

MINUTES OF THE 95<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL  
(2 January 2004)

Chairman : Shri A Sengupta,  
Additional Secretary,  
Ministry of Commerce & Industry,  
New Delhi.

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

ITEM 1 GENERAL

Item 1.1 Welcome to Chairman and opening remarks by Chairman.

Director, EIC welcomed Shri Abhijit Sengupta as Chairman of EIC. The Chairman welcomed the members present (List enclosed).

Item 1.2 Leave of absence.

Leave of absence was granted to:

- (1) Shri B B Paul, Acting Director General, National Test House, Kolkata.
- (2) Shri J S Bhasin, M/s. Bharat Springs Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai.
- (3) Shri Irfan Allana, M/s Frigorifico Allana Ltd., Mumbai.
- (4) Shri Rajesh Bahl, M/s Geo Chem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai.
- (5) Shri P K. Aggarwal, Agricultural Marketing Advisor to the Govt. of India.
- (6) Shri P P. De, Director General Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata.
- (7) Shri Anil Mittal, M/s. Khushi Ram Behari Lal Ltd., Delhi.
- (8) Shri Nirmal Singh, Director General, BIS.
- (9) Shri B.M.Vyas, M/s Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd.
- (10) Smt. Rita Teotia, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Item 1.3 Report of activities of EIC by Director, EIC

Director EIC apprised the members of major developments since the last Council meeting including the visits of the EC mission (FVO), EU court of auditors' delegation on GSP Scheme, and US FDA team to India; publication of notification on bivalve molluscs, amendments to the existing notifications on F&FP, egg products, honey; upgradation of laboratory facilities of EIAs, participation of officers of EIC/EIAs in committee meetings of Codex; progress regarding MOUs with Singapore, Sri Lanka, AQIS, Nepal and other countries. The financial status of EIAs and income of EIAs, scheme-wise and agency-wise were also highlighted.

- 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,  
Krishi 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 K.S. Money,  
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 Ms. Rita Teatota,  
Joint Secretary,  
Government of India,  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare,  
Nirman Bhawan,  
New Delhi.
- 8 Shri Irfan Allana,  
M/s. Frigrefico Allana Ltd.,  
Allana House,  
4, Allana Road, Colaba,  
Mumbai.
- 9 Shri Elias Sait,  
M/s. Alsa Marine & Harvests Ltd.,  
AF-54, 11<sup>th</sup> Main Road, Anna Nagar,  
Chennai.
- 10 Shri B.B. Paul,  
Acting Director General,  
National Test House,  
Judges Court Road, Alipore,  
Calcutta-700027.
- 11 Shri K.K. Vyavahare,  
Director,  
Fruits and Vegetables and Preservation,  
Ministry of Food Processing,  
Khel Gaon, (Panchsheel Bhawan),  
New Delhi.
- 12 Shri Rajesh Bahl,  
M/s. Geo Chem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.,  
294, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road,  
Fort,  
Mumbai.
- 13 Shri Anil K. Mittal,  
M/s. Khushi 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).

Item 1.4 94<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Export Inspection Council.

*Item 1.4.1 Confirmation of the Minutes*

The Council confirmed the minutes of the 94<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EIC as circulated.

*Item 1.4.2 Action Taken Report*

The Council noted the actions taken on the minutes of the last meeting.

## 2. NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED

### 2.1 Final Notifications Issued

The Council noted the information on various notifications issued as given under item 2.1 of the Agenda.

## 3. EXPORT CERTIFICATION

### 3.1 Status of Certification in the area of Food Products

The Council noted the information.

### 3.2 Fish & Fisheries Products Certification.

#### 3.2.1 Steps taken by EIC to Minimise Overseas Complaints in F&FP consignments.

The Council noted the information regarding measures taken to reduce overseas complaints. It was informed that reduction in complaints have occurred because issues were taken up during interaction with representatives of the countries who were reporting rejections. It was mentioned that such personal interactions should be continued.

#### 3.2.2 Implementation of Notification on Bivalve Molluscs & 3.2.2.1 Export of bivalve molluscs to non-EU countries

The Council noted the information given under item No 3.2.2 of the Agenda. It was, however, felt that it may not be feasible to constitute a Shellfish Control Authority in each maritime State as recommended by the expert group. It was decided that the proposal be re-examined by Chairman MPEDA and Director, EIC and recommendations submitted within one month.

With regard to export of bivalve molluscs to non-EU countries as given under 3.2.2.1 of the Supplementary Agenda, it was decided to maintain status quo till a system for approval and monitoring of production and relaying areas was developed.

### 3.2.3 Residue Monitoring Plan (RMP) for Aquacultured fish & fishery products.

The Council noted the information and agreed that the system of communication of results by MPEDA to EIC needs to be strengthened.

### 3.2.4 Issues raised by Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) in relation to F&FP.

#### 3.2.4.1 *Testing consignments of sea caught shrimps for Antibiotics prior to issue of health certificate*

Considering all aspects arising out of the recent visit to India of EU FVO mission, it was decided that consignments of both aquacultured and sea caught shrimps would be tested for antibiotics prior to exports. However with regard to the method of test, status quo to be maintained till further instructions i.e. HPLC/GC MS etc to be used as was the case earlier.

