

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU CUSTOM HOUSE, NHAVA SHEVA  
TALUKA URAN DISTRICT RAIGAD MAHARASHTRA-400707**

**F.No.S/V-30-Misc.-329/2015 CCO M-II**

**Date- 26.06.2015**

**Minutes of the Inter-active meeting with stakeholders taken  
by Hon'ble Minister of State (Finance)**

An interactive session with trade and stakeholders on "Ease of Doing Business-Single Window clearance" was held in Mumbai on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Shri Jayant Sinha, Hon'ble Minister of State (Finance) chaired the session. He stated that a tax system should be simple and predictable; client satisfaction is of the utmost importance and issues should be resolved in a time-bound manner.

Shri Sanjeev Behari, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Customs Zone-II, in his welcome address, said that various steps have been taken by the department to facilitate faster clearance of exim goods. He said that Customs clearance Facilitation Committee constituted to facilitate expeditious clearance of goods has had three meetings with visible gains. To resolve the congestion issue at Nhava Sheva, idea of a joint control room has been mooted. CIDCO has agreed to remove unauthorized encroachments in CFS area. Steps have been taken towards housing all regulatory agencies under one roof preferably in JNPT area itself. Dwell time for release of goods by all regulatory agencies is being monitored for further reduction of total clearance time.

2. Following issues were discussed.

**Agenda Point No. 1.**

**Issue:** Augmentation of infrastructure at JNPT and at Air Cargo Complex (MIAL/Air India).

This issue was sponsored by Mumbai Customs Brokers Association (BCHAA). BCHAA representative stated that at present, there is a single road catering to all three terminals of JNPT and since fourth terminal is coming up, the infrastructure needs immediate upliftment. Further, there is a need for an additional railway line.

Chairman, JNPT informed that a 6/8 lane evacuation corridor is proposed at a project cost of Rs. 3200 Cr. and to be executed by NHAI. Tendering process date is expected to be decided by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015. As regards Railway Line, he stated that the same is to be executed as part of Dedicated Freight Corridor and execution may take 2.5 to 3 years before the operation of Phase I of Terminal IV. Chairman, JNPT assured that a timeline would be intimated. Hon'ble MoS emphasized that the milestones stated above should be adhered to and the same



should be monitored. He stated that he would review the same before the next meeting.

**(Action: JNPT)**

BCHAA representative also raised the issue of lack of augmentation of infrastructure at air cargo complex over last decade. MIAL representative stated that new "Heavy Cargo Export Shed" would be ready by October/November of this year as 70% of the work in this regard is completed. Further, New Bonded Cargo Terminal also would be ready by the same time. As regards New Integrated Common User Terminal, he said that it is developed jointly with Air India and the Phase I proposal was submitted to the Ministry for approval. As regards Enhancement of Truck Docks Access Roads, he stated that the Master Plan for the same has been sent to the State Government for Approval as it involves various agencies. As regards Extension of Perishable Cargo Terminal, he stated that the same was completed in February 2015.

Hon'ble Minister advised the stakeholders to form a small "Working Group" headed by Commissioner of Customs (General), Air Cargo Complex, Mumbai to brainstorm solutions to ensure time-bound implementation of timelines given by MIAL.

**(Action: MIAL/Customs/Air India/BCHAA)**

## **Agenda Point No. 2**

**Issue:** Multiple/non-transparent charges by Shipping Lines/Shipping Agents under various heads such as Off-dock charges, Equipment Imbalance Charges, Washing Charges, Port Congestion Surcharge etc. should be done away with and the Freight must include all the charges.

Representative from Indian Merchants Chambers made a strong plea for transparency in shipping line charges and that freight charge must include all other miscellaneous charges. He also cited example of Sri Lanka where appropriate legislation has been enacted where by recovery of terminal handling charges and other charges by Shipping Lines and Shipping Agents have been discontinued. He also stressed upon the need for Regulator for Shipping Lines, under the Ministry of Shipping.

Representative from CSLA stated that they have given a link in their website regarding the scale of rates and all charges are transparent. JNPT informed that 13 shipping lines have forwarded their rate-lists to them so far and the rest are being pursued.

Hon'ble Minister observed that this issue needs to be taken up with the Shipping Ministry and accordingly requested IMC to send a detail letter to the Ministry,



so that the same can be taken up with the Ministry of Shipping, including the fact that the TAMP order is not being enforced.

**(Action: IMC)**

### **Agenda Point No.3**

**Issue:** Manual processes by Shipping Lines like intimation, invoicing, Deliver Orders etc. should be replaced by electronic processes

BCHAA representative stated that there are still a lot of manual processes in Shipping Industry which result in delay in clearance of consignments. CSLA representative stated that a new portal has been initiated and already 9 of 34 shipping lines have implemented e-delivery order and others would also implement the same by July end.

