

MEETINGS

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Minutes of the second Meeting of the Executive Committee held under the Chairmanship
of
Sh. Y.V. Sharma at Chamber House on 15th May 2010

The following were present:

Sh. Anil Kumar Gupta	Sh. Avinash Gupta	Sh. ARI Daman Jain
Sh. Ashok Gupta	Sh. Ashwani Arora	Sh. Anil Gupta
Sh. Ashwani Kumar	Sh. Anil Gaur	Sh. Anoop Mittal
Sh. Ashok Gupta	Sh. Ashok Kumar	Sh. Bal Krishan
Sh. B.K. Khullar	Sh. Banarsi Dass Gupta	Sh. Chander Gulati
Sh. Dewan Chand Bansal	Sh. Deepak Aggarwal, Treasurer	Sh. Deepak Soni
Sh. Deepak Gupta	Sh. Darshan Gupta	Sh. Dev Anand Kalra
Sh. Des Raj Gupta	Sh. Dinesh Gupta	Sh. Gopal Krishan
Sh. Guninder Pushap Jain	Sh. Harish Chander Bhatia	Sh. Hash Mahajan
Sh. Jagdish Langer	Sh. Jagmohan	Sh. Jugal Gandotra
Sh. Jagdish Bajaj	Sh. Kuldeep Gupta	Sh. Kirti Kumar
Sh. Kulbushan Gupta	Sh. Manish Gupta, Secretary	Sh. Mohan Lal Sharma
Sh. Madan Gopal	Sh. Naveen Jandial	Sh. Naresh Gandotra
Sh. Naresh Gupta	Sh. Naresh Sadotra	Sh. Om Parkash Mahajan(Kaku)
Sh. Om Gupta	Sh. Parjan Kumar Jain	Sh. Parmod Kaphai
Sh. Parveen Gupta	Sh. Pawan Kumar	Sh. Ram Sarup Gupta, Jr. Vice President
Sh. Romesh Chander Gupta	Sh. R.P. Aggarwal	Sh. Rohit Goel
Sh. Rajinder Parshad	Sh. Rajesh Vaid	Sh. Raghubir Gupta
Sh. R.K. Pargal	Sh. Ramjee Dass	Sh. Raj Kumar
Sh. Rajesh Bagotra	Sh. Ravinder Goel	Sh. Ravinder Gupta
Sh. Romesh Chander	Sh. Rakesh Mahajan	Sh. Rajinder Kumar
Sh. Rajani Kant	Sh. Ravinder Gandotra	Sh. Raj Kumar
Sh. Rajesh Gupta	Sh. Satish Gupta, Secretary General	Sh. Sanjay Pandoh

Sh. Sanjay Mahajan	Sh. Shiv Partap Gupta	Sh. Sant K Gupta
Sh. Shart Gupta	Sh. Sanjay Anand	Sh. Surinder Pargal
Sh. Satish Koul	Sh. Tara Chand Gupta, Sr. Vice President	Sh. Vijay Kumar
Sh. Vijay Saraf	Sh. Vinod Gupta	Sh. Vijay Mahajan
Sh. Vinay Jain	Sh. Vinay Sharma	Sh. Vishwa Mitter
Sh. Vinod Malhotra	Sh. Vijay Aggarwal	Sh. Vinay Mahajan
Ch. Vikram Randhwa	Sh. Vinod Sachdeva	Sh. V.M. Jain
Sh. Yash Abrol	Sh. Y. V. Sharma, President	

Confirmation of the Minutes

The House Unanimously confirmed the minutes of the first meeting of the Executive Committee held on 25th December 2009.

