MINUTES OF THE 114TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD HELD AT BOGMALO BEACH RESORT, GOA ON 23/10/2010

114th meeting of National Shipping Board was held under the Chairmanship of Capt. PVK Mohan on 23rd October, 2010 at Bogmallo Beach Resort, Goa. The list of those present in the meeting is enclosed at Annexure I.

2. The meeting began with presentation of floral bouquets by Dy.Chairman, MPT to the Chairman and the members of NSB, followed by invocation (Ganesh stutee) presented by Mrs. Neelam of MPT and lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries.

3. Initiating the proceeding Shri. P.C. Parida, Chairman (I/C) Mormoagoa Port Trust, welcomed the Chairman, NSB, Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other members of the Board, to the meeting and conveyed his sincere thanks for choosing Goa for this meeting. In his welcome address, he highlighted the importance of competing with global shipping industry and also added that the services of Indian ships should be upgraded at par with the services offered by the foreign Merchant/Cruise ships. He stated that there is shortage of Marine Officers & Seafarers in the Indian Maritime Industry and suggested to upgrade the training institutes for imparting quality education.

4. Chairman, NSB in his introductory address, welcomed the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other Members and special invitees to the 114th NSB Meeting. He briefly dwelt on various issues such as i) Income tax waiver for Indian Seafarers. ii) Recent casualties on iron ore ships. iii) Strengthening of legislative mechanism for Port Entry Rules. He highlighted the "Sea Vision" concept of U.K. for implementation in the Indian Maritime Industry for

5. Thereafter, Minutes of the 113th NSB meeting were taken up and since there were no comments received, the minutes were confirmed in order.

6. **Review of Action Taken on resolutions of 113th NSB meeting :**

a) Income tax waiver for Indian Seafarers. (Item no. 11(a)) :

Member Secretary, brought to the notice of the members that on behalf of ICC, INSA, NUSI, IMU Mr. Anil Devli, CEO of INSA will give a a presentation to all the members on "Income Tax Exemption to Indian Seafarers" so that delegation of NSB Members can take up the issue with Finance Ministry.

b) Recent casualties on iron ore ships. (Item no 11(b)) :

DGS has issued a MS Notice No.9 of 2010 dated 27th August, 2010 providing guidelines and regulation on loading of iron ore fines from all Indian Ports. (Item deleted).

c) Strengthening a legislative mechanism for Port Entry Rules. (Item no. 11(c)) :

It was informed that the ratification of bunker convention and wreck convention are been processed for ratification which will strengthen a legislative mechanism for Port Entry Rules. (Item deleted)

d) Proximity of Fishing Harbours to Major Ports – Way Ahead. (Item no.11(d)) :

Member Secretary informed that the DGS has issued a circular No. 44-NT(12)/2006-I dt. 7.5.2009 on laning of Fishing Vessel Traffic in Major and Non-Major Ports. Mr. Rajiv Gupta, JS (Shipping), informed that installation of VTMS in Ports is being implemented on the war-footing in order to safe guard the trade and security and safety of the Ports. (item deleted)

e) Availability of Emergency towing vessels. (Item no. 11(e)) :

Member Secretary informed that the proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Shipping vide note no.13-NT(8)/208 dt. 1/10/2010 and DG's letter

D.O. No. 13-NT(8)/2008 dt. 14/5/2010 Dr. Satish Agnihotri, DG(S) suggested that the ports should go for outsourcing of services of tugs for attending to the emergency services and one tug should be carmarked for the purpose as a 'stop gap' arrangement. Mr. Rajiv Gupta JS(Shipping) suggested that there should be a budget provision for 3 to 5 ETVs and suggested to have close coordination with SCI in this regard.

(Item to be carried forward)

f) Engaging nautical professionals on market driven salaries.

(Item no.11(f)) :

The matter is being examined under the provision of Six Pay Commission Report. (Item to be carried forward)

Agenda Points

a) Presentation on "Income tax exemption to Indian Seafarers"

Power point presentation was made by Shri. Anil Devli, CEO, INSA. He highlighting the background, current residency criteria, imports circular 586 dated 21st January.1990 and strongly advocated for the exemption of income tax to Indian seafarers on Indian ships. The Chairman, NSB suggested that since working on a ship is hazardous job, the wages paid to the seafarers should be compensated by offering various allowances. Mr. Rajiv Gupta further added that the high medical insurance cover should be given to all seafarers and area of tax exemptions up should be located. He added that this exercise can be done by taking advise from tax consultant. The Chairman, NSB suggested that INSA should prepare the documents to be submitted to the Ministry of Shipping after taking the suggestion from tax consultant in respect of proper segregation of pay package of Indian seafarers to avoid tax liability.

