

**MINUTES OF THE 93rd MEETING OF EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL
(8th January 2003)**

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 NO. 1 GENERAL

1.1 Opening remarks by Chairman

The Chairman welcomed the members present (list annexed).

1.2 Leave of absence.

Leave of absence was granted to:

- (1) Shri P.P. De, Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta.
- (2) Shri MVPC Sastry, Joint Secretary (Incharge of Export Inspection), MOC&I, New Delhi
- (3) Shri Deepak Gupta, Joint Secretary & CVO, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi.
- (4) Shri B.B. Paul, Acting Director General, National Test House, Calcutta
- (5) Shri J.S.Bhasin, M/s.Bharat Springs Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai.
- (6) Shri Irfan Allana, M/s.Frigorifico Allana Ltd., Mumbai.

While noting the low participation, the Chairman said that he would address letters to all those who had not attended the last two meetings to request them to participate regularly in future to make the deliberations of the Council more meaningful and effective.

1.3 Report of activities of EIC by Director, EIC

Director, EIC apprised the members of some major developments since the last Council meeting including launch of EIC website, signing of MOU with (AQIS) Australia and SLSI (Sri Lanka), the scenario

relating to rejection of fish and fishery products by EU countries and steps being taken to meet the EC norms besides the financial status of EIC/EIAs.

1.4 92nd meeting of the Export Inspection Council

1.4.1 Confirmation of the minutes

The Council confirmed the Minutes of the 92nd meeting of the Export Inspection Council as circulated.

1.4.2 Action Taken Report

The Council, while noting the actions taken on the minutes of the last meeting, was apprised that the various Shadow Committees of Ministry of Health dealing with the area of Codex were being reconstituted and EIC's request for representation on these had been agreed to.

Regarding action on Agenda item no.7.2 of the last meeting concerning development of uniform accounting proforma, members were informed that Shri T.K. Das had taken over as Chief Controller of Accounts, MOC&I from Shri K.B.Prahaladan. It was decided to convene the meeting under the chairmanship of Chairman, EIC the other members remaining the same. It was decided that the modalities relating to transfer of Central Fund to Delhi would also be taken up at this meeting.

ITEM NO.2 COMPOSITION OF SPECIALIST COMMITTEES OF EIC

2.1 Administrative Committee

The composition of the reconstituted Administrative Committee was ratified.

2.2 Technical Committee

While reviewing the composition of the Technical Committee, it was pointed out that representation of Federation of Indian Exporters Organisation as a Member on the Committee had inadvertently been left out and the same was included. In addition representation was provided to Chairman, MPEDA or his nominee and Shri Elias Sait, as president SEAI or his nominee in place of Shri. Anwar Hashim, M/s Abad Fisheries. It was further decided that in case MPEDA, APEDA or SEAI nominated a representative to attend, continuity should be ensured.

Note: The chairmanship of the Technical Committee, which was with Additional Director General (Technical), BIS had inadvertently been shown with Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries.

2.3 Standing Committees

The Council noted the composition of the Standing Committees on Eggs, Egg Products and Poultry Products, Milk and Milk Products, Processed, Fresh and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables and Spices. It was pointed out by Director, EIC that the MOC&I had constituted another Standing Committee to frame standards for exports for fresh fruits and vegetables also under the Chairmanship of Chairman, APEDA. It was also brought out that this Committee was proposing to bring out standards under Agmark whereas it was felt that all standards for exports should be notified under a single Act i.e. Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act. Chairman, EIC desired that the issue be taken up at the government level with a view to avoid duplication in the area of export standardization.

ITEM NO. 3. NOTIFICATIONS

3.1 Final Notification published/ finalised

The Council noted the information on final notifications as given under item 3.1 of the Agenda.

3.2 Preliminary Notification Published

The Council noted the information on preliminary notifications published as given under item 3.2 of the Agenda. It was pointed out by Shri Elias Sait that it was not possible to test dioxin at the levels laid down in the notification and test equipment for the same was not available. It was decided to address this issue in due course after getting details of the test method.

ITEM NO. 4 EXPORT CERTIFICATION

4.1 Status of Approvals Under FSMCS of Food Products Processing Units

The Council noted the status of approval of processing units in various sectors.

4.2 Steps taken by EIC to Minimise Overseas Complaints in F&FP certification

The Council noted that of the 13 rejections since October, only 5 pertained to chemical residues, which seemed to reflect effectiveness of remedial measures.

While noting the presence of chloramphenicol at high levels in one sample drawn from the hatcheries, it was also brought out by Director, EIC that some hatchery units were not allowing EIA officials to draw

samples. The Council took strong note of this and it was decided that the details be provided to both President, SEAI and Chairman, MPEDA who would take up the issue at their level. Chairman EIC would also write to Secretary Fisheries of the respective States to use their good offices for ensuring cooperation by the hatcheries. On the issue of test equipment, Chairman MPEDA informed that one HPLC MS MS would be operational by end of January 2003 and the others equipment were scheduled to be installed by 31 March 2003. It was felt that the trainings may be organized nearer the time of installation of equipment.

