

**K-11020/17/2018-E&MDA-DoC**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Commerce & Industry**  
**Department of Commerce**  
**E&MDA Division**

Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated: the 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

**Office Memorandum**

**Subject: Minutes of the meeting of Empowered Committee of MAI held on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2017 to discuss the Market Study proposals.**

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith minutes of the meeting of the Empowered Committee of MAI, held on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018, under the Chairpersonship of Commerce Secretary to consider Market Study Proposals, for information and necessary action.



(Rajeev Kumar)  
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

To,

1. Shri Subhash Chandra Pandey, SS&FA, DoC
2. Shri Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi, DG, DGFT
3. Shri Sanjay Chadha, AS, DoC.
4. Shri Sudhanshu Pandey, JS, DoC.
5. Shri B.S. Bhalla, JS, DoC.
6. Shri Santosh Kumar Sarangi, JS, DoC.
7. Shri Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, JS, DoC.
8. Shri Vinod K. Jacob, JS(ED), Ministry of External Affair.
9. Ms. Rupa Dutta, Economic Adviser, DoC.
10. Shri Abhijit Das, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT.
11. Ms. Indu C.Nair, Director, FT(ASEAN), DoC.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
E&MDA DIVISION**

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**Minutes of the meeting of the Empowered Committee of MAI, held on 27.02.2018 to consider market study proposals**

The List of participants is at Annexure-I.

2. Joint Secretary, MAI, Department of Commerce welcomed the participants. He informed the Empowered Committee that the Sub-Committee of MAI had examined the proposals received from the Commodity/Territorial Divisions and based on the discussions in the Sub-Committee, 9 proposals have been placed for consideration of the Empowered Committee.

3. With the permission of the Chair, the proposals included in the agenda were considered one-by-one. The decision of EC on the proposals listed is as under:

**A. Proposals Recommended by the Sub-Committee**

**1. Item No. 1: Impact of Imports from China on Domestic Industry, employment and exports:**

The Sub-Committee had recommended the proposal of FT (NEA) Division with MAI support of Rs. 65.00 lakh.

FT (NEA) Division outlined the broad contours of the proposal, the purpose and relevance of the study.

The Chairperson advised that the Study should involve primary data collection. Further, it should build on the in-house exercise done by the Trade Policy Division, DoC.

EC approved the proposal of FT (NEA) Division with MAI support of Rs.65 lakh for the study. EC directed FT (NEA) Division to complete the formalities regarding selection of agency by March, 2018.

**2. Item No. 2: Developing an Institutional Framework for Governing Dry Ports in India**

The Sub-Committee had recommended the proposal of Infra-I Division for MAI support of Rs.40.00 lakh.

EC approved the proposal of Infra-I Division with MAI support of Rs.40 lakh for the study. Infra Division was directed to endorse Terms of Reference of the Study through the Logistics Division, DoC.

**3. Item No. 3: Organizational restructuring for Commodity Boards (a) Tea Board (b) Coffee Board (c) Rubber Board and (d) Spices Board:**

Plantation Division withdrew the proposal.

**4. Item No. 4: Study on preparation of Export Strategy papers of (i) Uttarakhand, (ii) Karnataka, (iii) Bihar, (iv) Goa and (v) Delhi.**

The Sub Committee had recommended the proposal of States Cell for MAI support of Rs.10 lakh for each State/ UT. The Sub-Committee, however, desired that internal guidelines be formulated to get all the studies done simultaneously. The Sub Committee also desired that the Studies should also make recommendation on requirement of export logistics.

EC approved the proposal recommended by the Sub-Committee.

**5. Item No. 5: Analysis of India – ASEAN Merchandise Trade.**

The Sub-Committee had recommended the proposal of FT (ASEAN) Division for MAI support of Rs.19 lakh plus taxes. The Sub Committee suggested that as an outcome of the study FIEO should also prepare an excel sheet containing product wise tariff data comparative with China and other neighbouring countries and make it available to DOC.

EC suggested that terms of reference of the study be amended, inter alia, to include identification of trade restrictive standards, regulatory frameworks or protocols and make specific recommendations for penetrating such markets and expand share of our exports. The EC, in principle, approved the proposal of FT (ASEAN) Division with MAI support of Rs.19 lakh.

**6. Item No.6 - Groundnut and Sesame Khariff, 2017-18 Crop Survey.**

The Sub-Committee had recommended the proposal of EP (Agri) Division for MAI funding of Rs.24 lakh. The Sub-Committee advised inclusion of increase in productivity and export potential of the Commodities in ToRs of the Survey.

The EC advised EP (Agri) Division to amend the terms of reference of the study to include identification of constraints being faced by the States involved in production of groundnuts and sesame, with an aim of improving export performance. The EC also advised EP (Agri) Division to explore latest GIS/Satellite based technology for conducting the survey.

EC, in principle, approved the proposal.

**7. Item No 7. India's Trade and Investment Cooperation with Africa.**

The Sub-Committee had recommended proposal of FT (Africa) Division for MAI funding of Rs.24.50 lakh. The Sub Committee desired that the Study should come up with the recommendations regarding product-by-product export strategy and diversification to new markets.

JS; FT (Africa) mentioned that the Study would cover market access issues with 15 top countries and identify core interest of India in respect of top commodities and services. He further mentioned that the Study would be conducted by Centre for Regional Trade (CRT).

EC suggested that FT (Africa) should also address the issue of why commodities' exports are restricted to certain countries within the region and not to other similarly situated ones.

EC approved the proposal of FT (Africa).

**8. Item No 8. Bilateral Trade Linkages of India with Iran, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan**

The Sub-Committee had recommended the proposal of FT (SA) for MAI funding of Rs.24 lakh. The Sub Committee desired that the study should identify the products where other countries are having

larger export share in the region compared to India and also the preferential tariff given to other countries.

JS, FT (SA) mentioned that Study of other Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan had already been conducted. With the proposed Study, the remaining countries would also be covered. The study would cover market access issues with these countries. The Study would be conducted by RIS.

EC approved the proposal, as recommended by Sub-Committee.

## **B. PROPOSAL SEEKING EX-POST-FACTO APPROVAL OF EC**

### **1. Item No. 1: Study on Rationalisation of EPCs.**

JS, FT (ASEAN) informed that the study is proposed to be conducted through IIFT, 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. The proposal has been approved on file with MAI funding of Rs.24.98 lakh.

EC directed that the term of reference of study must include compliance status on adoption of Model Bye Laws, clearly outlining whether every provision of bye-law has been incorporated in Articles of Association of EPCs. The provisions relating to the election of Vice-Chairman and also voting rights of the members of EPCs, must also be captured clearly in order to ensure a standard governance and electoral practices in EPCs. Further, a detailed study on the issuance of RCMC, income sources, usage of funds for different trade promotion activities, sectoral coverage of EPCs etc. should be included along with clear recommendations on way forward. EC accorded ex-post facto approval to the proposal.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair

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**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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1. Ms. Rita Teaotia, Commerce Secretary ..... In Chair
2. Shri Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi, DG, DGFT
3. Shri B. S. Bhalla, JS, DoC
4. Shri Rajneesh, JS, DoC
5. Shri M. K. Dwivedi, JS, DoC
6. Ms. Rupa Dutta, EA, DoC
7. Shri Praveen Bonigala, Director, DoC
8. Shri N. Ramesh, Director, DoC
9. Shri Arun Kumar Singh, US, MEA
10. Shri Rajeev Kumar, US, DoC

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