

EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL OF INDIA
(Ministry of Commerce, Government of India)
New Delhi.

**MINUTES OF THE NINETIETH MEETING OF THE
EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL.**

DATE : 7 November, 2000
TIME : 1500 hrs.
VENUE : Room No.141,
Udyog Bhawan,
New Delhi-110011.

PRESENT :

Members

1. Shri E.K. Bharat Bhushan, Joint Secretary, MOC, - **Chairman.**
2. Ms. Shashi Sareen, Director(I&Q/C), EIC- **Member Secretary.**
3. Shri K. Jose, Cyriac, Chairman, MPEDA, Cochin.
4. Shri M.K.Mondal, Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Govt. of India.
5. Shri D.A. Dabholkar, Director, Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, New Delhi.
6. Shri R.S. Seshadri, Director, United Ricelands Ltd., Gurgaon.
7. Shri Anwar Hashim, Managing Partner, M/s Abad Fisheries, Cochin.

Invitees :

8. Shri V K. Jain, Addl. Dir. General, BIS, New Delhi.
9. Ms. Vidyottama Tripathi, APEDA, New Delhi.
10. Shri P. Khanna, Hero Exports, Hero Nagar, Ludhiana.
11. Shri P.K. Das, Director(EI&EP), MOC, New Delhi.

Item No. 1.5

38th meeting of the Technical Committee

With regard to providing another representation to BIS and one to MoC on the Technical Committee as per Item No.1.3 of the minutes, the Chairman observed that the Chairmanship of the Technical Committee is held by BIS and EIC represents the MOC and therefore, it was not necessary to further expand the composition of the Technical Committee.

Regarding frequency of monitoring of F&FP units vide 2 of item 21 of the minutes, Shri Hashmi suggested reduction in monitoring frequency from once a fortnight to once a month for EU units based on track record. It emerged during discussion that volume of exports, absence of rejection from EU & monitoring visit reports would be some of the factors for reduction in frequency. Director, EIC invited views of the Seafood Exporters Association for consideration before deciding in the issue.

With the above, the Council ratified the decision of the Technical Committee.

Item No.1.6

Report of activities of EIC by Director, EIC

The Council noted the report presented by the Director, EIC which was tabled as part of the supplementary Agenda vide Item No.1 6

SECTION 2 – ADMINISTRATION

Item No.2.1

Implementation of IWSU Report

The Council noted the progress made by EIC in implementation of IWSU report.

Item No.2.1.1

Implementation of IWSU report

The Council appreciated the problems in promotions while implementing the IWSU report and agreed that in view of the current situation in EIC/EIAs, it may be desirable to review the Recruitment Rules to remove any anomalous provisions.

Item No.2.2

Action on assurances given to Third Committee of Parliament on official language

The Council noted the actions taken

Item No. 2.3

Revision of pay scales

The Chairman observed that although the subject was important and of urgent nature, the matter required examination by the Ministry of Commerce before a decision to upgrade the Pay Scales of Hindi as well as other staff of EIC and EIAs as proposed could be taken. Director(I&Q/C), therefore, was requested to submit a proposal to the Ministry for consideration and the same would be taken up on priority.

Item No. 2.4

Purchase of premises for EIC

The Council ratified the proposal submitted by the EIC secretariat to MOC for grant of Rs. 6.75 Crores towards the cost of new premises proposed to be acquired on ownership/lease basis by EIC and Rs.1 Crore towards internal fittings. The Council also noted that the proposal had been sent to the Planning Commission for release of funds by MOC.

Item No.2.5

Computerisation in EIC/EIAs

Chairman, MPEDA observed that while working towards computerisation of EIC/EIAs, importance should be attached to development of software appropriate to the needs of EIC/EIAs simultaneously with the acquisition of Hardware. With the above observation the proposal for hiring of additional space for the computer centre was approved by the Council.

Item No. 2.6

Revised Estimates (RE) for the year 2000-2001 and Budget Estimates (BE) for 2001-2002 of Export Inspection Council

The Council noted the proposals submitted to MOC by EIC.

