

Minutes of the 6th Electronic meeting of National Shipping Board held on 16th June, 2020 at 1430 Hrs.

Attendees:

Dr. Malini Shankar, Chairperson NSB
Shri Kumar Sanjay Bariar, Additional DG
Shri Satinder Pal Singh, JS Shipping
Shri Kailash Negi, DIG-ICG Indian Coast Guard
Shri Cdr Sreejesh K , Indian Navy
Shri Abdulgani Serang-NUSI
Shri Amar Singh Thakur-MUI
Shri Anil Devli- INSA
Shri Aditya Sulkier- ICCSA
Shri Rahul Modi- CCTA
Shri Shantanu Bhadkamkar-AMTOI
Capt Piyush Sinha
Shri A. Balasubramanian
Shri Ishwar Achanta
Shri Ajay Sahai, FIEO
Capt. Sankar Kr. Das
Shri Kshetra Nath Milli

Granting leave of absence: -

Leave of absence was granted to Capt Sanjay Prashar. The Director General of Shipping was represented by Shri Kumar Sanjay Bariar, Additional Director General of Shipping.

The Chairperson invited all members to the 6th meeting of NSB and requested Capt. Das to take up the agenda for the meeting.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes of the 5th meeting of the NSB -

Chairperson apologized for the delay in sending the minutes of the 5th meeting of NSB and invited comments/suggestions from the members. Since the minutes were circulated late, the chairperson

requested the members that they could go through the minutes and if they had any comments / suggestions, they could bring it to the attention of the chair in a day or two. In case no comments were received from the members, the minutes would be considered as approved.

3.0 Administrative issues:

Capt Das informed the chair that he had a discussion with Shri Pravin Srivastava with respect to the activation of NSB website. Shri Srivastava was of the opinion that the website was very old and would have limited number of users. He therefore suggested that NSB should consider to go in for develop a new website. The rough estimate informed by NIC for development of a new website was Rs. 50,000 – 60,000. The chair mentioned that the new website would take a lot of time and cost involved was not only the development of the website but the annual maintenance charges which put together would be quite high. She therefore suggested that it was necessary to look into alternate options as well which would be economical. Shri Aditya Suklikar suggested that while we were looking at the website, we could even consider if an email server could also be hosted with NSB domain instead of using gmail account. The chair suggested that hosting of an email server would add to the cost. Shri Bhadkamkar mentioned that an AMTOI committee member had his own server and he could arrange to host the NSB email server and this would be at a very nominal charge. He would provide the details of the same to Capt. Das. However, we are thankful to DG Shipping for providing the link National Shipping Board in the left Blue rows on DGS website.

4.0 Action Taken Report and updates by Groups

4.1 The Chair thanked the JSS and the Office of the DGS for sharing Indian Port Act and the report by ILFS on Maritime policy which was prepared for the Ministry of Shipping. She said that the reports were already circulated to the group and requested the members to go through the recommendations. The advantages and the disadvantages of each of the recommendations are also mentioned therein. This could be considered as the base document and the members would not need to duplicate their efforts.

5.1 Chairperson invited the Group Head of Merchant Shipping Act to give an update of his group. Shri Balasubramanian informed that the group members have had several meetings and have been putting in their best efforts to finalise the recommendations to be put up to the Board. The group had completed around 90-95% of the work that was required to be done. The first draft of the recommendations is ready and has been circulated to the group. There are around 185 suggestions

received from stakeholders. The general issues that were forwarded by the Chair was still pending to be looked into. There were, however, some gaps which were observed and he requested the Board members to offer their comments. The Chairperson acknowledged the efforts that was being put in by the group and said that the entire report for submission should be completed by the middle of next week. She further added that the members of the NSB should also give their submissions on whether the gaps identified would address matters from the point of view of Ease of doing business, legal compliances etc. It may be borne in mind that the Ministry would review the Act section wise and it was not necessary for the sub-committee of NSB to review it section wise but actually try and fill in the gaps that currently existed. While concurring to the Chairperson, JSS suggested that NSB could also give recommendations chapter wise. All members present agreed to meet on 22nd June 2020 at 1430 hours for a detailed discussion on the subject. The Chairperson also suggested that the group should segregate /categories the recommendations based on what is important / critical. Accordingly, at the next NSB meeting, the most important / critical ones would be dealt with first. Shri Balasubramanian agreed that he along with his group will once again take a look at the recommendations and resubmit a revised report by 19th / 20th June 2020 to the NSB members for discussion on 22nd June 2020.

