

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE (IMC) HELD AT BHAVNAGAR/ALANG AT 11.00 AM ON 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2010, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SHRI S. MACHENDRANATHAN, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY AND FINANCIAL ADVISER, MINISTRY OF STEEL.**

The list of participants is enclosed as at Annexure I.

2. The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IMC was held in Bhavnagar on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, which was followed by a field visit to Alang-Sosia Ship Recycling Yard on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.

3. Welcoming the participants, the Chairman in his opening remarks brought out that there are a number of concerns. Though it was observed that progress has been attained on some of the issues since the previous meetings, the Chairman emphasized on the need to pay greater attention to the key concerns particularly those concerning the health and safety of workers, sanitation and labour related issues and provision of medical facilities. The Chairman stressed on the primary importance of each of the stakeholders to focus on their roles and responsibilities so that constraints are overcome and issues resolved early. The Chairman also brought out in his remarks that while the Ship recycling industry is to be nurtured to attain its due status, it needs to keep in focus the environmental and safety issues and attain the global norms and benchmarks in these areas.

4. The Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) made a presentation outlining its activities and mandate in respect of Ports & Port Led Development in Gujarat. An overview of ship recycling activity at Alang and a gist of important issues connected with the ship recycling matters, including the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and recent happenings in the IMO Convention was also presented.

5. A presentation was also made by Ship Recycling Industries Association (SRIA) indicating the efforts made for management of Asbestos Containing Materials removed from the ships. It was informed during the presentation that the task is outsourced by SRIA to an external agency-Industrial Hygiene Services (IHS).

6. Following issues emerged during the meeting:

- i) **Provision of housing facilities to workers** - On reviewing the response submitted by Gujarat Maritime Board to the effect that the matter is sub-judice, the Chairman after examining the issues brought out that the labourers are employed by the ship recyclers hence they have to take the primary responsibility for the welfare of their workers, for the overall interest of the ship recycling industry. The IMC observed that there was very little progress on carrying out the basic measure for providing housing and associated basic amenities to the workers employed in the ship recycling yards. For the purpose of construction of housing facilities, it was brought out during the discussions that the GMB had already procured 30 hectares of land at two places in the vicinity of the ship recycling yards around ten years ago. After discussions, it was decided that ship recyclers and the GMB shall together sort out the matter for building appropriate housing units for the workers, as also for operating and maintaining the housing units through an appropriate mechanism such as a Special Purpose Vehicle. It was agreed that to begin with an appropriate model should be agreed upon and the construction of housing units in these two plots start within the next three months which can be replicated in the next phase. It was also decided that the Ship Recyclers in consultation with the GMB will take action for acquiring other suitable land for constructing additional housing units. The Chairman directed that the matter be expedited so that total mechanism-cum action plan may be finalized within next three months for moving ahead with project and a firm progress should take place by the next IMC meeting and detailed report submitted on the matters. **(Action: SRIA/ISSAI, GMB)**
- ii) **Provision of sanitation –** The matter was deliberated in the meeting and it was felt that with the construction of the housing colony as decided to be provided for the labourers, the issues of sanitation should get addressed gradually. It was also decided that till such time, SRIA/GMB shall carry out awareness campaign in their units and in the Safety Training Institute of the GMB, for usage of existing sanitary facilities. After assessment of the existing sanitary units, GMB may take up the task of building sanitary complexes at separate places. Regarding the issue of chocking of the Septic Tanks and Sock Pits due to increased usage in the yards, it was decided that SRIA/GMB

should contact Sulabh International –an organization expert in this field for upgradation of the existing units. **(Action: SRIA, GMB)**

- iii) **Trust Hospital** – The existing facility at Red Cross unit was found to be inadequate to cater to the needs of the large number of workers and in this context the IMC expressed concern over the delay in starting the Trust Hospital at Alang despite prime importance of having adequate health care and treatment facilities for the workers. In this connection, it was decided to see the feasibility of dissolving the Trust and to take possession of the building by the GMB. For this purpose, if necessary, GMB could take up the needful legal steps such as filing a petition in the Hon'ble Court. GMB shall also interact with the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) for expeditious start of Hospital at the already constructed site. **[Action: GMB]**
- iv) **Radiological study of works by Indian Red Cross** –The IMC expressed alarm about the findings of the Radiological Survey Report prepared by DGFASLI regarding prevalence of asbestos and incidence of asbestos related diseases in labours engaged in the ship recycling yards. In response, the Ship recyclers brought out that necessary steps have been taken for the professional handling of Asbestos Containing Materials removed from the ships by engaging an external agency- IHS. The Chairman directed the SRIA to critically examine the facts mentioned in the report and run a reassurance drill. The Recommendations of the report should be complied by the ship recyclers and others concerned. The GMB and the DISH may oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the Report as applicable at Alang-Sosiya and the conduct of the reassurance drill and an action taken report be submitted in the next meeting. **[Action: GMB, SRIA and DISH]**
- v) **Security Concerns** – The Coast Guard representative brought out some security concerns and incidents of communication sets from ships reportedly finding their way to the local fisherman. It was advised to the Ship recyclers to ensure that such equipment are immediately destroyed by the Customs as per the prescribed procedures. The Chairman also advised the Naval, Coast Guard and GMB to regularly interact as per the decisions taken in the earlier IMC meetings and to resolve the major security issues in the Coastal Security Committee meetings conducted at the State Level **(Action: SRIA, Customs, Coast Guard, Naval HQ)**

