

3. It is an accepted fact that Logistics cost is high in India compared to most of the countries with whom an Indian Exporter/Importer has to compete. For a landlocked region like North Eastern Region the logistics cost is even higher when compared to the rest of India. It is therefore essential that the focus of the Government on lowering of logistic cost by introducing Dedicated Freight Corridors, Double Decker Container Rakes, introducing effective Inland Waterways service etc. should be more for the North Eastern Region, but we see most of these measures are being implemented elsewhere and not in the North East. Lowering of Logistic Costs needs greater focus if under the Act East Policy of the Government, the NE is postured as the spring board of India for the entire South Asia and South East Asian markets.
4. LGBI Airport is equipped to handle both export and import. However, very few consignments have been exported/imported as Airlines are not taking direct export bookings/ or inward bookings to LGBI Airport. When approached, airlines advises tea exporters to take the Consignments to Kolkata/Delhi as domestic consignment and do Customs clearance at Kolkata/Delhi thereby defeating the very purpose of efficient and cost effective Export/import clearance from LGBI for the Exporters/Importers of the Region.
5. North Eastern Region has ample scope for export of horticultural and agro based products, But- unavailability of Reefer Service from ICD Amingaon coupled with the high cost of positioning of empty containers ex Kolkata has so far put off the local exporters from using this facility which was established by the Government of India as early as 1987/88.
6. Only around 11 to 15 million kilos of Assam tea exports out of a total of around 140 million Kilos get exported through the ICD located at Amingaon. This volume is also decreasing each year due to cost and efficiency issues. Similarly other exports like Wax exported by Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (Joint Venture of BPCL, OIL & Government of Assam), Rice Exports, Personal Product Exports by PP Plant of Hindustan Unilever Ltd., Pharmaceutical exports manufactured by newly set up Pharmaceutical plants under Government Incentive Schemes are all by passing the ICD Amingaon due to similar issues. The need to make the only ICD for entire North East both efficient and cost effective through policy and other interventions is absolutely vital for bringing in export related growth and success of the Act East Policy.

