

MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting of Executive Committee held at Chamber House on 24th December 2010 at 3.30 PM under the Presidentship of Sh. Y.V. Sharma.

The following were present:

| Officer Bearers | | |
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| Sh. Y.V. Sharma, President | Sh. Tara Chand Gupta, Sr. Vice President | Sh. Satish Gupta, Secretary General |
| Sh. Deepak Aggarwal, Treasurer | Sh. Manish Gupta, Secretary | |
| Members | | |
| Sh. Anil Kohli | Sh. Anil Gupta | Capt. Anil Gaur |
| Sh. Anil Kumar Gupta | Sh. Ashok Gupta | Sh. Ashu Gupta |
| Sh. Arjun Gupta | Sh. Arun Gupta | Sh. Ashwani Gupta |
| Sh. Ashwani Khullar | Sh. Avinash Kumar | Sh. Balwinder Singh |
| Sh. Banarsi Dass Gupta | Sh. Bishan dass | Sh. Banarsi Dass |
| Sh. Chander Gulati | Sh. Deepak Gupta | Sh. Harish Bhatia |
| Sh. Harbajan Singh | Sh. Inder Sehgal | Sh. Jatinder Aggarwal |
| Sh. Jugal Gandotra | Sh. Jagdish Gupta | Sh. Kulbushan Gupta |
| Sh. Krishnan Kutty | Sh. Kuldeep Anand | Sh. Krishan Lal Gupta |
| Sh. Kuldip Dogra | Sh. Madan Gopal | Sh. Mohan Lal Sharma |
| Sh. Nishi Kant Khajuria | Sh. Naresh Sadothra | Sh. Omkar Nath Sharma |
| Sh. Prithvi Raj | Sh. Pardeep Vaid | Sh. Pawan Gupta |
| Sh. R.P. Aggarwal | Sh. Romesh Chander(Katra) | Sh. Rajesh vaid |
| Sh. R.K. Pargal | Sh. Raj Daluja | Sh. Raghubir Gupta |
| Sh. Ramjee Dass Aggarwal | Sh. Rakesh Mahajan | Sh. Rajesh Gupta |

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|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sh. R.K. Sharma | Sh. Rajinder Kumar | Sh. Ravinder Kumar |
| Sh. Rajinder Jain | Sh. Rajnikant | Sh. Raghubir Gupta |
| Sh. Sahil Malhotra | Sh. Sanjay Pandoh | Sh. Sanjeev Goel |
| Sh. Sham Langer | Sh. Shiv Partap Gupta | Sh. Shiv Kumar Sharma |
| Sh. Sunil Suri | Sh. Surinder Mahajan | Sh. Sushil Rishi |
| Dr. Swarn Singh | Sh. Vidya Bushan | Sh. Vinay Sharma |
| Sh. Vijay Aggarwal | Sh. Vinod Malhotra | Sh. Virender Puri |
| Sh. Vishwa Mitter | Sh. VK Gandotra | Sh. Yash Pal Abrol |
| Sh. Yash Pal Kapoor | Sh. Yash Pal Gupta | |

Confirmation of the Minutes

The House Unanimously confirmed the minutes of last meeting of the Executive Committee held on 22nd September 2010.

Report on Interim Activities

Secretary General apprised the house about the activities of the Chamber during the interim period since the last meeting of the Executive Committee. Sh. Y.V. Sharma has regularly been attending the meetings of all those committees / boards on which he has been nominated and has been highlighting the hardships and difficulties being encountered by the Trading and Industrial fraternity.

Chamber arranged a function at Chamber House to felicitate the Chief General Manager BSNL, J&K Sh. R.K. Koul who has been elevated to the rank of Chief General Manager. The function was also attended by the other high officer of the BSNL. During the function the attention of the Chief General Manager was drawn towards the ban on SMS in the state, he was requested to use his good-offices to convince the Central Government that suspending of important services should be implemented for all parts of the state.

A Press Conference was arranged at Amar Singh Club in which the problems of Trade and Industry were highlighted which include:-

related to Commercial Taxes department including the downloading and imposition of penalty on the plea of undervaluation at Lohkanpur. b) Matter relating to compensation for losses suffered by the Trade and Industry during the recent turmoil and also the implementation of compensation package for 2008 Amar Nath Land Row agitation. c) Anomaly with regard to the J&K Bank Circular dated 10th September 2010, the same should be applicable for the entire state instead of Valley only. d) Creation of Additional Warehouses and withdrawal of entertainment tax on Cinema Halls. It was also pointed out that Brick Kiln owners by provided input tax credit.

a)Problems

Shri Y.V. Sharma, President attended the 12th Empowered Committee meeting to monitor the flow of Credit of SME sector under the Chairmanship of Shri N.K. Sahu, CIC, Reserve Bank of India, Jammu. In the meeting Shri Sharma requested that the NPA period should be extended from 90 days to atleast 180 days.

Chamber's delegation headed by Shri Y.V. Sharma, President called on the members of the Special Task Force headed by Shri Abhijit Sen at Jammu on 16th November 2010 and submitted a memorandum. In the memorandum it was pointed out that Jammu region has great potential of energy and agriculture sectors, but the due to the apathy of the Government the same has remained undeveloped and needs proper attention. Chamber also demanded expansion and relocation of Jammu airport, Air-traffic facilities to all district headquarters, better road connectivity throughout the province, establishment of atleast 2-3, public sector units in Jammu, remodeling of Jammu Bus Stand, provision of multi- layer parking and creation of more parking slots and immediate completion of 4 lanning of national highway.