With regard to visit of the Indian delegation to EU countries in September 2002, it was felt that the report should be circulated to all concerned including Secretary (Fisheries) of the related States.

It was further decided that a programme at the national level be organized in the first week of March at a suitable place to review the status of measures taken to control antibiotics and their effectiveness including status of upgradation of laboratories. EIC would prepare a status report based on information collected from SEAI & MPEDA.

4.3 Removal of the cap on EIA inspection charges

Shri Elias Sait strongly iterated the request of SEAI for restoration of cap in monitoring fee. The background of the issue was discussed. The Council also took note of the audit objections. After detailed discussions and in view of the complexity of background of the case, the Council was of the view that the status quo be maintained in respect of cap on monitoring fee and the issue may be relooked into at a later stage depending on circumstances.

ITEM NO. 5 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

5.1 MoUs

The Council noted the information regarding the status of MoUs with different countries.

5.2 Visit of Indian Delegation to various EU countries

The Council noted the information.

5.3 Training of lab personnel of EIAs/MPEDA in EU for testing of antibiotics in fish and fishery products

The Council noted the information.

5.4 Participation in the 11th Session of the Codex Committee on Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS)

The Council noted the information.

5.5 Participation in International Trade Fair

The Council noted the information.

ITEM NO.6 EIC WEBSITE LAUNCH & COMPUTERISATION

6.1 EIC Website Launch

The Council noted the information.

6.2 Computerisation

The Council noted the information.

ITEM NO.7 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

7.1 Organic Certification

The Council noted the information.

ITEM NO.8 PLAN SCHEMES

The Council while noting the information given at item 8 of the Agenda was informed that subsequently the scheme relating to land and buildings of EIC/EIAs had been approved by the Planning Commission and funds were being made available by MOC&I.

ITEM NO.9 FINANCIAL ISSUES

9.1 Financial status of EIC/EIAs

The Council noted the revenue, expenditure, asset and liability situation and felt that there was a need to examine ways of increasing revenue. It was suggested that fees from Certificate of Origin activity needed to be reviewed.

9.2 Revised Estimate 2002-2003 and Budget Estimates 2003-2004 of Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies .

9.2.1 *Revised Estimate 2002-2003 and Budget Estimates 2003-2004 of Export Inspection Council*

The Council members while noting the RE 2002-03 and BE 2003-04, expressed that TA/DA should be paid to Council members as in the case of MPEDA. It was decided that a proposal, on the lines of MPEDA be placed before the Council at its next meeting.

9.2.2 *Consolidated budget estimate 2002-2003, Revised Estimate 2002-2003 and Budget Estimates 2003-2004 of Export Inspection Agencies*

The Council approved the RE 2002-03 and BE 2003-04 of EIAs.

9.3 Status of Audit

The Council noted the information.

9.4 Financial position of statutory accounts of EIC/EIAs.

The Council while noting the information given under item 9.4 of the Agenda, observed that there were no lapses as such regarding financial position of the statutory accounts of EIC, but that technical corrections were required.

ITEM NO.10 ACTIVITIES OF HUMAN RESOURCE & QUALITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (HR&QDC) OF EIC

The Council noted the information regarding training programmes carried out for industry as well as internal manpower.

ITEM NO.11 IMPLEMENTATION OF EIC INSPECTION AGENCY RECOGNITION SCHEME, 2002.

While noting item 11 of the Agenda, it was brought to the notice of members that 17 Inspection Agencies had been given permanent approval ie without any expiry date and out of these only 9 had applied afresh as per the new guidelines. The Council ratified the decision of the Chairman and desired that approval be withdrawn for all Inspection Agencies which had not applied by 31 December 2002, after following due procedure.

ITEM NO.12 HINDI ACTIVITIES

The Council noted the information regarding the activities in implementation of Official language in the organisation.

ITEM NO.13 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

13.1 Implementation of IWSU report in EIC/EIAs.

The Council appreciated the difficulties being faced by employees of EIC/EIAs with regard to promotional avenues. The Chairman desired that a proposal be sent to MOC&I for taking a view in the matter.

13.2 Promotion to the post Assistant Director (Non-Tech)

The Council approved the proposal that 'Section Officer or equivalent' be interpreted to include Sr. PA so as to provide them avenues of promotion.

13.3 Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme (SVRS) for Surplus Central Govt. Employees - as applicable to the employees of EIC/EIAs

The Council noted the information given under item 13.3 of the Agenda and desired that the Scheme should be got approved by the Ministry and implemented.

