SECTION 9: AYUSH RELATED FOREIGN TRADE

AYUSH medicaments, medicinal plants and their by-products constitute an important part of the Indian Foreign Trade. This section on AYUSH related foreign trade provides a brief overview of India’s foreign trade in respect of these AYUSH related products. A continuous growth in Export over Import as related to AYUSH Products has been observed during last ten years that signify the continuous increasing interest in AYUSH system of medicines outside the boundary of the territory.

Prior to 2003-04, for the purpose of foreign trade, AYUSH medicants and medicaments were categorized in two heads i.e., “AYURVEDIC & UNANI MEDICINES” and “HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINE” only. However, 2003-04 onwards, medicants and medicaments of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathic and Bio-chemic systems have been differentiated and the import-export data related to foreign trade in respect of all these items is being recorded separately.

The export of AYUSH products has decreased from 13620.6 Crores in 2014-15 to 10523.52 Crores in 2015-16 with showing a decline annual growth rate of 23% whereas it has further decreased to 7823.65 Crores in 2016-17 with decline annual growth rate is 26%.

The import of AYUSH products has increased by 4% annually from 1014.8 Crores in 2014-15 to 1057.3 Crores in 2015-16 and it has further increased to 1092.00 Crores in 2016-17 with an annual growth rate of 3%.

Thus, during period 2014-15, the total trade of AYUSH products has decreased substantially from 16605.93 in 2013-14 to 14635.35 Crores in 2014-15. However, during the period 2015-16 the total trade of AYUSH products has further decreased from 14635.35 to 11580.82 Crores in 2015-16 with an annual growth rate is -21%, During the period 2016-17 the total trade of AYUSH products has sharply decreased from 11580.82 crores to 8915.65 crores with an annual growth rate of -23%.
Since 2003-04, a continuous growing trend has been observed in India’s foreign trade with respect to AYUSH related Items in respect of export as well as import except for the year 2009-10, 2011-12, 2013-14 and 2014-15 for export of AYUSH related items and for the year 2010-11 and 2011-12 for import of AYUSH related items. During the year 2016-17 a sharp increasing trend has been observed in respect of import while decreasing trend has been observed in respect of export and Total Trade of AYUSH related Items.

During 2016-17, percentage share of AYUSH products in the total trade of India is 0.20% compared to 0.28% in 2015-16. Similarly, AYUSH products shared 0.42% of Export and 0.04% of Import of India in 2016-17 compared to 0.61% of export and 0.04% of import in India during 2015-16 respectively. All India Balance of Trade have always been negative since the ninth plan period 1996-97, while AYUSH related products always shown a positive balance of Trade, indicating that AYUSH products are having significant role in foreign trade of the country.

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