

Minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at Chamber House under Presidentship of SH. Rakesh Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu

At the outset the undersigned welcomed the members and introduced the new team of Office Bearers among the members.

Thereafter the undersigned presented the report on interim activities which includes

Election were held and New Team of Office Bearers were elected on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014

In a simple but impressive function the new team of Office bearer's took over the charge on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2014, The IGP Jammu and SSP Jammu were also present on the occasion. President Sh. Rakesh Gupta in his speech highlighted the priorities which include establishment of business and family club, abolition of Inspector Raj. Development of LOC Trade, Opening of more LOC routes eradication of corruption in PCB and other departments and make Lakhanpur a hassle free check free check post.

The delegation of Chamber of Commerce & Industry led by President Sh. Rakesh Gupta Called on the Chief Engineer PDD and apprised her about the problems being faced by the people of Jammu in general and the business community in particular due to erratic power supply and also stressed upon the Chief Engineer that there should be no power cuts especially from 6.00 PM onwards which is also necessary due to security point of view. The Chief Engineer assured to resolve the issue.

The Team of Office Bearers called on the Chief Minister at Jammu where Sh. D.S. Rana was also present. During the interaction various issues relating to upliftment / development of Trade & Industry including LOC Trade were highlighted.

The New team of Office Bearer's visited the Kanak Mandi area and took the stock of the problems of traders over there and assured them to take every possible step to mitigate their problems.

Chamber urged upon the Central Government to consider the demands of CCI in the upcoming Budget session which includes restoration of Income Tax Exemption, Excise refund, four lanning of National Highway and Jammu-Poonch / Jammu-Kishtwar roads. Construction of more platforms at Jammu Railway Station and provision of more trains including direct train between Jammu-Chandigarh.

Dy. Director General Foreign Trade visited the Chamber House and interacted with the Office Bearers and apprised about the special provisions and benefits available to exporters of J&K State because J&K avails recognized area status which are not available to the exporters of other areas of the country.

C.G.M BSNL Sh. R.N. Suadhakar, alongwith his team of Officers including GMTD Sh. A.K. Misra and other Sr. Officers of BSNL visited the Chamber House and interacted with Office Bearer's. Serious concern was expressed by Chamber about the poor BSNL Network on mobile, 3G network etc. it was made clear to the visiting BSNL authorities that faulty power supply is no excuse for failure of network because it is the duty of BSNL to provide power back up.

On the invitation of CCI Director MSME Jammu Sh. Varinder Sharma visited the Chamber House and during interaction with Office Bearers be laid light on the various benefits and facilities being extended by MSME to the Industrial Sector and the assistance being provided by MSME for skill development programmes and for participation in the International Exhibition and trade fair. Chamber requested the Director MSME to provide free computer education to the members of CCI. Subsequently a free computer training programme was organized by MSME in their office for the member of CCI.

The delegation of Bus Stand Traders Association called on the Office Bearers and apprised about the difficulties being faced by them. The visiting delegation was assured of full support in mitigating their problems.

Chamber in a communication requested Financial Commissioner Industries & Commerce to exempt the Green Category units to obtain “consent to establish” & “consent to operate” from PCB as is being done in other states including Punjab.

In another communication Chamber requested the Minister for Planning & Development to release funds on urgent basis for clearance Vat refunds to Industry.

Chamber in a communication to Additional Commissioner VAT requested to take immediate corrective measures to mitigate the genuine problems of the members of business community which include under valuation / seizure of goods at Lakhanpur , amendments of RC on line, repeated submission of Sale / Purchase statement, provision of waiting space for dealers at Lakhanpur, denial of declaratory forms to the dealers because of pending recoveries.

The Delegation of Office Bearers of CCI led by President Sh. Rakesh Gupta called on the Chief Minister at Srinagar and submitted him a memorandum highlighting various issues confronting trade & Industry which include Vat reduction on Desi Ghee and dry fruit etc, change of land use, Terminal point & Multi Tier parking at Old Bus Stand, Land allotment for business / family club for CCI.

President and the Office Bearers attended the meeting of Industrial Advisory Committee held under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Chief Minister at Srinagar.

Dy. Commissioner Jammu Sh. A.K. Sahu visited Chamber House and interacted with Office bearers.

President attended meeting of Regional Red Cross Society under the Chairmanship of Div Com.

With the joint efforts of CCI and CAIT New Delhi the date for implementation of Food Safety & Standards Act has been deferred upto 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

The Delegation of World Trade Center comprising of Associate Director of WTC , Ms Khair-ul-Nissa, Mehat Ali Shekhar, Vice President Turkish Indian Chamber and others called on the President & office bearers at Chamber House.