Hon'ble Minister stressed upon the need for sticking to the timeline and asked BCHAA to send a detailed letter so that this issue can also be taken up with the Ministry of Shipping, as they are the administrative Ministry.

**(Action: BCHAA/Shipping Lines)**

### **Agenda Point No.4**

**Issue:** Delay in shifting of containers from JNPT by Rail/Road to CFS or other destinations

BCHAA highlighted the above issue and submitted that such delay in shifting of containers result in payment of demurrage charges, apart from the delay in clearance of the imported goods and consequent increase in transaction costs.

CSLA replied that elsewhere in the world, only port clearances take place and there is no global practice of CFS-delivery concept, hence there are no global best practices to follow.

Since this issue also pertains to Shipping Ministry, Hon'ble Minister advised BCHAA to include this issue also in their reference to the Ministry.

**(Action: BCHAA)**

### **Agenda Point No.5**

**Issue:** Issues relating to Agencies like FSSAI, Drug Controller, WildLife, Animal Quarantine, Plant Quarantine, Textile Committee etc.

BCHAA representatives suggested that risk based inspection/testing should be done by these agencies, pre-shipment certificates by nominated agencies should be allowed etc. to reduce the delay in clearance of the goods.

Commissioner (Single Window Clearance), CBEC informed that action is being taken on all of the above points. All participating agencies have been advised (i)



to introduce a system of risk based inspection, (ii) to delegate authority to Customs to draw samples for testing and (iii) to publish Standard Operating Procedures and timelines for Customs clearance with a view to benchmark their operational performance. He stated that out of six agencies, three agencies have provided the required information and the remaining agencies are expected to comply in the next 15-20 days.

Further, CBEC has set up Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) headed by the local Chief Commissioner of Customs, and comprising all other government agencies. This Committee is tasked with reviewing the issues coming in the way of speedy clearance and to set the operations at the location on a path of continuous improvement. Issues escalated by the local CCFCs will be taken up by a Central CCFC headed by the Revenue Secretary.

CBEC is setting up the Indian Customs Single window System, which is under development. Interface has already been developed and is operational with FSSAI and Plant Quarantine authority. The development of the main features of the single window are expected to be completed by the end of this financial year.

Hon'ble Minister directed that the deadlines should be complied with.

**(Action: Single Window Cell, CBEC)**

#### **Agenda Point No.6**

**Issue:** Need for robust IT/EDI Infrastructure as existing system is slow and needs to be revamped on priority basis and it is also pre-requisite for effective single window

Commissioner (Single Window Clearance), CBEC stated that there were some issues with the System during the last three months due to shut down of some systems in May 2015 and some issues were sorted out by Upgrades and in any case there is a Help Desk and Ticketing System and 24x7 facility, which can be used by the trade/Customs Brokers for logging their problems and the same would be attended to. The System upgradation would be completed by the end of the Financial Year.

Hon'ble Minister urged the need for adhering to the time lines to address this important issue.

**(Action: Directorate of Systems, CBEC)**

#### **Miscellaneous Issues:**

President, the All India Exporters' and Importers' Association highlighted the issue of delay in clearance of the bills of entry and in some cases, pendency beyond three days.



Hon'ble Minister directed the Commissioners concerned to monitor all such pendencies so as to avoid delays in clearance of the consignments and provide information in a transparent manner to the trade.

**(Action: All the Commissioners, Mumbai Customs)**

President of the All India Liquid Bulk Exporters and Importers Association requested for change in customs procedures for liquid bulk cargo so as to avoid the delays in clearances in as much as it is different from containerized cargo.

Hon'ble Minister asked them to make a detailed reference to ministry for deliberation and solutions.

**(Action: All India Liquid Bulk Exporters and Importers Association)**


Representative of the Indian Merchants Chambers stated that the abolition of Octroi and Stamp duty may be taken up with the State Government. They were advised by the Chair to make a representation in this regard so that same can be taken up with the State Government and the GST Council.

**(Action: Indian Merchants Chamber)**

Hon'ble Minister directed that the shipping Ministry representative be called for the next follow-up meeting.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

This issues with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance.

  
26/6/15  
(Aseem Kumar)

Addl. Commissioner of Customs,  
Mumbai Customs Zone-II

Encl: List of participants

Copy for kind information to:

1. P.S. to Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance
2. Chairman, Central Board of Excise & Customs
3. Member (Customs), Central Board of Excise & Customs
4. Zonal Member, Central Board of Excise & Customs
5. Chief Commissioners of Customs, Mumbai-I/II/III
6. All Pr. Commissioners/ Commissioners of Customs, Mumbai Customs
7. Participants