13.4 Own premises for EIAs

The Council noted the proposal for own premises for EIA- Cochin, Madras and Delhi and gave concurrence for building the EIC office on the newly acquired plot and surrendering the Vikaspuri plot to DDA after completing all formalities for the newly acquired plot of EIC as proposed.

13.5 Opening of Camp Office at Aurangabad

The Council noted the information.

13.6 Medical Allowance for Pensioners

The Council approved the proposal to provide fixed medical allowance of Rs 100/- to pensioners wef 1 December 1997 as implemented by Central Government.

13.7 Relaxation in medical reimbursement of medical expenditure to the employees of EIC/EIAs

The Council approved the proposal. Further, the Council desired that the feasibility of introducing Mediclaim Insurance policy may also be examined.

ITEM NO. 14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Shri Elias Sait raised the issue of the norms for capacity of production under implementation by EIC which had been fixed on criteria including freezing capacity, pre-processing capacity, ice and water and that limiting the capacity was hampering production and requested for a review of norms. It was brought out by Director, EIC that the norms had been reviewed a few months back based on discussions with exporters, MPEDA and CIFT officials. It was however, agreed that a fresh look be given to these norms and MPEDA, SEAI, and CIFT in addition to EIC/EIAs be involved in this exercise.

14.2 Shri Rajesh Bhal raised the issue that Inspection Agencies should have a greater involvement in the work of EIC. It was decided that an interaction with inspection Agencies at national level be organised to look into this area.

LIST OF MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE 93RD MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 8TH JANUARY 2003

1. Shri L.V. Saptharishi, - Chairman.
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry,
New Delhi
2. Ms. Shashi Sareen, Director (I&Q/C), Member Secretary
Export Inspection Council, New Delhi
3. Shri Jose Cyriac, Chairman, - Member
Marine Products Export Development Authority, Cochin
4. Shri Elias Sait, M/s.Alsa Marine & Harvests Ltd., - Member
AF-54, 11th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai.
5. Shri Rajesh Behal, M/s.Geo Chem Laboratories Pvt.Ltd., - Member
294, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Fort, Mumbai.
6. Shri R.S. Khanna, Representative, - Member
M/s.Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd.,
Amul Dairy Road, Anand (Gujarat).
7. Shri Raj Singh, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Special Invitee
Industry, Department of Commerce, Udyog Bhawan,
New Delhi.

1. Shri Nirmal Singh,
Director General,
Bureau of Indian Standards,
Manak Bhawan,
9, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi-110002.
2. Shri P.K.Aggarwal,
Agricultural Marketing Adviser to
the Govt. of India,
Ministry of Rural Development,
Nirman Bhawan,
New Delhi.
3. Shri P.P.De,
Director General of
Commercial Intelligence and
Statistics,
1, Council House Street,
Calcutta-700001.
4. Shri K. Jose Cyriac,
Chairman,
Marine Products Export
Development Authority,
P.B.No.4272,
MPEDA House, Panampilly
Avenue,
Cochin-682036.
5. Shri Anil Swarup,
Chairman,
Agricultural & Processed Food
Products
Export Development Authority,
NCUI Building, 3, Siri Institutional
Area,
August Kranti Marg,
New Delhi-110016.
6. Shri MVPC Sastry,
Joint Secretary (Incharge of Export
Inspection),
Ministry of Commerce & industry,
Govt. of India,
Udyog Bhawan,
New Delhi.
7. Shri Deepak Gupta,
Joint Secretary & CVO,
Government of India,
Ministry of Health & Family
Welfare,
Nirman Bhawan,
8. Shri Irfan Allana,
M/s.Frigorifico Allana Ltd.,
Allana House,
4, Allana Road, Colaba,
Mumbai.
9. Shri Elias Sait,
M/s.Alsa Marine & Harvests Ltd.,
AF-54, 11th Main Road, Anna Nagar,
Chennai.
10. Shri B.B.Paul,
Acting Director General,
National Test House,
Judges Court Road, Alipore,
Calcutta-700027.
11. Shri G.Venkataramani,
Director,
Fruits and Vegetables and Preservation,
Ministry of Food Processing,
Khel Gaon, (Panchsheel Bhawan),
New Delhi.
12. Shri Rajesh Behal,
M/s.Geo Chem Laboratories Pvt.Ltd.,
294, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road,
Fort,
Mumbai.
13. Shri Anil K.Mittal,
M/s.Khusi Ram Behari Lal Ltd.,
5190, Naya Bazar, Lahori Gate,
Delhi.
14. Shri J.S.Bhasin,
M/s.Bharat Springs Pvt. Ltd.,
37, Barrister Nath Pai Marg,
Cottongreen,
Mumbai.
15. Shri B.M.Vyas,
M/s.Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd.,
Amul Dairy Road,
Anand (Gujarat).

New Delhi.