

From the desk of Additional Director, EIC

Dear friends,

Finally the day has come. Just as everything which is good always comes to an end, I have also reached end of my tenure in EIC. When I was posted on deputation at EIC in 2003, I was uneasy and in fact felt quite edgy because it was the first time I was moving out of the safe environs of DGFT where I had spent around 15 years by that time. Life appeared to be full of uncertainties at that time. But now as I have successfully completed my term in EIC, I reflect on more than 4 ½ years which I spent in EIC with lot of satisfaction and achievement. I must confess that I have enjoyed every bit of my stint in EIC. It was a time of great learning and at the same time shouldering a high degree of responsibility. In nut shell, the time spent at EIC was really very fruitful and a great experience for me. We could do a lot of things in EIC during these last 4 ½ years. Some of these achievements can be mentioned as under:

- Solving some of the fundamental administrative problems being faced by our employees such as successful implementation of ACP to all eligible employees, to directly recruited Technical Officers to Group 'C' officials who had joined initially as Group 'D', to officials who are not qualified for promotion as per respective RR's and addressing certain anomalies with respect to ACP scheme was a great challenge. But we could handle these. Apart from that, yearly promotions at all level, favourable consideration of request of transfers, regular DPC meetings to consider promotions to the levels of AD, DD and JD were held on time so as to ensure that eligible officials of EIC/EIAs do not suffer. Instructions with regard to Promotions within Group 'C' posts wherever vacancies are available, as on date ,in the EIAs have also been issued today.
- We also successfully completed two rounds of recruitments in the organization and as a result we have got young officers who would bear the burden of carrying the organization to further heights in the future. Third recruitment process has also been initiated and is likely to be completed in the next couple of months. For the future also, due to our continued efforts, EIC has been given exemption by the Government from applicability of ADRP Scheme. As a result, we will have sustained regular recruitments in future and I am sure that inspite of the fact that our senior functionaries would leave the organization on retirements in the next 2-3 years, younger generation, who would be joining the organization, would continue doing the good work further to take the organization ahead on its path of progress. So we should feel assured because foundations of a sustained inflow of direct officers in the organization have been laid down.

- We were also able to settle a long pending issue of regularization of adhoc/contract/daily wage Group 'D' employees who were working in the organization for last 10-15 years without any certainty towards their future. These employees have been given fresh appointments with assured jobs and livelihood. Similarly, we have also been able to pursue Government of India and get its concurrence to regularize services of similarly placed employees in the Group 'C' category and instructions in this regard are also being issued.
- In order to ensure that our officials who are under Pension Scheme continue to get their pensions uninterrupted, last year we have outsourced management of Pension Funds to LIC of India. No doubt there were initial hic-ups in operationalising this arrangement with the LIC, but the things have finally settled and our employees who are retiring with pensionary benefits at present are assured that their pension liabilities would be taken care by another great professional organization i.e. LIC of India.
- Introduction of five days week in EIC/EIAs was again a very long pending issue which got settled and this must be considered an important motivational step for the employees.
- Further inspite of all the problems which we had on implementation of computerization efforts in the organization, we were able to automate Issuance of Certificate of Origin in the entire organization. I accept that there were problems in computerising this activity like slowing down of servers, deficiencies in the application etc., but still with the help of our employees all over the country, we have been able to keep the flag afloat and ensure that Issuance of CoO is done through the computerized set up only. It is a matter of great pride for us that CoO activity is totally computerised and I hope it would remain so in the future also. We are also in the midst of completion of inspection module and I am sure with its computerization, entire exporter centric activities of EIC would be fully computerized and organization can take lot of pride in completing this endeavor.
- On HRD front also, we have been able to fulfill our targets in all the previous years. We have successfully organized training programmes in each EIA office with the purpose to upgrade skills of our officials and also to make aware the general exporters of our activities. Under EU TIDP project, we have been able to organize many trainings and study visits during the last year. On the face of it, organizing a training programme looks a simple affair, however, it requires lot of preparation and coordination. It gives me lot of happiness to mention that under this project, about 55

of our officers had visited foreign countries to understand the best available international practices there and out of these 55, a large majority of the officers were such, who were going for a foreign visit first time in their careers.

- Another important exercise which was taken as a challenge was to get EIC certified as per ISO 9001:2000. It is a matter of great pride for all of us that EIC is an ISO 9001:2000 certified organization today.

It gives me a great sense of satisfaction that these major achievements, in addition to lot many other small achievements have been brought out in the organization in such a short span of 4 ½ years. However, none of these would have been possible without the great vision coupled with constant support and active participation of Ms.Shashi Sareen, Ex-Director, EIC. At the same time I must express my sincere thanks to my associates at EIC who were supportive and provided the necessary ground work for these achievements. The team at EIC included Shri S.K.Tandon, Shri S.K.Singh, Shri Kuldeep Singh, Smt.Nirmal Kanta and Ms.Vimlesh. Apart from these officials who were actively and closely involved with me in executing these activities, other officers working in EIC also helped and extended their support and it is a result of combined efforts that today we are at this position. Still some of the items which remain unfinished are being left behind for which we did made a lot of efforts but somehow we were not able to complete these. Some of the issues are like grant of pension to the employees who are still under CPF, implementation of left over modules of ICP, pay scales for some of the posts at Group 'C' etc. I am sure, these issues would also get resolved in favour of employees in due course of time.

With these words, I bid adieu to all my colleagues in EIC as well at all EIA's and wish each one of you a very successful and satisfied future.

With best wishes.

(VIJAY KUMAR)
ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR
EIC
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