

**MINUTES OF THE 92<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL  
(13 AUGUST 2002)**

**Chairman** : **Shri L.V.Saptharishi,**  
**Additional Secretary,**  
**Ministry of Commerce & Industry,**  
**New Delhi.**

**Member-Secretary** : **Ms. Shashi Sareen,**  
**Director (Insp. & QC),**  
**Export Inspection Council,**  
**New Delhi.**

**Item 1.1** **Welcome to the new Chairman Shri L.V.Saptharishi, Additional Secretary, MO&I, New Delhi.**

Ms. Shashi Sareen, Director (I&QC), EIC welcomed Shri L.V.Saptharishi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, who has taken over as Chairman, with effect from 10 July 2002. She also welcomed the other members of the newly constituted Council.

**Item 1.2** **Opening remarks by Chairman**

The Chairman welcomed the members present (list annexed).

**Item 1.3** **Leave of absence.**

Leave of absence was granted to:

- (1) Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, New Delhi.
- (2) Chairman, Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi.
- (3) Chairman, Agricultural and Processed Foods Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi.
- (4) Director, Fruits and Vegetables and Preservation, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, New Delhi.
- (5) Shri J.S.Bhasin, M/s.Bharat Springs Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai.
- (6) Shri N.S.R.Mandradiar, M/s.P.Mittulal Lalah & Sons, Chennai.
- (7) Shri Irfan Allana, M/s.Frigorifico Allana Ltd., Mumbai.
- (8) Shri B.M.Vyas, M/s.Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd., Anand (Gujarat).

**Item 1.4 Report of activities of EIC by Director, EIC**

Director, EIC presented a report of activities of EIC since the last Council meeting in January 2002. Since the Council had been re-constituted with new members, she apprised the Council on the powers of the Central government, functions of the Council and duties of Director, EIC as per the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963. She also gave a brief account of the history of the organization and presented the activities of EIC since last meeting of the Council as well as current activities of EIC/EIAs, including the financial status. The role of EIC in WTO regime and measures being taken to strengthen the same were also highlighted.

The Chairman suggested that EIC should examine the feasibility for issue of Certificates of Authenticity for Darjeeling tea and Alfonso mangoes, which would help in assuring the overseas consumers about the genuineness of such products.

It was also decided to review the composition of the Specialist Committees at the next meeting of the Council.

**Item 1.5 91<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Export Inspection Council**

**Item 1.5.1 Confirmation of the Minutes**

The Council confirmed the Minutes of the 91<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Export Inspection Council as circulated.

**Item 1.5.2 Action Taken Report**

The Council noted the actions taken on the Minutes of its last meeting.

**Item 2` NOTIFICATIONS**

**Item 2.1 Notification on Maximum Residual Limits (MRLs) for Fish & Fishery Products**

The Council noted the information given under Item 2.1 of the Agenda.

**Item 2.2 Notification on Live Fish, Molluscs and Crustaceans**

The Council noted the information given under Item 2.2 of the Agenda.

**Item 2.3 Notification on Fresh Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products**

The Council noted the information given under Item 2.3 of the Agenda.

**Item 2.4 Notification on Milk and Milk Products**

The Council noted the information given under Item 2.4 of the Agenda.

**Item 2.5 Notification for Human Hair**

The Council noted the information given under Item 2.5 of the Agenda.

**Item 3 FISH & FISHERY PRODUCTS CERTIFICATION**

**Item 3.1 Status on approval of Fish & Fishery Products establishment for EU**

The Council noted the information given under Item 3.1 of the Agenda.

**Item 3.2 Steps taken by EIC to strengthen F&FP Certification.**

The Council noted the information given under Item 3.2 of the Agenda.

**Item 3.3 Proposed visit of European Commission (EC) Team.**

The Council noted the information given under Item 3.3 of the Agenda.

**Item 3.4 Frequency of monitoring of fish & fishery products establishments approved for EU based on their performance.**

The Council noted the information given under Item 3.4 of the Agenda.

**Item 3.5 Approval of Laboratories for Testing of Antibiotics, Pesticides and Heavy metals.**

The Council noted the information given under Item 3.5 of the Agenda.

**Item 4 MOUs/EQUIVALENCE AGREEMENTS**

Director, EIC highlighted the status of ongoing dialogue with various countries which included working out MOUs for Japan, Libya, Philippines in addition to those mentioned in the Agenda. Chairman expressed that this activity should be given a thrust in the interest of Indian exports. Shri Elias Sait, President, Seafood Exporters Association of India lauded the initiative taken by EIC for signing MOUs with other countries, which, he said, would help facilitate

Indian exports tremendously. He suggested that Saudi Arabia is another country, which has got lot of potential for export of marine products and it would be advantageous for the industry if EIC negotiates MOU with Saudi Arabia also.

**Item 5**

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

The Council noted the information given under Item 5 of the Agenda.

The members appreciated EIC's association with Indian Railways in conducting Food Audits and help improve catering in Railways.

