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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF INTER - MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE HELD ON 9.8.2007
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SPECIAL SECRETARY AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR,
MINISTRY OF STEEL**

A list of participants is at Annexure.

The meeting was chaired by Special Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Steel. Welcoming the participants, the Chairman invited comments, if any, on the minutes of last meeting held on 17.1.2007. Since no comments were received, minutes were confirmed.

2 Before taking up agenda for the meeting, Chairman, took up the matter regarding participation of India in meetings of IMO and other international bodies, which was also discussed in the last meeting held on 17.1.2007 when it was decided that Ministry of Steel should be informed of all activities and invited to attend the international meetings on ship breaking. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel pointed out that the time given by DG, Shipping/Ministry of Shipping to the Ministry of Steel for nominating an officer to attend the IMO meeting held in March, 2007 after getting all necessary approvals /clearances etc. was too short. As a result, Ministry of Steel was unable to process the proposal and send the nomination of the Ministry for attending the meeting. After discussions, it was decided that in future DG, Shipping and others should write to Ministry of Steel at least one month in advance for nominating an officer of the Ministry for IMO/MEPC meetings.

3 Thereafter, Chairman took up the agenda items and the discussions that took place are summarized below:-

(i) **Mandatory use of Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) –**

Chairman stated that GMB has taken some action to improve implementation of PPEs at the yards. The representative of ship breakers Association said that the quality of PPEs that the ship breakers are getting is not good. He suggested that GMB or some other organizations could purchase good quality PPEs in bulk. He added that initially workers are not ready to pay for the PPEs and since they are not regular workers but work for a short period, they do not bother to return the PPEs issued to them. He suggested that GMB could procure the PPEs in bulk and issue the same to the workers and enter the details of PPEs issued to them alongwith other medical details like blood samples etc. in the Identity Cards issued by them.

4 Joint Secretary, Ministry of Steel clarified that PPEs are to be provided by the shipbreakers at their cost and not by GMB. However, the association and the GMB should work together and find good quality PPEs which can be purchased in bulk. The representative of DG, FASLI said that PPEs tested by FASLI should be used. The suggestion that details of PPEs given should be entered in the I.Cards was not found feasible. However, GMB could consider giving medical and personal details in the I. Cards to be issued in future.

5 The suggestion given by the representative of Shipbreakers' Association to construct a boundary wall covering the entire ship breaking yards was also not found feasible and advantageous as all yards already have their own walls and another wall would only add to the congestion.

6 To a query by the Chairman, the representative of shipbreakers Association clarified that PPEs issued to the workers are allowed to be taken by them as there is no changing room provided in the yard and due to space constraint, it is not possible to provide lockers to the workers for keeping the PPEs issued to them. After discussions, it was decided that a changing room should be provided by the ship breakers at the yards and like any commercial organization, the PPEs should be issued by the ship breaker to the workers when they report for work and taken back when they leave the yard.

7 The Chairman emphasized that use of PPEs has to be enforced by the ship breakers. Adverse climatic conditions should not be taken as an excuse for not using the PPEs. Chairman, also advised DG, FASLI to conduct a follow up study by making surprise visits to the yard.

i) **Starting of Trust Hospital** - The representative of GMB informed that a resolution of the Trust is required for handing over the building. Once the building is taken over from the Trust, a system for managing the Hospital would be devised so that it works in a proper and efficient manner.

GMB was advised to inform the Ministry about action taken in the matter in a month's time.

(ii) **Allotment of smaller plots** - GMB informed that 5 smaller plots have already been merged to form bigger plots. A study has been given to ILFS for relocation of plots etc.

President, ISSAI drew attention to the report prepared by Ministry of Labour on "Modern Shipbreaking Yard" which indicates minimum size of the plot, facilities required to be given in the plot etc. Chairman suggested that a copy of the report may be given to GMB for use/guidance by ILFS for the study being undertaken by them.

(iii) **Mandatory use of Gas Detectors** - Chairman re-emphasized that the use of gas detectors has to be enforced. He asked DG, FASLI to check its enforcement in the next visit.

(iv) **Definition of ship**

It was informed that the Admiralty Act was still under process.

(v) **Radiological study of workers by the Indian Red Cross Society -**

GMB informed that no further progress has been made. Chairman suggested that FASLI could consider sending a team of experts to Alang for examination of workers.

(vi) **Issue of gas free for hot work and other certificates under Rule 43-A of Petroleum Rules**

After discussions it was decided that Ministry of Steel may write to Ministry of Commerce for issuing suitable directions to PESO and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the matter.

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