Report on Interim Activities

The undersigned while giving the detail of Interim activities stated that Our President Shri Y.V. Sharma has been nominated as Member of the Consumer Protection Council and also as member of Industrial Committee to suggest the reforms required in existing procedure for setting up of Industrial Units in J&K. President Sh. Y.V. Sharma attended the meetings of Board of Trustees of Provident Fund, J&K State Pollution Control Board, Consumer Protection Council, Special Monthly Meetings of SLBC to monitor and review the credit to small and medium Enterprises(SME's) Sector and extension of relaxations to Trade and Industry in J&K, Advisory Committee of J&K State Electricity Regulatory Commission , Regional Advisory Committee of Central Excise and Customs, besides attending Meeting of the Executive Committee of DOEACC Sh. Y.V. Sharma, President also attended the meeting chaired by S.S. Salathia, Minister of Industries & Commerce regarding Industrial development in the state. Joint Press Conference was held at Chamber House, by Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Federation of Industries Jammu/Srinagar and President Association of Small Scale Industries Jammu and the problems being faced by the Industrialists of the state were highlighted. Pre-Budget discussions were held with Hon'ble Finance Minister and various suggestions for smooth conduct of trade and better realization of Revenue were given. Hon'ble Finance Minister taking note of the same, in his budget speech announced, Abolition of VAT / Toll Tax on various Items, extension in remission of VAT to local Industry, enhancing the limit of compulsory audit of VAT Accounts from 40 lacs to 60 lacs, extension of time limit for replacement of defective parts upto 180 days, exemption of service tax on Hotels, Lodges and Guest Houses and 25% reduction in stamp duty in case of fair Sex. In the Post Budget Memorandum, Chamber requested that VAT should be abolished on Pesticides, weedicides, Insecticides and Fodder of all kinds. The issues like disparity in floor rates of VAT between our state and neighbouring states, Roll back of the increase of Toll Tax (Rs. 10/- per qtl) and 1% increase in VAT rates, Amnesty scheme relating to previous GST/CST cases, roll back of increase in service tax and extension of technical fault committee recommendations to the years 2006-07, 2008-09 were discussed with the Hon'ble Finance Minister. Republic Day was celebrated with Traditional gaiety at Chamber House Meeting with Banquet Hall Owners at Chamber House was held and issues arising out of interim order of the Hon'ble High Court were discussed. Memorandum submitted to Hon'ble Railway Minister with a request to start Direct Train service from Udhampur-Jammu-Dehradun and back. Chamber of Commerce & Industry applauded the efforts of Hon'ble Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah and Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Commerce for getting the central package of incentives extended upto February 2020. President Sh. Y.V. Sharma was one of the member of the delegation headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister which called on the Union Finance Minister Sh. Pranab Mukherji A delegation of Kathua Cement manufacturer under the Chairmanship of Sh. Y.V. Sharma met the Chairman Pollution Control Board. A Meeting under the Chairmanship of Divisional Commissioner was attended by Sh. Tara Chand Gupta Sr. Vice President and the under signed to review the arrangements of Amarnath Yatra Sh. Dinesh Rai, IAS, Secretary MSME interacted with members of Chamber of Commerce and Prominent Industrialists at Chamber House. A Memorandum highlighting Restoration of 100% Central excise exemption to J&K, Extension of North Eastern Package for J&K & Indirect withdrawal of Income Tax Exemption of Industrial units in J&K was submitted Chamber vehemently opposed the Power Tariff hike and submitted a petition to the Chairman J&K State Electricity Regulatory Commission. In response to the said petition the Commission announced the tariff hike of 12% only instead of 62% as demanded by J&K Power Development Department A Program on Capacity Building Measures on use of consultancy services in collaboration with J&K ITCO was organized at Chamber House Director Industries and Commerce was requested to take steps for securing the Raw Material for the units manufacturing paper and its allied products. Chairman Airport Authority of India has been requested to start early flights from Jammu to Delhi so that business community could avail the facility of connecting flight at Delhi.

A grand function was organized at Abhinav Theatre to meet and felicitate Jenab Omar Abdullah, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sh. Tara Chand, Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, Sh. A.R. Rather, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Sh. S.S. Salathia, Hon'ble Minister for Industries and