#### 3.2.4.2 *Testing of cadmium residue in consignments of Cephalopods meant for export to EU*

It was decided that in view of the significant number of rejections of consignments of cephalopods for cadmium, the testing to be continued. However CIFT would be requested to expedite the testing. Chairman, MPEDA agreed to take up the matter appropriately with the Director, CIFT. Director, EIC further informed that she had already requested our mission in Brussels to take up with the EC regarding rejections of consignments of cephalopods with viscera.

#### 3.2.4.3 *Export of live fish through off-shore station.*

The Council noted the information as given under item 3.2.4.3 of the Agenda.

### 3.3 Milk Products Certification Scheme.

The Council noted the information as given under item 3.3 of the Agenda.

### 3.4 Egg Products Certification Scheme.

The Council noted the information as given under item 3.4 of the Agenda.

### 3.5 Honey

#### 3.5.1 Export Certification of Honey consignments.

The Committee considered the issue of exports of honey without certificate of inspection in violation of the notification issued on 4 March 2002 and desired that a legal view may be taken on whether fees could be collected for the period for which services had not been rendered by EIAs even though the product was under compulsory export certification.

#### 3.5.2 Testing charges for Honey.

The Council noted the information as given under item 3.5.2 of the Agenda regarding charges being levied for testing of honey. Director, EIC further highlighted that one of the exporter namely M/s Kashmir Apiaries, Ludhiana had met her in this connection wherein the problem of testing as well as approval of their unit had been discussed. The EIA had been advised to expedite the assessment of the unit so that issues regarding delays in testing as well as costs for the same would be sorted out. Chairman, APEDA also informed that the industry had met him to discuss similar issues of delay and fees. He was requested to send his proposal regarding fees, which would then be discussed in a joint meeting by MOC&I, Director, EIC and Chairman, APEDA.

### 3.6 Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products Certification

The Council noted the information as given under item 3.6 of the Agenda.

### 3.7 Basmati Rice Certification

The Council noted the information as given under item 3.7 of the Agenda. It was further desired that EIC should examine the possibility of setting up DNA testing facilities for rice to ensure accuracy of the certificate provided. Regarding providing of on line access to any country on our certification system, it was felt that this should be avoided.

### 3.8 Scheme for Quality Control and Inspection for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for exports on a voluntary basis.

While noting the information provided by the EIC, Chairman APEDA was of the view that we may not have more than one body doing certification for EC as this may lead to confusion. Attention of the members was drawn to the meeting taken by Shri Saptharishi, AS, MOC&I wherein a decision had been taken that all commodities for export certification should be covered under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act. After further discussion, it was suggested by the Chairman that EIC and APEDA may need to have periodic meetings on such overlapping schemes/areas with a view to resolving any problems and issues, including those in the meat sector, RMP etc. Such issues could be further discussed between APEDA, EIC & MOC&I.

### 3.9 Other Schemes.

The Council noted the information as given under item 3 9 of the Agenda.

### 3.10 Executive instructions on raw chilled/frozen meat and implementation of scheme.

The Council noted the information as given under item 3 10 of the Agenda. Chairman, APEDA informed that they are also registering meat-processing units, and the same may be looked into to avoid any duplication on the subject. It was decided that this issue may also be discussed jointly by Director, EIC and Chairman APEDA (see also 3 8 above)

### ITEM NO 4 PEER REVIEW REPORT OF EIC

The Council considered item 4 of the Agenda and decided that since the bid amount of IIFT was the lowest, they may be assigned the tasks as per the terms of reference mentioned in the Agenda. The Council further decided that the terms of reference should contain not only the current system in practice for different areas, but should also suggest improvements, wherever necessary. Further, the exercise should be completed within 3 months

### ITEM NO 5 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Council noted the information given under item 5 of the Agenda in relation to international activities including visit of EC (FVO) and USFDA missions, progress on MOUs with different countries and participation in various international meetings. While discussing the MOU with Nepal, it was pointed out by Director, EIC that Ministry of External Affairs had requested that the scheme for approval of units in Nepal for exports into India be expedited. Further, this scheme was being worked jointly with Ministry of Health so that the products imported into India would meet their requirements. It was also expressed that the kind of arrangement being suggested for Nepal could be envisaged under the overall ambit of SAARC Cooperation.

### ITEM NO 6 ACTIVITIES OF HR&QDC OF EIC

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

### ITEM NO 7 IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN SCHEMES IN EIC/EIAs

The Council noted the information given under item 7 of the Agenda in relation to the Schemes approved in the tenth five-year plans. Suggestions were also given by members wrt the MOU to be signed with NBCC by EIA-Chennai and it was decided to suitably incorporate these in the MOU.

