	2025/44 – 30.06.2017	01.07.2017	Broken Rice	Introduced SCL Duty for Broken Rice Rs.5/- kg for period of 3 months
17	2028/44 19.07.2017	19.07.2017	Maldivian Fish, Sprats, Black gram, Chillies, Coriander, Turmeric, Black gram flour, Canned Fish	Extended validity period of the existing SCL duty on 8 items for another 6 months

18	2029/25 26.07.2017	27.07.2017	Brown Rice, Raw/Kekulu Rice, Nadu and Samba Rice	Reduced SCL Duty Rs 5 to 25 cents per Kg
19	2030/10 31.07.2017	01.08.2017	Sail Fish and Marlin Fish Maize	Reduced SCL Duty on Sail Fish and Marlin Fish 10% or Rs 75 /- Kg to Rs.25 per Kg for period of 03 months and re- introduce SCL Duty Rs 10 per Kg for Maize for period of 06 months
20	2030/20 01/08/2017	02.08.2017	Broken Rice	Reduced SCL Duty Rs 5 to 25 cents per Kg
21	2032/11 15.08.2017	16.08.2017	Sugar	Increased duty rate Rs. 23 to 31 by Rs.8 per kg for white sugar and increased Rs. 25 to 33 by Rs.8 per Kg for brown sugar for period of 06 months
22	2032/24 16.08.2017	17.08.2017	Potato, B'Onions and lentils	Extended validity period of the existing SCL duty on 3 items for another 6 months
23	2033/31 23.08.2017	24.08.2017	Vegetable oils	Extended validity period of the existing SCL duty on edible oil for another 4 months
24	2035/28 08.09.2017	08.09.2017	Mackerel fish, Peas, Chickpeas, Cowpeas, Kurakkan,	Extended validity period of the existing SCL duty on 5 items for another 6 months
25	2039/2 02.10.2017	02.10.2017	Dried fish, Yogurt, Butter, Garlic, Oranges, Grapes, Apples, , Mathe seed, Kurakkan flour Ground nut, Mustard seeds, Salt	Extended validity period of the existing SCL duty on 12 items for another 6 months

26	2043/54 02.11.2017	01.11.2017	Sail Fish and Marlin Fish	Extended and impose previous SCL Duty on Sail Fish and Marlin Fish 10% or Rs 75 /- Kg
27	2044/25 07.11.2017	08.11.2017	Fish, Green gram, Magoosteen, dried Oranges, Pears, Cherries, Plums , Kiwifruit and Pomegranate	Extended validity period for 6 months with effect from 08 November, 2017, under the same duty rate aiming at maintaining fixed market price as a concession for consumers
28	2044/26 08.11.2017	09.11.2017	Sprats, Dried Fish, Potato, B'Onions ,lentils and Veg. oil	Reduced the duty rate according to the before Budget 2018 for the concessions to the consumers.
29	2046/3 20.11.2017	21.11.2017	Red onions, Dates, Dried grapes, Cumin, Fennel, Margarine	Extended validity period for 6 months
30	2049/20 13.12.2017	14.12.2017	Sail Fish , Marlin Fish and Thora Fish	Reduced duty 10% or Rs 75 to Rs .25 on importation of Sail Fish , Marlin Fish and reduced duty 10% or Rs 100 to Rs .25 on importation of Thora Fish
31	2049/32 14.12.2017	15.12.2017	Veg. oil	Increased the duty for considering the request from local value addition industries (before budget rates)
32	2051/45 31.12.2017	01.01.2018	Rice	Extended validity period until March 31,2018

Source: Department of Trade & Investment Policy, 2017