

Report from Mr. S. Ramakrishna – Immediate Past Chairman of FFFAI regarding Meeting with Logistics Secretary along with other Associations CAI, AMTOI apart from SBI, FIEO, INSA and CSLA on 30th September 2019 and 07th October 2019.

The Special Secretary called for the meeting at a very short notice and said who so ever is in Delhi could attend the meeting. Since Atree ji had gone overseas, I had attended the meeting with FIEO, SBI, IPA and Officials of Logistics Division of Ministry of Commerce.

1. FIEO had sent a representation to PMO complaining that the FF are charging freight which is much higher than the shipping line charges and also the exchange rate adopted is also much higher than the prevailing exchange rate to the extent of 200 to 300 paisa.
2. The Spl Secretary had some proofs that the FF charge 10% more than the shipping line freight and also much higher than the exchange rate that the shipping line are charging.
3. Anything that is charged more than the shipping line would tantamount to illegal and it is the sovereign right of the government to protect the foreign exchange of the country.
4. It was also suggested FIEO, CSLA and SBI have worked with SOP which should be understood and act accordingly. (SOP enclosed).
5. FFFAI pointed out that the FF are authorized by the DG shipping and can issue bills of lading as carrier and freight to be charged.
6. There is always buy and sell rate.
7. The Secretary insisted on the wrong doing by the freight forwarders and insisted that the SOP of the bank and other have to be implemented.
8. If the same is not acceptable then he would make it a point to make a note in the file and send it higher ups.
9. There was huge deliberation on the same and it was conveyed that by 3rd the association need to respond for which FFFAI conveyed it is not possible since we need to inform CAI and AMTOI.
10. Revised date was fixed for 7th meeting.
11. Mr. Shantanu & Mr. Arun from AMTOI, Mr. Makrand Pradhan, Mr. O P Gupta, Mr. Nityam Khosla and Mr. Sanjeev Mohindru from CAI and from FFFAI Mr. P S Atree and Mr. S. Ramakrishna attended the meeting.
12. Apart from the above CSLA, SBI, IPA, INSA and FIEO were there.
13. The meeting was spear headed by Shantanu who was backed up by Mr. O P Gupta, Mr. Nityam and Mr. Makrand from CAI.
14. After lots of deliberation it was decided to give two weeks time to have a SOP.
15. Meanwhile we had got the commitment from FIEO that he shall ensure the payments from his members in case of default which would be part of SOP.

Warm regards,

S. Ramakrishna
Immediate Past Chairman