Commerce, A Memorandum, highlighting the points relating to development of Jammu city as Model City, Development of Trade and Business, Development of Industrial Sector, Problems at Lakhanpur, Power and Energy sector, Drinking Water, Tourism Sector was submitted. I am pleased to inform the worthy members that the Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister Tara Chand has accepted our suggestion of lifting water of River Chenab for meeting the water requirements of Jammu. A Meeting of different Trade/Market Association was held at Chamber House. In the meeting it was unanimously resolved that only those Bandh Calls should be honoured by the business community which are duly endorsed by Chamber of Commerce & Industry and subsequently a Press Conference was held at Jammu Club highlighting the problems being faced by Business community due to frequent Bandhs/Hartals. Ceiling of 180 days for replacing the defective parts under warranty was raised by some worthy members. It was pointed out that warranty period now-a-days is more than 2 years on Mechanical goods. Hence it will not be feasible and practicable to detect any mal-functioning in any mechanical part before their actual use. Since these are the multi-national companies whose products are under consideration, the government should have no doubt on their integrity and ceiling on the number of days for replacement of defective goods/parts under warranty should be done away with.

VAT on CSD

With the introduction of value Added Tax regime Canteen Store departments which hither to were exempted from G.S.T were brought in the Vat Net. Members present pointed out that substantial quantum of business is being diverted to the neighbouring state of Punjab where CSD are totally exempted or there is lesser percentage of VAT as compared to our state.

Hindrance in free flow of Trade

Contrary to the promises made by the authorities at the time of introduction, of VAT, Lakhanpur at present has 3tier VAT related security in the shape of additional Commissioner VAT, Enforcement wing and Vigilance wing. All these agencies are working at Cross Roads thereby putting spanner in the free flow of trade as a result the innocent and honest tax payers are harassed and victimized. It was decided in the meeting that all these issues which are related to VAT by one way or the other should be taken up with the Hon'ble Finance Minister as and when the First opportunity arises.

Representation on various Government Committee-Sub-Committees

Worthy members present in the meeting felt that Chamber being the Representative Body of Trade and Industries of Jammu province has not been getting its due representation in various committees / subcommittees being formed by the government as a result problems being encountered by Trade and Industry are not effectively highlighted in these committees. It was decided that concerned authorities may be approached so that Chamber gets its representation in various committees. Some worthy members raised the issue of sub-leasing of certain rooms of Chamber House to some associations which they alleged is illegal and contrary to the agreement made by Chamber with JDA while taking possession of present Office Land on lease. They further alleged that no permission of the then Executive Committee was obtain while sub-leasing the rooms to these associations. The executive committee asked the Secretary General to peruse the Office Record and place all the facts along with legal position in the next meeting of the executive committee.

Celebration of Platinum Jubilee

The Executive Committee authorized the President to draw a blue print for celebrating Platinum Jubilee of Chamber of Commerce & Industry in a grand manner.

Updating of Records

The Executive Committee authorized the Secretary General to initiate a drive for updating the records of Chamber of Commerce & Industry. An Interactive Session was held between the Executive Committee members and the officers of the Income Tax Department. Sh. B.L. Razdan, Director General Income Tax (Investigations) Chandigarh, Sh. G.R. Sofi, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Amritsar, Sh. T.P. Singh Additional Commissioner Income Tax, Sh. K.K. Mittal Additional Commissioner, Sh. S.K. Sharma Dy. Commissioner and other Officers of the Income Tax Department interacted with members of the Executive Committee.

Various problems raised by Chamber of Commerce & Industry in the interactive session pertained to failure of Income Tax Department in granting credit for advance tax paid as Tax Deduction at Source (TDS), out sourcing of processing of Income Tax returns, exemption of Income Tax on Excise refund to SSI Units, honouring Income Tax payees by the department, Extension for filing of returns during the Amarnath land row agitation for the assessment year 2009-2010, Acceptance of Income Tax / Advance Tax by all the nationalized banks, minimum use of provision of survey and raids and waiting rooms for the assesses in the Income Tax Building.

Sh. B.L. Razdan and Shri G.R. Sofi while reacting to the points raised in the interaction session assured that all the issues which fall within their respective purview will be addressed at the earliest and the other issues will be taken up with the Union Finance Ministry and Central Board of Direct Taxes for issuance of necessary orders at the earliest. Mementos were presented to Sh. B.L. Razdan, Director General Income Tax (Investigations) Chandigarh and Sh. G.R. Sofi Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Amritsar

Shri Tara Chand Gupta, Sr. Vice President presented the Vote of Thanks

(Satish Gupta)
Secretary General