

Hardware exports to grow marginally

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THE GROWTH in hardware exports in the current fiscal was likely to post a marginal increase to a maximum of \$1 billion from the current \$0.5 billion, according to Manufacturers Association of Information Technology (Mait).

"With a target of \$10 billion hardware export by 2008, I am not very sure how the industry will pull through in these difficult times coupled with a totally uncondusive atmosphere for manufacturing," Mait director Vinni Mehta said, adding the current fiscal might just see exports touching \$1 billion from \$0.5 billion at present.

This increase would be inclusive of consumer electronics.

But this situation was most likely to improve in the next fiscal as "we have got assurance from the

customs department that by middle of the next year, there would be simplification of procedures and minimum paper work required by the hardware companies for export and import jobs".

"The turnaround time would be significantly cut to maximum 48 hours from the current 10 days along with minimum paper-work and post-audit systems which would add to a speedy clearnace system, meeting one of our long-pending demands", Mr Mehta said.

Mait is meeting IT ministry officials on November 20 to submit its budget proposals.

The \$10 billion target by the government had been set with certain assumptions in mind including a manufacturing friendly atmosphere in the country, Mr Mehta said, adding at present those pre-requisites didn't seem to exist making the target less achievable.

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