

From Chairman's Pen



13th October, 2004

My dear fellow exporters,

I hope, you must be aware that Shri S. N. Menon, has been elevated to the office of Commerce Secretary. Shri Menon has always played positive role for the exporting community in enhancing Indian exports in general and engineering exports in particular. Council is very much indebted to him for his allround support and guidance that have enabled us to resolve various issues pertaining to engineering exports. We wish him all success.

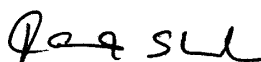
You will be pleased to note that the first meeting of Task Force to suggest measures to decongest JN Port including NSICT took place on 6th Oct. '04 at Mumbai under the Chairmanship of JNPT Chairman. The meeting was also attended by Shri K. S. Chadha, Regional Chairman of the Council in Western Region and Shri J. S. Bhasin, Former Chairman of the Council on behalf of the Council. The following decisions were taken at the meeting :

1. 4500 import containers to be shifted to JNPT's CPS inside JN Port on warfooting
2. 2000 import containers to be shifted to CWC, Vashi
3. Permission to CONCOR to operate one of its railway lines (Line No. 8) for one month to evacuate import containers from NSICT.
4. Embargo/Cap on import cargo proposed for next two weeks
5. The authorities have assured that gates would be opened for export cargo for 24 hours, if 6,500 containers are evacuated
6. Reduction in Free Time by Shipping Lines for lifting of import cargo
7. The situation would be reviewed at the next meeting of Task Force scheduled on 26th Oct. '04

You will remember that in my earlier columns, I had mentioned that I had taken up the matter relating to congestion in JNPT Port with the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry as well as Union Minister of Shipping and Transport to resolve the congestion and shift the cargo to some other ports facilitating to smooth flow of export cargo with a view to help the exporters to meet their export commitments. Hope, the above decisions will ease situation. In the meantime, I have already met Shri S. N. Menon, Commerce Secretary and Shri K. T. Chacko, DGFT in New Delhi on 11th Oct. '04 and have impressed upon them for an immediate implementation of the above decisions.

Further, our member, Tata Motors, has made us proud for being enlisted in the New York Stock Exchange. They are the first ever Indian company in the engineering sector to have achieved such international recognition. This will give the foreign investors an opportunity to invest in Indian company. Council wishes Tata Motors more laurels in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,


(RAKESH SHAH)