Shri Y.V. Sharma, has been nominated as member of the Expert Group constituted by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to formulate the Job Plan for the un-employed youths of J&K State. The expert group visited the state of 24th and 25th November 2010. Shri Y.V. Sharma accompanied the group on both the days at Srinagar and Jammu.

Chamber also submitted a memorandum to the Expert group suggesting various measures for creating Job Plans for the un-employed youth. It was suggested that heavy industry should be established in public sector. More trade centres and

warehouses should be created and tourism sector be developed on a war-footing basis.

On Chambers persuasion the Central Board of Direct Taxes have extended the date for filing of Income Tax returns for the year 2010-11 for all categories upto 31st January, 2011.

Chamber had taken up the matter regarding the extension in the date for filing of VAT returns for the 1st and 2nd quarter and also extension in the date for renewal of VAT registration certificates.

The state government has acceded to our request and has issued orders for the same extending the date for filing of VAT returns for the 1st and 2nd quarters upto 20th December 2010. Similarly the period for renewal of VAT registration certificates has been extended by another one year. i.e. from 5 years to 6 years.

The delegation of Chamber of Commerce & Industry under the Chairmanship of Sh. Y.V. Sharma met the Interlocutors at Jammu and stressed that the people of Jammu face the problem of discrimination due to obsession of the Central Government with the Kashmir Centric Policies. The Interlocutors were further apprised that the area and population of Jammu is greater than that of Kashmir besides the topography of Jammu is mostly barren & harsher, therefore should be provided more funds, and more representation in the shape of MLAs in the state assembly and more Members of Parliament.

Chamber of Commerce & Industry in association with, Registrar of Companies, J&K Branch of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Jammu Chapter of Company Secretaries organized a function at Chamber House in connection with the celebrations of India Corporate Week. Sh. Umang Narula, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Cross LOC Trade

At present cross border trade is being carried on Primitive Mode Based on barter system which is proving highly detrimental to the interest of our traders. It was decided to approach the concerned authorities both at Centre and state level with the request to evolve the modalities so as the cross border trade from Poonch & Uri may be conducted through documents negotiable with banks.

Discrimination

Members raised the issue of discrimination with Jammu province with regard to distribution of central assistance / grants / loans as contained in dissenting

note prepared by Sh. Swami Raj Sharma, member of the Finance Commission appointed by the government. Members opined that the perceived discrimination with Jammu region which Chamber of Commerce & Industry has been raising in various forums from time to time and which now has been corroborated by Sh. Swami Raj Sharma with facts and figures, it is high time that the state government acts immediately to stem this discrimination with Jammu region. There is urgent need to evolve mechanism so that all central assistance / grants and loans are distributed proportionately to the population and keeping in view the land area and terrains.

It was decided to apprise the central government with facts and figures prepared by Sh. Swami Raj Sharma about the discrimination and neglect meted out to the people of Jammu region and to request that special package should be provided to Jammu region so as to assuage and cool down the feelings of the people of Jammu region.

Warranty period

The state government has extended the time period from 90 days to 180 days with regard to items covered under warranty from the purview of VAT. Since the period of warranty for replacement of defective parts / goods is fixed by the manufacturer which in many cases extends upto 5 years or more (like compressors of Refrigerator etc.). Therefore the period fixed is highly regressive, anti-trade and anti-consumers, as such the ceiling of 180 days should be abolished altogether and no VAT should be levied on parts / goods under warranty.

VAT on CSD Goods

With the introduction of VAT, large chunk of trade which hitherto was being conducted by CSD in our state has migrated to the neighbouring state of Punjab because the rate of VAT there is substantially lower as compared to our state, as a result our state is losing revenue and the traders are losing their trade. It was decided to request the Finance Minister to bring the rate of VAT on CSD items atleast at par, if not lower than the neighbouring state of Punjab.

Composite Tax

The members present opined that the present limit of composite tax fixed at 20 lacs has become redundant and out dated as the cost of almost all the commodities has risen manifold. It was decided to request the Finance Minister to raise the ceiling of composite tax from 20 lacs to 60 lacs.

VAT circle at Samba

Samba which has been declared new district is very rapidly emerging as the new Industrial hub after Gangyal and Bari Brahmana. The Industrial and trading fraternity of that area is facing great hardships and inconvenience, as they have to visit the Commercial Tax Department at Jammu to get their VAT related works done. It was decided to approach the government to open the Commercial Tax Office at Samba on the pattern of Udhampur.

Updating of Membership Records

The Secretary General apprised the Executive Committee that the record pertaining to membership forms is in a very dilapidated condition and there is also a demand from the members for amendment in their membership Status. The Executive Committee authorized the office to initiate measures for updating and amending the records as permissible under constitution and fixed Rs. 200/- towards the cost of new membership forms and expenses for issuance of Identity cards and membership certificates.

Approval of New Membership

The Executive Committee approved the recommendations of the scrutiny committee for induction of new members.

Vote of Thanks

The meeting came to an end with a vote of thanks to the chair

(Satish Gupta)
Secretary General