

## Panel Meetings

### IMPORTANT DECISIONS OF VARIOUS PANEL MEETINGS

#### Important Points Discussed at the Sanitary Castings Panel Meetings held on 04.07.08, 18.08.08 & 17.10.08

Shri S.S. Kejriwal, Panel Convener, informed the members that the floor prices have gone up to Rs. 28,400/- since the last Panel Meeting on 17th March, 2008.

- The continuous rise of Pig Iron prices;
- The problem of port congestion;
- Current increase in the bunker prices as well as unavailability of feeder vessels;
- The issue of contamination was raised;
- Withdrawal of the DEPB rate;
- Inclusion of Public Works Castings Under Focus Products;
- Progress regarding the VAT refund issues.

Shri S.S. Kejriwal, Panel Convener informed the members that the floor prices have gone up to Rs. 28,500/- since the last Panel Meeting on 4th July, 2008.

- Review of Value Cap on Valve Box along with steel;
- Discussion on forthcoming events of the EEPC India : INDEE Shanghai scheduled from 4-8 November, 2008 at Shanghai, China.

Shri S. S. Kejriwal, Panel Convener, informed the members that the floor prices have gone down to Rs. 23,500/-, since the last meeting on 16th September, 2008.

#### Issues taken up :

- Floor price for C.I. Sanitary Castings for Export;
- AASHTO Specification in USA;
- VAT refund issues.

#### Important Points Discussed at the Mica and Other Mineral Based Product Panel Meeting held on 11.07.08

- Export Target for Mica and Other Mineral Based Products Panel for the year 2008-09 was fixed at Rs. 750 Crores;
- It was decided that the Council should take up the issue of 3.5% Labour Welfare Cess on export of mica and mica based products once again with the Government;
- It was decided to take up the issue pertaining to gradual closing down of large number of mica mines in Jharkhand State with the State Government and other authorities;
- It was decided to prepare a proposal on research and development of mica and mica based products;
- In view of poor response, it was decided not to bring-out product catalogue of mica and mica based products.

#### Important Points Discussed at the Pumps - All Types Panel Meeting held on 13.09.08

- The members reviewed the export performance of the products covered by the Panel and revised the export target as detailed below :

<b><i>Year</i></b>	<b><i>Export Target</i></b>
2008-09	Rs. 1500 Crores
2009-10	Rs. 1800 Crores
2010-11	Rs. 2100 Crores

- The members decided to request for an activity in the Latin American Countries during 2009-10 and urged the Panel Convener to strongly take up the matter in the next Working Committee Meeting.

**Important Points Discussed at the Fasteners - All Types Panel Meeting held on 19.09.08**

- Need for saving on the costs of production by bulk buying and cluster development;
- Need for development of cluster to develop Common Facility Centres. Detailed information given by Shri R. C. Chopra and Shri Viney Malhotra of MSME Development Institute. Members were requested to suggest some CFCs like CNC centre, power plant, and Tool Room etc. for the use of a group of companies who contribute in the cluster development of Fasteners;
- Removal of Cap Value on the certain fasteners items scheduled in DEPB;
- To request the State Government for better power supply and infrastructure development;
- The VAT refund should be faster, as lots of capital remains stuck up in the VAT refund;

**Important Points Discussed at the Hand Tools Panel Meeting held on 29.09.08**

- There is immediate need for cluster development for Hand Tools Panel at all regional levels where Rs. 50 Crore is sanctioned by Central Government or 75% of the project cost whichever is lower. The money can be used to establish a Common Facility Center for Hand Tools industry with Public-Private partnership.

**Following issues were also taken up :**

- **Value Cap on Drawback Rates** : It was requested that to maintain the competitiveness of the industry the value caps may kindly be retained at the earlier levels;
  - **Blackening/Defacement of Trade Secrets on Documents of Proof of Exports** : The issues relating to unnecessary delay in Brand Rate fixation to be taken up for a solution.
  - **Refund of State Level Taxes** : Refund of State Level Taxes and Duties like Entry Tax, Electricity Duty and CST Taxes should be included for calculation of Drawback Rates;
  - **Calculation of Duty Drawback Rates** : It was represented that calculation of Drawback Rates should be done in a transparent manner and effect of inputs like furnace oil, service tax on various services should be clearly factored in.
  - **Submission of Bank Realization Certificate (BRC) along with Proof of Export Documents**
  - **Status of Hand Tools Cluster**
  - **Increase in Container Transportation Charges**
  - **Conversion of Shipping Bills.**
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