

**MINUTES OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE (IMC) MEETING ON SHIP  
BREAKING HELD ON 5.2.2004.**

A list of participants is at Annexure-I.

2. Welcoming the participants, the Chairman mentioned that the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been constituted on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court mainly to monitor the activities of shipbreaking in the country and to ensure that the directions given by the Apex Court with regard to breaking of ships are followed by all concerned. He then asked President, ISSAI (Iron Steel Scrap & Shipbreakers Association of India) to give a brief introduction about the ship breaking industry.

3. President, ISSAI after giving a brief introduction about the ship breaking, stated that action on the Supreme Court directions could be taken in two ways, one at the International level and the other at the ship breaking yards by improving the infrastructure by the State Government and the individual units by the shipbreakers. He further stated that due to adverse publicity initiated by some NGOs at international forums, Norway, Netherlands and some other European Union Countries raised in the late nineties the issue of framing suitable guidelines to secure safety and environmental protection in ship scrapping activities in all the three concerned international bodies viz. International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Basel Convention and International Labour Organisation (ILO). He stated that the ship breakers' associations should always be consulted before presenting India's stand on matters relating to ship breaking before these international Organisations. He also submitted a set of papers and requested that the same may be circulated to all members for information. A copy of the documents submitted by him is at Annexure II.

4. President, ISSAI further informed that since a small amount of shipbreaking activity is being carried out at Mumbai and Kolkata ports on a regular basis, representatives from these ports should also be included as members in the IMC. The suggestion given by him was agreed to.

5. The representative of Ministry of Environment & forests (MOEF) stated that shipbreaking is a huge industry in the country and needs attention. She further explained that on the directions of the Supreme Court, a High Power Committee (HPC) under the Chairmanship of Prof. MGK Menon was constituted and among its Terms of Reference was the requirement that the Committee should give its report and recommendations on "Decontamination of ships before they are exported to India for breaking". The Committee consisted of 12 experts from different disciplines and fields. The eighteen recommendations made by the HPC in its report with regard to Shipbreaking activities in the country have been accepted by the Supreme Court for implementation by all concerned. She further added that Ministry of Environment and Forest has also constituted a Monitoring Committee which is responsible for ensuring that the directions given by Hon'ble Supreme Court are implemented.

6. The representative of Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) gave a presentation on the Waste Management Plan at Alang, Gujarat. He stated that the ship breaking industry serves the nation by producing huge quantities of re-rollable steel without exploiting natural resources. It also serves the society by offering employment to thousands of people. He informed that over 90% of shipbreaking activity takes place in Alang where at present there are 173 units out of which about 120 are active. He then informed about the progress of development of infrastructure facilities by GMB at Alang. The representative of MOEF stressed that disposal of hazardous substances present in the ships imported for breaking like waste oil (sludge), asbestos, paints etc is a matter of concern and should be given immediate attention. She further pointed out that disposal of lead batteries is a matter of deep concern to the Govt. but this item does not figure in the quantification Table furnished by GMB in the presentation papers. CMD, MSTC Limited stated that lead

batteries are a recyclable item but recycling industry is not organized and thus, not following the required regulations. He added that MSTC is also disposing of lead acid batteries but only to the authorized/ certified recyclers. Like-wise shipbreakers should sell the lead acid batteries only to the authorized/ certified recyclers and not to the highest bidders.

7. Regarding disposal of waste oil, President, ISSAI agreed that used oil should be sold to registered recyclers but due to some change in the process by the Govt., out of 94 licence holders, 80 have lost their licences and the remaining 14 may also lose their licences by March, 2004. At this point, the representative of MOEF advised to sell/auction the lead acid batteries /oil through MSTC. She also stated that the recyclers should switch on to new technology, which they are not doing at present due to investment problems.

8. Thereafter, the eighteen recommendations made by HPC, which have been accepted by Supreme Court, were discussed. During discussions it was agreed that some of the recommendations can be followed by taking strict measures, while in the case of other recommendations, regulations are already in place and being implemented. However, in the case of some of the recommendations, full implementation is not possible. Representative of MOEF stressed the point that we cannot dilute our response only because we do not want this business to go to other countries like China or Bangladesh. However, she agreed that rules should apply globally so that these do not become non-tariff barriers. After discussion, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held after getting written comments from GMB and others on the recommendations made by the HPC.

9. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

- 1 Dr. S.Y.Quraishi, AS&FA, Ministry of Steel.
- 2 Shri J.P.Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel.
- 3 Smt. Sunita, Under Secretary, Ministry of Steel.
- 4 Shri Usha Subramainan, Joint Director, Ministry of Environment and Forest.
- 5 Shri S.R.Gaur, Director, Ministry of Shipping.
- 6 Shri Braj Mohan, Under Secretary, Ministry of Labour.
- 7 Shri P.K.Gupta, Env.Engineer, Central Pollution Control Board.
- 8 Shri V.N.Desai, OSD, GMB
- 9 Shri Atul Sharma, AE(Env),GMB
- 10 Shri M.Sengupta, CMD, MSTC.
- 11 Shri P.S.Nagarsheth, President, ISSAI