Item No. 2.6.1

Revised Estimates (RE) for the year 2000-2001 and Budget Estimate(BE) for the year 2001-2002 of EIAs and PTH-Bombay

While going through the Budget – RE for 2000-01 and BE for 2001-02, the Chairman, MPEDA made the following suggestions :

- (i) The net export earnings of marine products during the financial year 1999-2000 were approximately Rs.5,000 Crores. He, therefore, advised the EIC to check as to whether the EIAs got the appropriate amount of fees as per the notified rates from the trade during the financial year and if there was any gap between deemed and actual realisation of inspection fees by EIAs on export of marine products.
- (ii) EIAs should explore possibility of earning higher rates of interest offered by Banks other than its present bankers namely SBI.
- (iii) Considering the overall budget of the EIAs, it was necessary to properly manage and control the finances of EIC/EIAs in accordance with the best accounting practices to get maximum yield for the surplus funds. It may be desirable to consider inducting a suitable officer with appropriate qualifications like C.A. for the purpose.

While agreeing to the above suggestions, the Chairman, EIC desired that action should be initiated by Director(I&Q/C) to implement the above suggestions which are for the benefit of organisation and suitable proposals made.

With the above, the Council approved the Revised Estimates (RE) for the year 2000-2001 and Budget Estimates (BE) for 2001-2002 of all EIAs and PTH-Bombay

SECTION 3- TECHNICAL

Item No. 3.1

Export of Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products

: There was a discussion on whether separate standards for export were necessary in view of the already existing national standards. The representatives of BIS and AMA were of the view that since most of the aspects have been covered in relevant national standards, reference to these should be given and there should not be a separate standard for export only. The Chairman, MPEDA, representative of APEDA and Shri R S Sheshadri, United Rice Land were strongly of the view that it was necessary to have separate export standards in line with the international standards and the major importing country requirements to ensure that Indian products are accepted overseas without any problem and thereby facilitate exports. It was also pointed out that European Union had already accepted system specifications prepared for other commodities like marine products, egg powder etc , since they were based on the requirements of European Directives and because of the export standards, it had become possible to bring up many of the marine units to international levels. Such stringent standards if imposed for domestic trade may at this stage not be practical as all processing units may not be able to implement the same.

Further, it was also pointed out that in the absence of our standards for export, the importing nations had been dictating standards and practices as for example the EU. With our own standards as in fisheries sector, we are able to convince EU that our standards are able to meet their level of SPS protection.

The Committee, after detailed discussion, agreed that separate export standards are necessary to facilitate exports and approved the proposed preliminary draft notification for publishing.

Item No. 3.2

Implementation of scheme of Fish and Fishery Products

The Council noted the information provided in Item 3.2 of the agenda.

Item No. 3.3.

Seminars on Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) being organised by Ministry of Commerce and Industry

The Council noted the information provided in Item 3.3 of the agenda.

Item No. 3.4

Revision of Notification on Basmati Rice

Shri R.S. Seshadri, United Riceland observed that certain important aspects pertaining to the Basmati Rice had not been appropriately addressed in the proposed notification for example different varieties (reference Item No. 2 (d) on Page 90) of Basmati Rice had not been properly defined. He therefore suggested that the proposed notification may be carefully scrutinised by a committee representing APEDA, DMI, EIC/ELAs and a representative of Basmati Rice trade to carefully scrutinize the draft notification & recommend modification.

Shri Seshadri further pointed out that different certification schemes for rice similar to EIC's IPQC scheme were being brought out creating duplication and confusion in trade. It was suggested that the IPQC scheme be reviewed to make it more complete to avoid multiplicity of such schemes and facilitate streamlining of Quality Assurance for exports.

It was decided that the proposed committee would meet at 2 P.M. on 8 November, 2000 and submit its recommendations to Director(I&Q/C), EIC for further action.

With the above, the Council approved the draft notification for publication

Item No. 3.5

Approval of units for export to countries other than EU.

The Council noted the information given in item 3.5 of the agenda.

Item No. 3.6

Reduction in inspection fee of cashew kernels for consignmentwise inspection

The Council noted the information given in item 3.6 of the agenda and agreed that it was necessary for EIC to participate in trade fairs to project the QC&QA measures being taken in the country for maintaining quality of products for exports.

It was also suggested by the members that EIC should also participate in the seafood fair in Brussels.

Item No. 3.7

33rd Session of Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

The Chairman desired that Shri K.J.Srivastava, Additional Director, EIC may circulate a brief report of the CCFH meeting to the Council members for their information.

Item No. 3.8

Seminar on "Indian Food Exports – Meeting the Global Challenge" organised at Bangalore on 30-31 May 2000

The Council noted the information given at Item 3.8 of the agenda

Item No.4

Any other business with the permission of the Chair

There being no other business, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair. The Director (I&Q/C), EIC & Member Secretary also thanked the Chairman & Members for their valuable support to EIC.