

MUMBAI PORT TRUST - DOCKS

Minutes of the Interactive meeting with the Port Users held jointly by the Traffic Department and Port Department on 04.11.2009 at 3.00 p.m. in the Conference Hall, 7th floor, Vijay Deep.

As a part of the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week – 2009, an Interactive meeting was held with the representatives of various associations of Port users. The meeting was also attended by officers from Traffic Department, Port Department, Vigilance Department, Civil Engineering Department, Accounts Department, P & R Department and Mechanical Engineering Department.

2. At the outset, Capt. M.M. Rodrigues, Deputy Conservator (DC), who was in the chair, welcomed the representatives of Port users to the Interactive meeting and said that the aim of having interactive meeting is to emphasize the need for efficiency and transparency in public dealings, to create awareness among port users of the services provided by the organization, initiative taken for improvement of systems & procedures and the avenues available to the users for redressal of grievances. He informed that this meeting is conducted to air their grievances, if any, regarding working of the port which will reduce corruption and increase efficiency and transparency in the port working.

3. Shri H.D. Kulkarni, Secretary General, MANSA, thanked for conducting the meeting and giving opportunity to express their views related to deficiency in port services and expressed satisfaction in port services and informed that they have no complaint from vigilance point of view. Shri Kishore Parulekar of Bombay Custom House Agents' Association, enquired about the permission to be given on-line, which was discussed last year. It was explained that there is some delay in implementing the same, but the work is in progress. DC pointed out that Port Department's almost all circulars are put on the port's web-site. He asked the trade representatives to identify the exact problems and requested the trade to carry their business with Port through on-line. Shri H.D. Kulkarni enquired whether any safeguards are there to ensure authenticity of the documents submitted on-line. He insisted that there must be some system to ensure that the documents put on-line are authentic. DC clarified that when a document is sent on-line, it is to be done after due precaution. Dy. Manager, Indira Dock, informed that the work on upgradation of port's web-site system is in progress and he requested Port users their views in the matter. He further informed that if the maximum works are carried out on-line, unwanted visits to Docks can be curtailed which is desired under security angle also. Shri Parulekar informed that Customs duty is being paid on-line and desired that Port charges should also be accepted on-line. Dy. Manager, Indira Dock, informed that trials in this regard had already been done, port users have given some inputs and implementation is on the final stage, after rectifications.

4. Shri H.D. Kulkarni, suggested that stevedoring charges also be accepted on-line. Dy. Docks Manager(OBL) informed that the work to make the stevedoring charges on-line is under process. MANSA representative requested that to streamline the payments, bills be sent to Accounts and the Operational Department of the vessel agents. Shri H.D. Kulkarni also suggested to make stevedoring more aggressive and that the activities should be made more efficient. On requesting to elaborate the point, Shri H.D. Kulkarni informed that due to non-availability of man-power there is delay in services. In shift changes also, there is much delay and requested to look into the matter and to work for improvement in this regard. He further informed that they have made suggestion to the Ministry to have continuous working in the port for which there is no proper support from the Unions. Shri Hiren Ved of MANSA informed that sometimes the actual workforce is not available at the work spots and hence there is delay in work and utilisation of workforce is not done properly.

5. Dy. Manager, Indira Dock, informed that shortly there will be a meeting to discuss the issue of requirement of pre-shipment areas by the trade. He further informed that some pre-shipment areas are not properly used, either the area is under-utilized used or the cargo remains there for a long time and the port faces problem because the areas are blocked. Shri H.D. Kulkarni informed that Customs have monthly meetings with users where many problems are discussed and solved. If the port also keep such meetings on monthly basis, many problems can be solved. DC and ADM agreed to look into the matter.

6. Shri L. Gomes of SKS Logistics Ltd., informed that after M/s. ICTPL has taken charge of BPS container operations, there is delay in container movements. Shri H.D. Kulkarni pointed that M/s. ICTPL is charging at higher rates than MbPT. The free storage days allowed by MbPT is 15 days, but M/s. ICTPL is allowing only 3 days and thereafter charging demurrage, which is affecting the trade and hence he requested to look into the matter. He pointed out that the rates applied by MbPT should also be made applicable for M/s. ICTPL. He contended that unless TAMP's approval is there, M/s. ICTPL cannot charge more than MbPT. Dy. Docks Manager, Container Terminal, informed that as per the agreement, M/s. ICTPL has to give revenue share on charges as per MbPT SOR. ADM informed that as per the agreement, MbPT gets about 35% revenue share from M/s. ICTPL at charges as per SOR. Additional concessional facilities given to the trade are with the Board's approval to attract more traffic and if such concessions are given by M/s. ICTPL, it will be on their account. Shri H.D. Kulkarni informed that concessions approved by the Board should also be applicable to M/s. ICTPL and requested the Administration to make some efforts to mitigate the problem. ADM informed that the point raised by the trade is noted.

7. While concluding the meeting, Addl. Docks Manager thanked the port users for attending the meeting, highlighting the problems and also for their initiative in the discussions.
