

MINUTES OF THE 113TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD HELD AT HOTEL TAJ MOUNT, CHENNAI ON 9TH APRIL 2010 AT 9.00 HRS.

113th meeting of the National Shipping Board (NSB) was held under the Chairmanship of Capt. PVK Mohan on 9th April 2010 at The Hotel Taj Mount, Chennai. List of those present in the meeting is enclosed at **Annexure I.**

2. Beginning the meeting, Chairman, Chennai Port Trust, welcomed all the members of the National Shipping Board and thanked for giving an opportunity to conduct this meeting at Chennai. He added that the National Shipping Board is a permanent statutory body established in 1959 promoted for developing the Shipping sector of India. While making a Power Point Presentation, the Chairman stated that at present the Road and Rail connectivity is lacking. He called for thrust to Port connectivity Projects to meet the growing volume of Exim cargo.

3. Chairman, NSB in his introductory address, welcomed the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other Members and special invitees to the 113th NSB Meeting. He emphasized that awareness about seafaring profession should be brought about in Tier I and Tier II cities. He stated that the marine sector has shortage of officers, both in Deck side and Engineering side. Indian Maritime University has to train more Marine personnel in India to catch up with the manpower requirement at global level.

4. Thereafter, Minutes of the 112th NSB meeting were taken up and since there were no comments received, the minutes were confirmed in order.

5. Review of Action taken on resolutions of 112th NSB meeting;

a) Income tax waiver for Indian Seafarers:

Shri. Shanti Patel, Member, NSB stated that the issue of Income tax waiver for Indian seafarers is pending for several years and the Govt. of India is still taking time to decide on this subject. Chairman, NSB advised INSA to submit the status paper within two months before the

monsoon period and the same should be presented in the next NSB Meeting.

Member Secretary informed that the issue was already taken up with the Finance Ministry and the Finance Ministry had rejected the proposal. Chairman, National Shipping Board suggested to constitute a Committee to take up this issue with the help of Members of Parliament.

Dr. P. Vijayan, Vice Chancellor, Indian Maritime University stated that very soon there will be a shortage of Seafarers on Indian ships because of tax benefits in serving on foreign ships.

b) Recent casualties on iron ore ships:

Member Secretary informed that D.G.Shipping has already drafted Guidelines for loading of iron ore fines ex-India Ports and these would be issued shortly.

Chairman stated that Emergency Towing vessel should be in place before the onset of monsoon so that Indian coast could be safeguarded from a shipping casualty occurring during monsoon season.

c) Strengthening a legislative mechanism for Port Entry Rules

Representatives of the Ministry of Shipping informed that the issue is being examined in the Ministry.

To a query raised by Shri K.B.Shanappa, M.P., as to whether all issues relating to Shipping has to be consulted with the Government, the Chairman informed that the Shipping Board, though is a statutory body, does not have any Executive powers and Ministry's consultation is necessary for each and every issue.

Agenda Points

6. Proximity of Fishing Harbours to Major Ports – Way Ahead.

A Power Point Presentation was made by the Deputy Chairman, Visakhapatnam Port Trust (VPT). He informed that the VPT has proposed to shift their Fishing Harbour to Bhemunipatnam as movement

of Fishing Vessels remain an hindrance for the vessels while entering the harbour.

Chairman, Chennai Port Trust stated that Vessel Tracking Management System (VTMS) is being implemented in Chennai Port, where even small boats can be tracked and suggested that the same system may be implemented in VPT also.

Several members, suggested that Fishing harbours be moved about 20 to 30 km away from Major Ports and VTMS be made mandatory for all major and non-major ports.]

7. Augmentation of dredging capacity in India

Shri Sridharan, Director, DCI presented the Dredging scenario and emphasized the imperative need to build Dredging Vessels of higher capacity as there is a huge demand among the Indian Ports. IMU Vice Chancellor expressed concern over the lack of Dredging Personnel to man the Dredgers and informed that a Committee has been constituted with the Holland group to overcome this problem. He further stated that IMU has proposed to acquire land to establish a campus at Vizag for imparting training to the Dredging Personnel to match with the growing capacity of Dredging Vessels.

8. Location of new Ports

Shri Velumani, Chairman, Ennore Port Ltd., stated that the Indian Ports are in need of handling bigger type of Vessels and in this regard, expansion of the existing Ports with various modern facilities is imperative. However, it is seen that new captive Ports with the encouragement of the various State Governments are being established at various places within a distance of 100 kms., to handle cargo thereby causing unviable scenario. Shri Shanthi Patei suggested that the existing policy has to be re-examined, taking into consideration the present global economic scenario. For this, Chairman, NSB stated that BKC Committee has already been constituted by the Prime Minister with regard to the functioning of the Major Ports and its allied activities. Chairman, NSB further added that this Committee will submit a report within a month.