## ITEM NO 8 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### 8.1 Participation in Trade Fairs

The Council agreed in principle that EIC should participate in the Trade Fairs being organised in various parts of the world so as to achieve the goals as mentioned in the Agenda. However, it observed that programmes mentioned in the Agenda, slated to be held in February and March 2004, were too crowded and it might not be possible to nominate officials for these programmes because of rush of work towards the close of the financial year. The Council observed that wherever there were requirements of quality consciousness, the proposals for participation in trade fairs might be sent to the Ministry for consideration. Council also asked Director EIC to prepare a detailed plan for the next financial year i.e. 2004-2005 keeping in view the overall advantages of participation in such fairs vis-à-vis role and functions of EIC/EIAs for consideration of the Ministry.

### 8.2 Enlistment of EIA Laboratory

The Council noted the information as presented under item 8.2 of the Agenda.

### 8.3 Empanelment of EIC/EIA with DAH&D

The Council noted the information as presented under item 8.3 of the Agenda.

### 8.4 Organic & HACCP Certification

The Council noted the information as presented under item 8.4 of the Agenda.

### 8.5 Health Certificates for Stainless Steel Utensils to Turkey

The Council noted the information as presented under item 8.5 of the Agenda.

## ITEM NO 9 CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN ACTIVITY

The Council noted the information given under item 9.1 and 9.2 of the Agenda.

### Item No:10 COMPUTERIZATION

The Council noted the information given under item 10 of the Agenda. Chairman expressed that in the computerization processing of applications by EIC/EIAs it must be ensured that proper chronology of processing of the applications is duly maintained. The whole system needs to be very transparent and an applicant must know at any point of time, where his application is pending. After discussions, Council desired that targets be fixed for finalization of the project. Director, EIC brought out that targets had already been set and in EIA-Delhi computerization would be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004 and the same would be replicated in other Agencies by the end of September 2004.

## ITEM NO 11 FINANCIAL ISSUES

The Council noted the revised estimates for EIC for 2003-04 and Budget Estimates for 2004-05 as given under Agenda item 11. The Council discussed the Revised Estimates 2003-04 and Budget Estimates of 2004-05 of EIAs. It was pointed out that there was a gap in the revenue collected in the F&FP Scheme as compared to exports in 2002-03 to the tune of around 2.3 crores based on an export figure of Rs 6881 crores. Director, EIC clarified that exporterwise information on exports was being collected from EIA records and MPEDA had been requested for information of exports from their records so that the exporters who were exporting without certification could be identified. Shri Elias Sait agreed that such information should be given to EIC and all efforts made to plug such gaps. MPEDA, Chairman agreed to send this information to EIC. Chairman, EIC desired that on availability of this information, strong actions should be taken both against exporters as well as EIA officials responsible for the same. Director, EIC was also requested to once again look into the revenues from various schemes as well as the expenses (specifically other office expenses) before presenting for approval to EIC.

The representative of SEAI raised the issue of monitoring fee by EIAs and desired that cap on the charges should be brought into operation so that the processing units/exporters are not asked to pay more fee without any corresponding increase in the monitoring by the EIAs. The Council was apprised by other members that the main consideration for removal of previously existing cap was the reduction in corresponding 0.2% cess under MPEDA Act and the Audit para on under charging. Notwithstanding the above, the representative of SEAI was asked to examine the cess for other produce under the various other Acts and give their suggestions in this regard for consideration of the Council and the Ministry.

## ITEM NO 12 ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

### Item No.12.1 SVRS for surplus Central Government Employees

The Council noted the information given under 12.1 of the Agenda.

### Item No.12.2 Modifications of the conditions of Recruitment by way of Transfer on deputation, wherever applicable

It was observed that in principle there should not be any objection to the proposal. EIC would send all necessary details to the Ministry for examination and further processing of the proposal.

### Item No.12.3 Regularization of Ad hoc/contract/daily wage employees of EIAs

It was stated that the IWSU may be got expedited for Group 'C' and 'D' in the first instance.



#### Item No.12.4 Introduction of a five-day week in EIC/EIAs

It was mentioned that before the proposal could be considered the Director, EIC should examine and suggests alternatives so that the no inconvenience is caused to exporters.

#### ITEM NO 13 HINDI ACTIVITIES

The Council noted the information given under item13 of the Agenda.

#### ITEM NO 14 RECOGNITION OF INSPECTION AGENCIES

The Council noted the information given under item14 of the Agenda.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Manpower requirement** - Director, EIC pointed out that with a large number of cases of retirements due in the next few years, EIC/EIAs were likely to face an acute shortage of manpower to meet their present and future requirements. There was a need to strengthen the technical manpower including senior level positions. The Council was in general agreement and felt that the proposal sent recently to the Ministry should be examined and efforts made to get the organisation the required strength.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair

24/2004/

28 January 2004

All Members of the Export Inspection Council (as per list attached)

**Subject: Minutes of the Ninety Fifth meeting of the Export Inspection Council**

Sir,

Please find enclosed a copy of the Minutes of Ninety Fifth Meeting of the Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2004. The Minutes have been duly approved by Shri A. Sengupta, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Chairman of the Council.


Yours faithfully,

sd/-

(Ms. Shashi Sareen)

Encls: As above.

Copy to: The Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry & Chairman, Export Inspection Council, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi – For kind information.

  
(Ms. Shashi Sareen)