

Over 600 products to come under ambit of quality norms

MANDATORY QCO. Standards for drones, electric vehicles, charging system in the works

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Centre is working on bringing 643 products under the ambit of mandatory quality control orders (QCOs, to ensure compliance with quality standards. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is also in the process of finalising and developing standards for emerging sectors such as drones (unmanned aerial vehicles), electric vehicles (EVs) and charging infrastructure including battery swapping.

Speaking to mediapersons on Wednesday, the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal, said that as part of the government's focus to develop a robust quality ecosystem, a total of 115 QCOs covering 493 products have been notified by various Ministries.

Till May 2014, only 14 QCOs covering 106



QUALITY THRUST. A robust quality ecosystem will increase exports, bring economies of scale, create more jobs, boost GDP and make India competitive, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said KAMAL NARANG

products had been notified for compulsory BIS certification and implementation of Indian Standards. After May 2014, 101 QCOs covering 387 products have been notified by various ministries, officials said.

'ROBUST ECOSYSTEM'

Stressing that quality is critical to make India self-reliant, Goyal said that a robust quality ecosystem will increase exports, bring economies of scale, create

more jobs, boost GDP and make India competitive.

Responding to a query on resistance by some players on implementation of mandatory quality norms in the footwear sector, Goyal said that QCOs are implemented after adequate industry consultations. He added the government issued these orders for the footwear sector in October 2020 and more than two years have been given for players to become compliant with the

norms. "Twice we have given extensions for implementation of these orders. QCOs come into effect from July 1. Now where is the question of still not being able to comply?" He pointed out that similar concerns were raised during the implementation of QCOs for toys, but after its implementation imports of substandard toys have dropped and there has been a significant increase in exports.

In the EV space, BIS has published six standards that focus on safety parameters, and is in the process of developing three additional standards for EVs and charging infrastructure. Standards of battery swapping are under development as interoperability is an area of concern, officials added.

BIS officials said standards for drones used for agricultural purposes have already been published. Now, standards are being developed for drones used for general requirements.