9. Rail Connectivity

It was informed that the Ports are required to create the entire rail facilities upto the ports whereas the railways eventually becomes the ultimate beneficiary even without spending for the rail connectivity. Considering that land acquisition is a more difficult task for private agencies and the infrastructure created by the Ports becomes the revenue earning streams for the Railways, it is suggested that the Indian Railways may take up all the rail connectivity projects upto the Ports.

- 10) a) **Checking of ships by surveyors / PSCOs**
b) **Online sharing of Data on notice of arrival**
....by Indian Navy

Representatives of Indian Navy stated that information about pre-arrival notices of ship in Indian ports could be dovetailed with the information being received in LRIT and these details could be then shared with the officials of MMD, Indian Navy and Coast Guard and Customs.

Chairman suggested that the issue may be examined by D.G.Shipping.

Representatives of Indian Navy explained the need to increase the percentage of ships being checked by APSCOs. He stated that there is a need to augment the sanctioned strength of surveyors of MMDs to be able to inspect higher percentage of foreign ships arriving in Indian ports. Chairman clarified that the inspections are primarily meant for assessing the seaworthiness with reference to safety issues and not for security purposes. He also stated that there is an urgent need to engage technical persons (surveyors) in the Govt. service on market driven pay.

Shri Banerjee, Chief Surveyor with the Govt. of India stated that D.G.Shipping had already issued a circular, authorizing pilots of respective ports to carry out preliminary PSC inspections and report to MMDs, in case, deficiencies are observed.

Concluding the meeting, Chairman, NSB thanked Hon'ble members of Parliament and other members and special invitees for their valuable contribution. He added that the next NSB Meeting will be

convened on the West Coast of India and the date and venue will be intimated in due course.

11. Resolutions of the NSB Board Meeting

a) ICC, INSA, NUSI, IMU, should prepare the position paper on income taxation on seafarers within two months and before the next NSB meeting, and a delegation of these members along with the Hon'ble members of Parliament, would meet the Union Finance Minister and present the case for waiver of income taxation for Indian Seafarers.

(Action : ICC, INSA, NUSI, IMU)

b) Govt to issue regulations and guidelines for loading of iron ore fines to bulk carriers from all Indian ports. These guidelines should be completed and come into effect before the next monsoon.

(Action: DGS)

c) DGS to consider expeditiously measures for strengthening legislative mechanism strengthen port entry rules.

(Action: Ministry of Shipping)

d) Govt. should consider advising all major and non-major ports for installing VTMS in their ports.

(Action: Ministry of Shipping)

e) Govt. should resolve the issue of making available the Emergency Towing vessels so that such measures are in place before the onset of monsoon season.

(Action: Ministry of Shipping)

f) Govt. should consider engaging pilots and other nautical professionals working in Govt. and semi-Govt. organizations, on market driven salaries and augment the training capacity.

(Action: Ministry of Shipping)

List of Members and Special Invitees participated in the
113th Meeting of the National Shipping Board held on
09th April, 2010 at 0900 hours at Chennai Port Trust, Chennai.

Sr. No.	Name of the Member/Special Invitee	Name of Organization represented	Signature
1.	Capt. P. V. K. Mishra	Chairman	
2.	Capt. Subramanian	Chairman CBP	
3.	Somenath Nair	H. A. (Doksa)	
4.	K. B. Shanappa	M.P. (R.S)	
5.	Dr. Shashi Kumar	WU 57	
6.	Dr. P. VIJAYAN	Vice Chancellor, DMU, Chennai	
7.	Prof. N. M. RAMASWAMY	Chairman, Prof. NMR Foundation	
8.	P. SRIDHARAN	Director (ops & Tech) D.C.I. Ltd.	
9.	ADDOBACKER P	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COCHIN SHIPYARD LTD.	
10.	G. S. Bhatia	ICC Chairman + SVP (ITACPS) SC	
11.	R. M. SHARMA	DY INSP GEN INDIAN COAST GUARD, CHENNAI	
12.	Dr. P. MISRA	P.O. & JMD (Tech) ITACD Chennai	
13.	Cdr. K. VIG	DNO / HQ MoD (N)	
14.	Smt. JACINTA JOSE	Dy. Secy. M/o Shipping	
15.	G. Satya Kumar	Dy. Chairman / Vigneshwari Port Trust	
16.	A. BANERJEE	D-G Shipping	
17.	SHYAM AGARWAL	IS, SOC, MoCOT	
18.	Capt H. Khatri	DGS.	

113th meeting of NSB

19. S. VELUMANI

CMD, Ennore
Port Ltd

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