

From Chairman's Pen



4th August, 2004

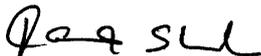
Dear Members,

At the last meeting of Top Exporters in Western Region held on 30th June, the port congestion at JNPT was raised by some members which has been affecting both import and export cargo. Containers get shut out from the planned vessels even after they are gated in port well within the cut off time. This has resulted in piling up of containers inside the port. The heavy traffic of movement of containers between buffer yards and the port have reached such a stage that buffer yards cannot off load any fresh containers. In view of above congestion, exporters are unable to execute export orders within the time frame as stipulated in the respective LCs.

Immediately after the meeting, I had taken up the matter with the Commerce Minister as well as Shipping Minister to sort out the problem on an immediate basis. In fact, Council had a detailed meeting with the Chairman of JNPT on 7th July, in Mumbai where it was emphasised that immediate action on clearance of backlog congestion should be taken. The port congestion has taken place due to inadequate infrastructural facilities, sudden spurt in imports, capacity shortage at final destination of inward traffic like Ludhiana etc. Moreover, CONCOR the sole multi modal logistics operator, which moves containers by rail is also refusing to induct more rail rakes into the Port leading to congestion.

At the instance of EEPC, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Pillai, DGFT, New Delhi where entire position of JNPT has been discussed and possibilities to wipe out the congestion are being explored particularly about how to move the containers out of JNPT to DADRI. The Council is in constant touch with CONCOR to provide additional rakes for moving cargo out of ICDs.

Yours sincerely,



(RAKESH SHAH)
Chairman