**Item 6**

**EIC/EIAs PARTICIPATION IN THE CODEX COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

There was a detailed discussion regarding the need for coordination among various Ministries, Departments and Institutions in the area of standardisation, utilisation of infrastructure facilities for testing and work relating to Codex issues. It was decided to constitute a Working Group with Director, EIC as convener and a representative each from Ministry of Health, Bureau of Indian Standards, Agmark, MPEDA, APEDA, Spices Board, Coffee Board and Tea Board. The Group should meet and develop its term of reference covering broadly the optimum utilization of testing facilities available with all the institutions in the country, coordination of Codex Committee and identification of issues relating to the Codex Alimentarius Commission of concern to India and coordinate the work relating to it.

The Working Group would complete its task in a time bound manner within one month, after which the issue would be discussed at the governmental level and then be brought back to the Council for recommendation.

**Item 7**

**FINANCIAL ISSUES**

**Item 7.1**

**Financial position of EIAs**

While considering Item 7.1 of the Agenda, Chairman observed that withdrawal of Rs.617.00 lakhs from the PF account in the financial year ending 31 March 1995 was a serious irregularity and the basic amount as well as the interest on the same should be immediately deposited into the PF account from the available surplus funds.

It was further decided to:

- (a) Check whether any approval for withdrawing the amount was taken by referring back to papers of EIC/EIAs/MOC&I.

- (b) Refer the matter to MOC& I after replenishing the amount.
- (c) Ensure that such action is not repeated in future and in case of any emergency, the matter to be referred to MOC&I.
- (d) The responsibility and accountability be fixed in case the money has been withdrawn without the approval of the Competent Authority.

**Item 7.2                      Uniform Accounting Policies**

The uniform accounting proformae developed to streamline the functioning of EIAs were appreciated and in principle agreed to by the Council. Shri Raj Singh, Deputy Secretary, MOC&I, informed that the Expenditure Reforms Committee (ERC) had recommended bringing about uniformity in accounting of all autonomous bodies and Department of Expenditure was looking into these. It was further decided that the proformae developed by EIC be examined by a Specialist Committee consisting of Shri K.B.Prahladan, Chief Comptroller of Accounts, MOC&I, Shri H.C.Jayal, Director (Finance), MOC&I, Shri Raj Singh, Deputy Secretary, MOC&I. Shri Krishnamurthy, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor with NIFT, who had recently retired, may also form a part of this Committee.

It was further decided that once uniform accounting procedures were developed as a result of ERC recommendations, the same could be incorporated into the proformae finalized as above.

**Item 7.3                      Transfer of Central Fund to Delhi.**

The proposal was agreed to in principle. However, it was decided that the modalities of the transfer may be finalized by the Director, EIC in consultation with MOC&I.

**Item 8                              PEER REVIEW OF EIC BY INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE (IIFT)**

The Council noted the information given under Item 8 of the Agenda.

**Item 9                              ACTIVITIES OF HR&QDC OF EIC**

The Council noted the information given under Item 9 of the Agenda.

**Item 9.1                        Project on technical assistance from the European Commission.**

The Council noted the information given under Item 9.1 of the Agenda.

**Item 10                    CORPORATE AUDIT**

The Council noted the information given under Item 10 of the Agenda.

**Item 11                    COMPUTERISATION OF EIC/EIAs**

The Council noted the information given under Item 11 of the Agenda.

The Council directed that EIC should make a proposal for hike in certification fee after computerization is carried out which would result in improvement of the quality of service rendered by EIC/EIAs.

**Item 12                    ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**Item 12.1                Implementation of IWSU report – status**

The council noted the information given in under Item 12.1 of the Agenda.

**Item 12.2                Re-designation of the post of Director (I&QC), EIC as Director General, EIC.**

The Council decided to forward the proposal to the Ministry for examination.

**Item 12.3                Modification in the conditions for recruitment by way of transfer on deputation wherever applicable.**

The proposal was approved and it was decided that suitable amendment to Recruitment Rules may be proposed to the Ministry.

**Item 12.4                Promotion to the post of Assistant Director (Non-Tech)**

It was pointed out that in CSS cadre, Stenographers are eligible for promotion to Section Officer post only after clearing a departmental examination and become PS (equivalent to Sr. P.A. in EIC) by promotion. However, promotion from PS to PPS (Group-A post) is in stenographic stream only. It was clarified that unlike in Central government, EIC/EIAs have no promotional channel beyond Sr. P.A. The Council decided that in the light of the discussion, EIC may re-examine the proposal along with impact on promotion prospects for Section Officers and re-submit to the Council.

**Item 12.5                Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme for surplus Central Govt. employees.**

While agreeing to implementation of Central government's Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme (SVRS) as given in Item 12.5 of the Agenda, on the question of allowing one-time option to employees in CPF scheme to switch over to GPF/Pension, the Council decided that

EIC should work out a separate SVRS proposal for such employees keeping in view the experience with SVRS of 1994 to make it attractive and examine having complete severance to avoid any further liability. The Council recommended that a comprehensive proposal giving all details including the expected number of employees likely to opt for SVRS, likely financial implications may be submitted to MOC&I to consider to make suitable provisions to finance the same.

