

Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 9th June, 2017

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of the meeting of Empowered Committee of MAI for study proposals held on 29.05.2017.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith minutes of the meeting of the Empowered Committee of MAI for study proposals, held on 29th May, 2017, under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Rita Teatota, Commerce Secretary, Department of Commerce, for information and necessary action.



(Rajeev Kumar)
Under Secretary (E&MDA)

To,

- (i) AS&FA, DOC
- (ii) DG, DGFT
- (iii) Dr. Inder Jit Singh, AS, DOC
- (iv) Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, JS, DOC
- (v) Shri Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, JS, DOC
- (vi) Ms. Sushmita Dasgupta, EA, DOC
- (vii) Shri K. Nagaraj Naidu, Joint Secretary (ITP), MEA
- (viii) Shri Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies

**Department of Commerce
E&MDA Division**

**Minutes of the meeting of Empowered Committee held on 29.5.2017 to
consider Market Study Proposals under MAI**

The Empowered Committee considered six market study proposals recommended by the Sub-Committee seriatim and decided as under:

1. Analysing products and market potential for apparel exports:

1.1. SC Recommendation: A global study on such an important sector may be worthwhile and accordingly, the proposal recommended for consideration of EC under para 7.4.1 of the MAI.

1.2. EC decision: EC noted that Ministry of Textiles had commissioned a study on garments sector. EP (Textiles) to examine as to whether there is any overlap in the study proposed. JS, Ministry of Textiles to be consulted to fine-tune ToRs of the Study.

1.3. Proposal deferred.

2. Mapping and Strategizing India's GVC Participation – Identifying High Potential Export Products:

2.1. SC Recommendation: The Sub-Committee, 'in principle' recommended the proposed study under para 7.4.1 of the MAI guidelines, subject to the inclusion of "primary survey" in the study and reworking of cost of the study by EPL-II.

2.2. EC decision: EPL Division to examine the Study done by IIFT in 2009 on similar subject and to propose whether updation of that study be done or there is need for a totally new study. EPL Division to indicate whether TPCI will be an appropriate agency for conducting the study.

2.3. Proposal deferred.

3. Strategic Roadmap formulation for STC and MMTC:

- 3.1. Proposal:** To conduct a study to examine functioning of MMTC and STC in the current economic scenario. The proposal has been in principle approved on file. After following due procedure, FT (ST) Division has finalised CRISIL for conducting the study at the cost of Rs.34.34 lakh plus service tax.
- 3.2. SC Recommendation:** The proposal was approved on file and FT (ST) Division has also finalised the agency for conducting the study. Recommended for consideration of EC.
- 3.3. EC decision:** EC noted that the study would cover trade performance of these trading companies; products and markets where they are operating; and evaluate options of market specific and product services trading for these companies. The study would facilitate Department of Commerce's market access initiatives. The Committee noted that the selection of agency has been done through competitive process.
- 3.4. EC approved MAI funding of Rs.34.34 lakh plus service tax for the study under para 7.4.3 of MAI guidelines.**

4. All-encompassing Goods and Services Trade Analysis of Selected African Countries: An India's Perspective:

- 4.1. Proposal:** To conduct study of bilateral trade of goods and services with select African countries. The study will cover 10 economies of West Africa and North Africa and 15 commodities in each economy, and would be completed in 2 months' time.
- 4.2. SC Recommendation:** The Study will cover 10 economies of West Africa and North Africa and 15 commodities in each economy and recommended proposal under para 7.4.1 of the MAI.
- 4.3. EC decision:** Approved "in principle". ToR / scope of the study to be sharpened and competence of TPCI to do the study to be analysed. The Objectives to be well-defined by JS (Africa) and team members for the study to be decided after due diligence.

5. Vetting of Transposed Tariff Reduction Schedule for ASEAN Countries (HS 2007 to 2012 and 2017):

- 5.1. Proposal:** For vetting of Transposed Tariff Reduction Schedule for 10 ASEAN countries under India-ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement from HS 2007 to 2012 and 2017.
- 5.2. SC Recommendation:** The Sub-Committee recommended the proposal for consideration of EC.
- 5.3. EC decision:** Approved with grant of Rs.2.75 lakh under para 7.4.4 of MAI.

6. Rationalisation of EPCs:

- 6.1. Proposal:** Study on rationalizing the functioning and scope of EPC's to have direct linkage with industry/government, effective service to the exporting community with an overall objective to enhance India's exports and make India a prominent player in international export arena.
- 6.2. SC Recommendation:** Recommended the proposal for consideration of EC, under para 7.4.3 of MAI.
- 6.3. EC decision:** Approved "in principle".
- 6.4. Study to be done by IIFT; IIFT to be given the option to hire/engage outside consultants. ToRs to cover aspects relating to capability / usefulness of Chambers of Commerce like CII / FICCI etc. to provide policy inputs to DoC on market access, the role of EPCs to be effective trade facilitation agencies, need for regime of membership on RCMC powers granted under FTP etc. Consultation with DG, DGFT to be done on ToR.**