- vi) **Safety of workers** : On a review of the death/injury details as presented by the GMB (**Annexure II**), the IMC expressed deep concern about the rising number of incidents of the death and other injuries to the workers in Alang. The GMB informed during the meeting that in order to minimize accidents, GMB have been carrying out mandatory safety training for the workers. It was brought out during the meeting that at present no workers are allowed to work in any of the ship recycling yards without having obtained the safety training certificate from the GMB. The GMB also brought out during the meeting that strict action had been taken on the ship recyclers for neglecting safety measures as per existing legal framework. The Directorate of Industrial Safety & Health (DISH), representatives also brought on record during the meeting that prosecution had been launched against the concerned ship recyclers (**Annexure III**). The GMB stated that safety measures are being closely monitored and twelve additional safety officers are being put in position in Alang shortly. It was also informed that compensation and ex-gratia benefits are promptly paid to the workers / families concerned. It was emphasized during the meeting that safety measures should be closely monitored and all concerned should take the due care and responsibility to minimize occurrence of accidents in future. A detailed status report on the safety measures being carried out at Alang should be presented in the next IMC meeting. **(Action: GMB, SRIA and DISH)**
- vii) **Health/Wages matters:-** It was appreciated that GMB had been organizing health camps for workers(**Annexure IV**) and it was advised that such camps may be held at regular intervals, preferably at least at quarterly intervals. The GMB may also, in consultation with the ship breakers/ employers take all necessary steps towards provident fund contributions, payment of wages and other statutory contributions in respect of the workers and ensure strict compliance with the relevant Rules and Acts. **(Action: GMB/ISSAI/SRIA)**
- viii) **Phasing out Smaller Plot :-** On the queries of the ship recyclers, the GMB reported that action on the matter is underway and the matter will be resolved at the earliest. A status report would be presented in the next IMC meeting. **(Action: GMB)**

ix) **Insurance Scheme for Workers** :- SRIA reported that every recyclers take coverage of group insurance for their labourers and the GMB is granting permissions for recycling only after such confirmation. **(No Action)**

x) **Other issues:**

a) As regards the disposal of hazardous wastes arising from the ship recycling, the representatives of the GMB, the GPCB and the ship recyclers assured the IMC that these are being handled and disposed of in proper manner and as per procedures conforming to the Rules and Regulations prescribed for the treatment of such wastes.

b) The matter related to huge stock of various gas cylinders lying in the Bhavnagar Custom House also came up for discussion. It emerged that the matter would involve examination of the provisions of the Gas Cylinder Act, and related environmental related Acts, Rules & regulations. It was decided that the Ship Recyclers will make out a detailed case on the matter and present these to the GPCB and the PESO for expediting an early decision for proper disposal of the cylinders and status report will be submitted in the next meeting of the IMC.

**(Action: SRIA, GPCB, PESO)**

c) Regarding report of a huge quantity of Smoke Detectors containing radioactive material lying in the Plots at Alang, the AERB informed that due to large volume of non-radioactive materials contained in the smoke detectors, it is difficult for them to accept the material in the present shape for disposal at the BARC facility. Hence AERB had stopped accepting the smoke detectors from the Ship Recyclers. During the meeting it was decided that SRIA may examine feasibility of outsourcing the task to a suitable external agency for removal of the small quantity of radio-active parts from smoke detectors to reduce the volume of consignment to be sent to BARC facility. The AERB and GMB shall render needful help and guidance to the SRIA to solve the issue. **(Action: AERB, SRIA and GMB)**

7. The IMC members visited Alang/ Sosia Ship Recycling Yard and other facilities viz, Hazardous Waste Management Facility, Red Cross Hospital, Safety Training Institute, Trust Hospital Site and few Ship Recycling Plots. The team also had an interaction with a section of

the labourers and enquired about the availability of basic facilities. The GMB was requested to expeditiously address some of the concerns brought out by the labourers like increasing the number of drinking water taps and regulating the timings of the water supply. In the wrap up meeting held at the Safety Training Institute, Alang, the Chairman expressed satisfaction over the progress attained so far. However, he felt that there is need and scope for further improvement in the areas of Skill Oriented Training, Labour Welfare and Environment Management and expressed confidence that all concerned will work to coordinate with the goal for viable growth of the Ship Recycling Industry. The Chairman emphasized that providing housing facility to the workers should be given top priority since this will improve the sanitary conditions and the quality of the life of the workers.