**Item 12.6            Communication support facilities for Incharge of EIAs.**

The proposal of Director, EIC to provide STD facility at the residential telephones of Jt. Directors, Incharge of EIAs and other officers of equivalent posts and above was considered by the Council. The Council was apprised that as per the latest instructions of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, only officers of the level of Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India were entitled for provision of STD facilities at their official and residential telephones and reimbursement and payment of their telephones bills were further restricted to some maximum limit.

In view of the extant instructions on the subject, the Council felt that the provision of STD facility, at the residential telephones of Joint Directors, Incharge of EIAs and other officers of equivalent post and above, may not be necessary. However, they will be entitled for reimbursement of outstation calls so made by them in discharge of their official responsibility.

**Item 12.7            Own premises for EIAs**

**Item 12.7.1        EIA-Cochin**

The Council appreciated the need for EIAs to have their own office and lab buildings in view of renewed importance of export certification especially in food sector. The Council further decided that in view of its excellent location, reasonable price and increasing activity of EIA-Cochin, the complete plot of land which had been offered to MPEDA i.e. 1620 sq. mtr. should be procured for EIA-Cochin. It was further decided to seek assistance of MPEDA to negotiate with Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA) for further discount, if any.

Realising that EIAs did not have sufficient funds for the above purpose, the Council recommended that government should finance the land as well as building, and a proposal for the same may be sent to MOC&I for incorporating in RE for 2002-03. In the meantime, the amount may be paid to GCDA from surplus funds of EIAs. The Council agreed that for construction of office-cum-lab complex in the plot allocation preferably from plan funds may be sought.

## **EIA-Delhi**

While approving the proposal, the Chairman suggested that a letter may be written to Vice Chairman, DDA to allot the land in a central area preferably institutional area between Vasant Vihar and Vasant Kunj at the earliest. Further, till the building of EIA-Delhi is constructed, the proposal to shift EIA-Delhi to a suitable place with a more conducive working environment was also agreed to and it was suggested that various options may be explored. The capacity of EIA-Delhi to pay the rent may be considered while exploring the options.

### **Item 12.8                    Closure of Sub-office:Howrah under the jurisdiction of the EIA-Calcutta**

The Council approved the proposal for closure of Sub-office:Howrah.

### **Item 12.9                    Opening of extension counter of EIA-Delhi at Air Cargo Agents Association of India (ACAAI) complex near ‘International Airport’.**

The Council noted the information given under Item 12.9 of the Agenda.

### **Item 12.10                 Sub-office:Bangalore presently under jurisdiction of EIA-Madras to be shifted back under jurisdiction of EIA-Cochin.**

The proposal for shifting of Sub-office: Bangalore under the jurisdiction of EIA-Cochin may be examined in depth considering the representations of the employees on merit.

It was agreed to cover Jharkhand under EIA-Calcutta and Uttaranchal and Chattisagarh under EIA-Delhi to suitably incorporate these in revised notification issued to the effect.

### **Item 12.11                 Guidelines for transfer/posting of personnel.**

Due to paucity of time the proposal could not be considered. This may be put up at the next meeting of the Council. In the meanwhile the proposal to be put up to the Council may be sent to the Ministry in advance to finalise its own stand in the matter.

### **Item 13                     ANY OTHER BUSINESS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.**

The Chairman desired that the Council meetings be held more frequently and atleast once in 3 months. It was decided to have the next meeting during the last week of November 2002.

As there was no other business, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



## ANNEXURE

### LIST OF MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE OF THE NINETY SECOND MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13 AUGUST 2002.

- |     |                                                                                                    |                  |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1.  | Shri L .V. Saptharishi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry                      | Chairman         |
| 2.  | Ms. Shashi Sareen, Director(I&Q/C), EIC New Delhi                                                  | Member Secretary |
| 3.  | Shri P.P.De, Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.                           | Member<br>Member |
| 4.  | Shri MVPC Sastry, Joint Secretary (Incharge of Export Inspection), Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Member           |
| 5.  | Shri Deepak Gupta, Joint Secretary & CVO, Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare | Member           |
| 6.  | Shri Rajesh Bhal, M/s.Geo Chem Laboratories Pvt.Ltd.,                                              | Member           |
| 7.  | Shri Anil K.Mittal, M/s.Khusi Ram Behari Lal Ltd.,                                                 | Member           |
| 8.  | Shri Elias Sait, M/s.Alsa Marine & Harvests Ltd., .                                                | Member           |
| 9.  | Shri K.K. Goel, Bureau of Indian Standards (representing DG, BIS)                                  | Member           |
| 10. | Shri Raj Singh, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.                                 | Special Invitee  |