

PRESS RELEASE

CENTRAL BUDGET FOR 2014-15

IMMEDIATE REACTIONS OF SHRI SAJJAN BHAJANKA, PRESIDENT BHARAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, KOLKATA.

Giving his immediate reactions to the Central Budget Proposals for 2014-15 presented by **Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Government of India at the Parliament today, the 10th July, 2014, Shri Sajjan Bhajanka, President, Bharat Chamber of Commerce** issued the following statement to the Press :

"Given the constraints of resources and time, the Budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister is one of the most pragmatic in recent years. The commitment of the Hon'ble Finance Minister in introducing GST and DTC and other fiscal reforms is evident from his taking the ambitious benchmarks of Fiscal Deficit and Current Account Deficit for 2014-15 set by the UPA-II as challenges. The much needed emphasis on 'Ease of Doing Business' has been reflected in the Hon'ble Finance Minister's Budget Speech.

"Reforms promised in Advance Ruling, retrospective taxation rates and assurance of fiscal prudence, fiscal discipline as well as commitment for a stable and predictable tax regime will boost the confidence of foreign investors.

"The emphasis on development of infrastructure – roads, railways, ports and power as well as increase in FDI limits from 26 per cent to 49 per cent in Defence and Insurance sectors will considerably catalyze economic growth. Fiscal incentives and other measures announced for promoting urban housing, particularly for the middle class will help development of civil infrastructure. The proposal for development of 100 'smart cities' will provide a big boost to the housing and infrastructure sectors.

"The Hon'ble Minister's proposal for strengthening rural infrastructure through emphasis on power generated by renewable sources and creation of green energy corridors such as solar and thermal power are welcome measures.

"The focus on reforms in the Banking sector as well as Accounting will also promote globalisation of the Indian economy.

"The focus on infusion of science and technology in agriculture, facilitation of irrigation, soil management for farmers as well as the creation of the concept of scientific warehousing will boost and help conservation of agricultural and horticultural produce. Strengthening of food safety and drug laboratories would ensure ease in meeting global standards in the food and pharmaceutical sectors and will help boost exports.

"The proposals for generating forward and backward linkages for the development of the SME sectors with a focus on trade facilitation by setting up textile clusters, Pasmina clusters, etc. are also worth appreciation.

"The Hon'ble Finance Minister has also laid due emphasis on growth of tourism, education and skill development through modern techniques.

"The Chamber welcomes the incentives provided to boost indigenous production through the relief in Excise Duty and Customs Duty and rationalisation of duty structure, particularly with regard to coal. Enhancement of Income Tax slab rate will not only help the common people, but also help in improving domestic savings.'