b) Establishment of vessel traffic system in Gulf of Kutch

Shri. D.K.Sinha, Director, DGLL presented a paper on VTS in Gulf of Kutch. He highlighted the importance of establishing VTS in the Gulf of Kutch and explained the details of the progress made so far in this project and said that this facility will exclusively increase security of port area and provide surveillance of entire GoK. It was suggested that Competent Authority for standardizing the

functioning of all VTMS should be DGS.

c) Seafarer's Identity document convention

A power point presentation was made by Shri: Ravishankar, ADG, DGS, highlighting the back ground, main elements and benefit of ratification of the convention and the status of existing progress on ratification process. He further informed the members that national electronic data base of seafarers issued with SID, would also required to be maintained by all the member States, so that the credentials of seafarers could be verified electronically world -over.

d) Journey from concept to international recognition

Shri. C.Sriramamurthy, Sr. Vice President, IRS made an elaborate presentation on the journey of IRS from its establishment in 1975 to till date. The presentation highlighted various issues on research and development , quality of safety of the shipping industry, training and qualifications for surveyors, strong information management system of the IRS, He informed that IRS has recently become a member of IACS.

e) Recent casualty in Mumbai Port –collision between MSC Chitra and M.V.Khalijia,

A power point presentation was made by Capt. Harish .Khatri, on the chronological developments of the case and the action taken by DGS from the date of collision and the progress made in respect of clearing the channel for the traffic, control of oil pollution, survey and salvage of containers packed with various hazardous cargo. Dr. Agnihotri, DG(S) informed that preliminary enquiry is being conducted by the Government and its report would shortly be available

f) Creating awareness about Merchant Navy in Tier 3 & Tier 4 cities

Capt. Rajesh Tandon, MD, V Shipping, made a power point presentation on the subject of creating awareness about Merchant Navy In Tier 3 & Tier 4 cities. He emphasized the need to create awareness among the youth in these cities and also opined that a consideration should be given for establishing training institution at different locations of India. Dr. Vijayan, VC, IMU stated that there are several upcoming youth ready to seek profession of seafarer. Capt. Saggi, Nautical Advisor suggested that in order to overcome the shortage of seafarers training slot should be created. Dr. Agnihotri, DG(s) brought to

the notice of the members that tele counseling facility has been started by the DGS to all the Indian seafarers to overcome stress while on board or on leave. He informed that through this help line stress management tactics are being made available by the concerned specialists in psychology and psychiatry.

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 East Coast of India and the date and venue will be intimated in due course.

8. Resolutions of the 114th NSB Meeting.

a) INSA would prepare a document on Income Tax document on Income Tax waiver/concession for Indian Seafarers working on Indian Ship. This paper would essentially seek to highlight the uniqueness of seafaring profession and the expansion of this sector which would in fact have strategic benefits for the country.

(Action : INSA,)

b) Integration of several data base of seafarers to be undertaken so as to facilitate seafarers and which would also serve management decisions for policy making.

(Action : DGS)

c) Contingency planning to be systemized through crisis management plan for each port to address accidents like m.v.Chitra .

(Action : Ministry of Shipping)

d) A National Campaign is to be launched for spreading awareness on seafaring profession. This campaign should be sustained for next 3-5 years.

(Action : INSA)

Annexure - I

List of Members and Special Invitees participated in the 114th Meeting of the National Shipping Board held on 23rd October,2010 at 0900 hours at Bogmallo Beach Resort, Goa.

Sr. No.	Name of the Member/Special Invitee	Name of Organization represented	Signature
1.	Capt. P.V.K. Mohan,	Chairman, NSB.	
2.	S. B. AGNIHOTRI	DG Shipping	
3.	Capt Saggi	NA/D.G. Shipping	
4.	RAJEEV GUPTA	JS/S	
5.	CAPT. H KHATRI	DGS	
6.	Mr. Bhalla. G.S	IEC/SCS	
7.	Mr. C. Sivaramamurthy	IRS	
8.	H.V. Ramem	IRS	
9.	ANIL DEVLI	INSA.	
10.	DK SINHA	DDG, DGLL	
11.	Capt K.P. Jayakumar	MMD, Goa	
12.	N Ravi Shankar	ADG, DGS	
13.	RAJENDRASINH RANA (RAJU RANA)	MP: LS BHAVNAGAR: GUJ.	
14	Somendra Nath Mitra M.P. (L.S.)	LOK Sabha	
15	Atulya Misra	Chairman, CHPT.	
16	Rear Admiral A R KARVE	ACNS (OAS) IHQ, MOD(N)	
17	CMDE K SUBRAMANIAM (Retd)	COCHIN SHIPYARD LTD	
18	Dr P. VIJAYAN	Vice Chancellor. Indian Maritime University.	

19	Capt. K.S. Nair	SCI	
20	CAPT. RAJESH TANDON	V. SHIPS	
21	M. D. Rathreka	NVSI	
22	DIG NV Narasimha	Indian Coast Guard	NV Narasimha
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