Secretary General Sh. Arun Gupta attended meeting held under the Chairmanship of Commissioner Secretary Labour and Employment at Civil Secretariat Srinagar. During interaction Secretary General requested the meeting to postpone the enhancement of ceiling from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20000/- for applicability of provident fund.

Sh. Sham LAL Langer and Sh. Arun Gupta called on the Commissioner of Income Tax and discussed with him the issue regarding extension in the date for filing of Income Tax returns which have become necessary due to flash flood in the state. Chamber also took up the said issue with the other central government authorities and government had issued notification extending the dates for furnishing returns of Income tax upto 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

Chamber took up with Div Com Jammu the issue relating to ban on carrying huge cash by the traders, while going to other districts for collection against the supplier made. Taking cognizance of the issue the Div Com issued instructions to all D.C's to ensure that no bonafide trader carrying proper receipts/valid documents is not put to any harassment.

While sharing the social responsibility Chamber has voluntarily requested the Commissioner JMC to allot the Rotary at Dogra Chowk. Commissioner JMC has conveyed his concurrence for the same.

Chamber also sent relief items to the affected people of flash floods which include Ration & Medicines etc.

Chamber also arranged an interaction meeting with the heads of the Insurance Companies at Chamber House, where apart from representatives of Insurance Companies, the President of BBIA and Association of Industries Gangyal were also present. The representatives of insurance companies present in the meeting assured that despite being faced with shortage of surveyors the claims of flood affected people shall be processed & settled in very short time.

Chamber has vigourously been pursuing the issue relating to allotment of land in favour of CCI for establishment of family / business club and we are hopeful that the issue will be sorted out very soon.

The traders sending the goods to different parts of the country, booked by visiting tourists through VPP were receiving the payment through concerned Post Offices after the delivery of goods. In December 2013, the postal authorities issued an I.D number to all the traders booking their goods through VPP due to which the payment of the goods booked remained blocked with concerned postal authorities. Chamber took up this issue and got the payments blocked released thus solved the issue.

After presenting the interim report the undersigned requested the President Sh. Rakesh Gupta to formally start the proceedings of the meeting.

Sh. Rakesh Gupta while welcoming the members highlighted some important events/ achievement made during the interim period which include

After the recent flash floods in the state, the Chamber requested the state government to extend the dates for filling of VAT returns as the business community was not able to pay VAT and to file their VAT returns in time. After hard persuasion and various meetings with state authorities, the date for filing of VAT returns has been extended upto 31-03-2016. Similarly the dates for filing of Income Tax returns have also been got extended upto 31-03-2015.

On the request of Transport Nagar Businessmen Association Chamber took up with the Divisional Commissioner and Vice-Chairman Jammu Development Authority the issue relating to development of Transport Nagar and got funds to the tune of Rs. 77.66 lakhs released for the said purpose. The work on the said project has now almost been completed.

On the request from the Kanak Mandi Traders, Chamber got 22 kanals of Land identified at Village Bhalwal for construction of Godowns for the Businessmen of Kanak Mandi.

While taking up the agenda point relating to enhancement of annual subscription the undersigned apprised the members about the need to enhance the same. The members were explained that the activities of chamber have increased manifold resulting into the increase in day to day expenditure for smooth running of the office and other related activities, so it has become necessary to increase the annual subscription of the members. Various suggestions were given by the members, some members suggested that the annual subscription should be enhanced to Rs. 3000/- per annum while some members were of the opinion that the annual subscription should be enhanced to 1500/- PA, however, later with the intervention of the worthy president and after through discussions the house unanimously approve the enhancement of Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 2000/- PA from the financial year 2014-2015.

After the conclusion of the proceedings of the Executive Committee a programme on “Voter Awareness Workshop” in collaboration with the Wake up Jammu team was also held wherein Dy. Commissioner Jammu (District Election Officer ) Sh. A.K.Sahu, IAS was the Chief Guest and Sh. Rakesh Gupta President Chamber of Commerce & Industry presided over the function. While speaking on the occasion Sh. Sahu urged upon the business community to come forward and create awareness among the voters so that maximum electoral participation is achieved. He also apprised the members about the facility of VVPAT available in

the three constituencies of Jammu, where the voters can verify their votes on the screen attached to the electronic voter machine. He also requested the general public to participate wholeheartedly in the coming elections and exercise their franchise on 20 December 2014

The Vote of thanks was presented by Sh. Sham Lal Langer Sr. Vice President CCI