5.2 Shri Bhadkamkar briefed the members that currently the report to be prepared by his group is under preparation and Shri Devli had also given some inputs on the same. He said that the group was regularly interacting with several stakeholders in order to be able to try and ascertain ideas and views. He said that Air Cargo is one area which they will be looking up next while the group had also considered examining if multi-modal logistics between India and Nepal via Kolkata can be improved. The comments were noted.

5.3 Capt. Sinha said that he had combined his findings and had sent two mails to the Chairperson for her consideration. Further he had observed some problems with respect to the demand side of the shipbuilding. He was currently waiting for some data from the port which was taking some time. He also referred to the recommendation that all harbor crafts used by all ports in India should be mandated to be made in India and this needs to be deliberated first. He mentioned that he was waiting for some data from IWAI. He was also awaiting reply from Shri Devli and Shri Suklikar on the mail that was sent to them to provide information on the number of ships that Indian owners intended to purchase. He informed that he was speaking to the shipyards to understand the challenges and it was observed that each shipyard had its own set of challenges which he would summaries and forward in due course to the chairperson. On the subject of wooden crafts made in West Bengal, the Chair mentioned that our

country has skills in making wooden ships and it is important that such skills are preserved and promoted. She requested Capt. Sinha to look into this aspect while making his report.

5.4 Shri Abdulgani briefed the members that the members of his group in the last 10 days or so have been very busy with the seafarers sign on/off because of which it was difficult to get the members together for the meeting. However, the report is under preparation and the same has been prepared bullet wise and details of the same will be in attachment.

5.5 Shri Rahul Modi informed the Chair that at the meeting with the Minister, the Hon. Minister had suggested that the group should examine the prospects of working on Ro-Ro/ Ro-Pax vessel, and therefore he had started some work on it with Shri Devli . It was their view that they must begin discussions with the stakeholders and ask for comments / suggestions. In order to obtain additional information from the trade at large, Shri Modi and Shri Devli sought the approval of the Chair to put something within Maritime groups on social media, Association website, newspapers etc. as comments were invited on the MS Bill. Similarly, comments, ideas and suggestions would be invited for discussions on operation of Ro-Ro and Ro-Pax type of vessels within India. This would help get a larger base of information in addition to the experiences of Mr. Achanta and Mr. Suklikar. The information gathered in this manner could then be collated for further consideration and deliberation. The Chair approved this and asked them to go ahead.

6.0 Fixing date of the next meeting

The chair suggested that the 7th meeting of the NSB will be held on Monday, 22nd June 2020 at 1430 hrs to have a detailed discussion on the recommendations on the Merchant Shipping Act.

7.0 Any other item

Shri Negi requested that they would like to nominate a person from Coast Guard to the Coastal Shipping Promotion working group and Review of Merchant Shipping Act working group. The Chair requested Capt. Das to do the needful. Further, the Chairperson also suggested that Coast Guard and Navy were required to formally nominate a representative to the NSB and asked JSS to check if a formal letter had been received nominating a person to the NSB. JSS said that a letter from the Ministry might have been received, but said that he will have to check and if nothing was received, he would send out a reminder to both Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy asking for a relevant nomination to NSB, as required by the notification. Once this was done, next steps could be taken.

There being no other matter to be discussed, the meeting was closed.

Approved
Dr. Malini Shankar
Chairperson

Place: Mumbai

Date: 16/06/2020