

Minutes of the Annual Zonal/ Sectoral Review Meeting with the CVOs / CMDs of Steel Sector taken by the Commission in Hyderabad on 24.03.2011.

The list of participants is at Annex.

1. Introductory Remarks

Vigilance Commissioners

Shri J.M. Garg, Vigilance Commissioner, (VC(G)), welcomed the participants and explained the importance of the review meeting and observed that vigilance activity should not be seen in a negative sense in the organisations and in practice, vigilance plays a vital role in development of the organisation. However, he noticed that vigilance matters are not given due importance as it should be in some organisations.

VC(G) also highlighted the importance of contract management in the organisation and clarified that the check list is not only for the CVO, but also important for the management first as CVOs are not the part and parcel of the tendering process.

VC(G) emphasized on need of training on contract management to the officials entrusted with tender/contract so that supervision of the contract is done perfectly which in turn would be beneficial to the organisation as a whole.

Shri R. Sri Kumar, Vigilance Commissioner, (VC(S)), while highlighting benefits of e-tendering indicated that at least 5% benefit has been observed globally on adopting e-tendering solutions. He advised all organisations to adopt e-tendering in their respective organisations. He further mentioned the importance of role of vigilance in an organisation which is broadly divided in facets such as preventive, punitive, proactive, predictive and participative vigilance. Clarifying a query raised on furnishing of metrics as provided by the Commission, VC(S) stated that organisations should decide on metrics by fixing their own levels / targets and watch for their achievement by working towards these targeted metrics.

Shri Anil Sinha, Addl. Secretary, (AS(A)), while mentioning the importance of vigilance emphasized that the functions of vigilance is not looking for wrong doings and the Commission believes in the philosophy that Vigilance activities provide fairness and transparency in works.

NMDC Ltd.

Shri Rana Som, CMD, NMDC informed about steps taken for e-procurement through reverse auction. In more than 90% of the cases, the payments are made through e-payments and the auctions for sale of diamonds and scrap are done through electronic mode.

VC(S) while appreciating the steps taken/procedure adopted by the NMDC in the tendering procedure, advised that CMD, NMDC can take the lead and arrange a presentation / workshop for some major PSUs so that the contentious issues could be revisited at that time for popularising e-procurement. NMDC sought Commission's advice regarding a Joint Venture proposal and it was decided to respond to same through a formal reference being made to the Commission.

KIOCL Ltd.

Shri N.V. Raja Sekhar, CVO, KIOCL informed the Commission about newly introduced scheme namely "Integrity Recognition Certificate". In this scheme, honest officials are awarded and selection is made by following a due procedure. The system has helped in boosting up the morale among the employees and induced them towards honest practices.

Bird Group of Companies.

Shri Satish Chandra, CMD, Bird Group of Companies informed the Commission about financial position of the organisation which was not sound. Employees are preferring resignations and the company is struggling for its existence despite a lot of corrective measures being taken by the management. The matter has also been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Steel. The Commission asked the CVO, Ministry of Steel to provide full support to Bird Group of Companies.

MSTC Ltd.

Smt. Madhumita Basu, CVO intimated the Commission about adoption of e-commerce in the organisation for all activities.

Steel Authority of India Ltd.

It was observed that none of the employees comes under the Group "A" categories have been punished. Organisation was asked to look into the gravity of the complaints against such officials. The Commission also emphasized on effectiveness of the implementation of Integrity Pact and desired to know as to whether IP resulted in more saving to the organisation or was an impediment.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.

On a clarification sought by RINL, VC(G) clarified that in case difference of opinion between DA and the CVO while dealing with disciplinary matters in respect to officials under CVC's jurisdiction, the same should be referred to the Commission to sort out the issue without the Disciplinary Authority having formulated his decision by issue of an order.

Concluding Remarks:-

AS(A) emphasized that all organisations need to give more importance on Leveraging of Technology, adopt the Integrity Pact in its true spirit and also in manner so as to cover maximum contracts in the organisation in line with Commissions instructions on IP. He also mentioned that in order to compete at the global level, best practices in the field of project managements need to be adopted and most significantly, areas which require immediate and concerted remedies need to be identified without any time loss.

VC(G) viewed that all have to play a significant role in country's economy and emphasized on need to adopt practicable approach. On the point of quick and expeditious action he called upon the CVOs to avoid such situations that on the last day in office an officer who had worked with integrity is served charge-sheets. Finally, he informed that

Commission will always be happy to support the organisations in understanding their problems and advise them of possible solutions for the same.

VC(S) drew attention of all present on the need to imbibe the fundamental duties as prescribed in the Constitution of India under Article 51(A)(j) of the Constitution which calls for straving towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective efforts of every citizen in overall development of Nation.