8. It was also decided that the next IMC meeting will be held after three months at Bhavnagar/Alang, to further review the developments.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

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## ANNEXURE –I

**Shri S. Machendranathan, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Steel in the Chair.**

### **List of participants**

1.	Dr. Dalip Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel
2.	Shri Pankaj Kumar, Vice Chairman & CEO, GMB, Gandhi Nagar
3.	Shri A Banerjee, Deputy Chief Surveyor, DG (Shipping)
4.	Shri L. Siddhartha Singh, Director, Ministry of Steel
5.	Shri SK Gupta, Under Secretary, Ministry of Steel
6.	Shri GK Basak, Secretary, Ferro Scrap Committee, Kolkata
7.	Shri SA Hussain, Head, RSD, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Mumbai
8.	Shri R.K.Singh, Scientific Officer (E), Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Niyamak Bhavan, Anushakti Nagar, Mumbai-400094.
9.	Commander Palminder Singh, Joint Director,(Security), Naval HQ, Ministry of Defence
10.	Commandant A S Rathore, Coast Guard, Regional HQ, Gandhi Nagar
11.	Shri R K Singh, Commandant, BSF, Gandhi Nagar
12.	Shri Hardik Shah, Member Secretary, Gujarat Pollution Control Board
13.	Shri R C Kaul, Dy. Chief Controller (Explosive), PESO, Vadodara
14.	Shri Atul Sharma, Environmental Engineer, GMB.
15.	Shri Subhash Chand, Under Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment
16.	Shri B N Jha, Deputy Director (Safety), DGFASLI, Mumbai
17.	Shri B R Naidu, Central Pollution Control Board, Vadodara
18.	Shri V.R. Patel, Senior Environment Engineer, GPCB, Bhavnagar.
19.	Shri AV Shah, Regional Officer, GPCB

20.	Shri V Ranganath, Traffic Manager, Mumbai Port trust
21.	Shri DG Panchamia, Dy. Director Industrial Safety & Health (DISH), Alang
22.	Shri RJ Patel, Assistant Director, DISH, Alang
23.	Shri P M Mistry, DISH, Alang
24.	Shri Surya Kant. Branch Manager, MSTC, Vadodara
25.	Shri P.S. Nagarsheth, President, Indian Steel Scrap & Shipbreakers Association of India (ISSAI), Mumbai
26.	Shri Pratap Bohra, ISSAI
27.	Shri VK Gupta, President, Ship Recycling Industry Association (SRIA), Bhavnagar
28.	Shri Nitin Kanakiya, Joint Secretary, SRIA.
29.	Shri Nikhil Gupta, Joint Secretary, SRIA
30.	Shri Harshad Dathawa,, Joint Secretary, SRIA
31.	Shri HG Parmar, SRIA

**Training details**

YEAR	WORKERS TRAINED
2003	664
2004	1724
2005	1210
2006	4230
2007	7152
2008	8187
2009	24898
2010 (up to Aug)	12786
<b>Total</b>	<b>60851</b>

**Death/injury details**

YEAR	DEATH	INJURY
1998	28	24
1999	30	37
2000	29	40
2001	08	34
2002	19	72
2003	25	60
2004	06	19
2005	04	11
2006	07	14
2007	06	05
2008	00	01
2009	14	12
2010 (up to Aug)	18	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>348</b>

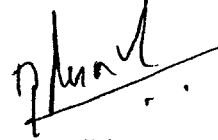
Annexure III -

Office of the Deputy Director, Industrial Safety and Health, Alang, Bhavnagar.

Dt.17/09/2010

No.	Year	Accident		Prosecution	
		Factories	No. of Fatality	Factories	No. of Prosecution
1	08-09	03	03	25	161
2	09-10	16	21	13	22
3	10-31Aug	09	12	10	10

Dt. 17/9/10



Deputy Director,  
Industrial Safety And Health.  
Alang, Dist. Bhavnagar.

Annexure IV

**Details of Health Camps**

- Health check up camp in coordination with DGFASLI ; PFT & X-RAY,  
2007 -- (250)
- MAY -- 2009 for Children (350) and Female (55)
- SEPTEMBER -- 2009 Blood Grouping & Blood Donation (150)
- SEPTEMBER-2009 general health check up, in coordination with SRIA (3600)
- OCTOBER- 2009 Health check up camp in coordination with DGFASLI ; PFT &  
X-RAY (281)
- DECEMBER-2009 General Health check up camp for all (240)
- SEPTEMBER-2010 general health check up, in coordination with SRIA (1200)

NUMBER IN (BRACKET) INDICATES  
NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES.