

Panel Meetings

IMPORTANT DECISIONS OF VARIOUS PANEL MEETINGS

Important Points Discussed at the Pumps – all types Panel Meeting held on 17th July, 2010

- The export target has been revised from Rs.2,100 Crores to Rs.1800 crores considering the downward trend in some of the global markets besides volatile situation in foreign exchange fluctuation;

Important Points Discussed at the Machine Tools Panel Meeting held on 27th August, 2010

- Members desired that EEPC India should contemplate on setting up a Warehousing facility in South East Asia (Singapore/Malaysia) and in Europe (Netherlands). Members of Machine Tools Panel are prepared to take up the responsibility to ensure the success of the warehouses.
- Member felt that EEPC India with the help of Commercial Attaches in various Indian Missions should do match making for Indian exporters for a tie up of any nature i.e. marketing, production etc. in their respective countries.

Important Points Discussed at the Mica and Other Mineral based Products Panel Meeting held on 15th September, 2010

- 3.5% Labour Welfare Cess : It was decided that this issue should be taken-up at the appropriate level through elected representative from Jharkhand State.
- Re-opening of closed mica mines in Jharkhand State: It was decided to take-up this issue with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand State.
- Study Paper of Indian Mica Industry: The Study Paper, written by Shri M L Rajgarhia, Convener of the Panel, had been unanimously approved and members requested to Shri Rajgarhia to forward this publication to various authorities.
- Panel Meeting : It was decided to organize next panel meeting at Giridih during 3rd/4th week of November, 2010.

Important Points Discussed at the Instruments- All Types Panel Meeting held on 17th September, 2010

Export Performance

- Export Performance of the panel products was reviewed and while analyzing the country-wise performance it was observed that only 20 countries contribute more than 75% of the total exports whereas our exports are to more than 200 countries. It was, therefore, suggested that panel members should try to increase their exports to other countries also. The matter was discussed in detail and it was decided that since the panel covers a large number of products they should be grouped in four or five major categories and have group-wise discussions to understand their problems to find viable solution by taking up the issues with the concerned department.

MDA & MAI Schemes

- It was decided that the Secretariat should circulate the salient features of the MDA & MAI schemes to panel members for their information and reference.

Promotional Activities

- It was decided that proposal for 2/3 specialized exhibitions in consultation with Resident Directors, Chicago and Singapore relevant to the panel members be included in the Calendar of activities of the Council for 2011-12.

Other Suggestions

- PTFE Resin which is raw material for manufacture of high temperature cable was not domestically available and while importing anti-dumping duty was imposed by the Government. It was decided that the member facing the problem should send a detailed representation to the Council for taking up with the Ministry of Commerce for finding a viable solution.
- The problems for delay in getting draw back claims were discussed. It was decided that instead of taking individual case the Secretariat should collect details of such pending cases from all members of the panel by issuing circular so that the matter could be taken up with the Department for early settlement.

- Suggestions for having panel meetings at different centres made by some of the members was discussed and agreed upon.
- It was suggested that the following countries should also be covered under the Focus Market Scheme of the Ministry of Commerce :
 - Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia
 - Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya
 - Ukraine

Important Points Discussed at the Fabricated Steel Structure incl. Transmission Line Towers Panel Meeting held on 22nd September, 2010

- Introduction of GST : It was decided that the Council should insist Govt. that under no circumstances, State should be allowed to have any hand in dealing with GST matter and refund mechanism should remain with Centre only.
- Interest Rate on Re Export Credit: Since Interest Rate is very much above the LIBOR on Re Export Credit, the Govt. should arrange the banks' export lending to exporters both working capital and term loan at prevailing LIBOR. This arrangement is essential for exporters to remain competitive with other countries international players from the standpoint of interest cost of exportable products.
- FENCETECH '11 with DECKTECH '11 (Feb 8-11, 2011 in Las Vegas, USA) It was proposed to set-up India Pavilion at the above event subject on receipt of reasonable participations from panel members.
- Shipping Freight Charges : For shipments of export consignments to US. Exports from Kolkata/Haldia, freight charges, charged by foreign shipping companies are very high and this freight cost should be reduced by way of introducing more US/EU bound ships by SCI or providing subsidy on basic freight.
- Raw Materials Prices: To facilitate availability of steel raw materials for exporters at competitive prices, Govt. should direct all steel producers to sell their products directly to the manufacturer-exporters instead of through distributors.
- Technology Up-gradation Fund : Government should create a suitable corpus at low interest rate under TUF for the benefit of Indian engineering exporters.
- VAT Refund : Council should take-up the issue with the Govt. for arranging bank finance against pending VAT refund to save exporters from serious working capital crunch.
- Non-tariff Barriers : Council should approach the Government to take-up this issue at the proper level with the concerned countries as other-wise the exports are to suffer.
- Floor Prices: It was decided to seek justifications from panel members on utility/extension of Floor Prices beyond 31.12.2010.
- Study Paper : It was decided to prepare in house Study Paper on Indian Steel Structure Incl. Transmission Line Tower Industry.