



भारतीय प्रतिरक्षा मजदूर संघ

Bharatiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh

(AN ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF DEFENCE WORKERS)

(AN INDUSTRIAL UNIT OF B.M.S.)

(RECOGNISED BY MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, GOVT. OF INDIA)

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Ref:BPMS/MOD/Indigenisation/186(8/1/R)

Dt:01/4/2020

To

The Secretary,
Department of Defence Production
Ministry of Defence
South Block
New Delhi – 110 011

Subject: Constitution of "Committee on Indigenisation of Critical and Strategic Raw Material.

Reference: MoD Order No.18(2)/16/PSCM/DP(Plg-MS) dt.31/12/2019.

Sir,

With an objective to reduce dependence on imports of certain critical and strategic raw materials and also to encourage domestic raw material manufacturers through policy/procedural interventions, MoD vide letter cited under reference above has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Director (Production) Midhani with the following terms of reference :

- a) Identification of critical raw materials which are required to be indigenized for the purpose of manufacturing of Defence products.
- b) Road map for indigenization of those identified raw materials by domestic industry including process of inspection, accreditation and Quality certification etc.
- c) Ways to integrate the indigenized raw materials in the capital and revenue procurement process of OFB/DPSUs/Services.
- d) Examine the feasibility of including raw materials as avenue for discharge of offset obligation by the foreign OEMs.

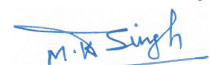
2. While appreciating the efforts of MoD in ensuring "Make in India" across all spectrum of activities, we desire to pen down the following for kind consideration.

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3. The private sector in conjunction with its various trade associations and also certain high level audit firms have been vehemently trying to lure the government into believing that it has the requisite capability to produce anything and everything in India through ToT's, MoU's etc. But as days are passing, all these are turning into just oasis.
4. On the other hand, Ordnance Factories are having a robust infrastructure and expertise in metallurgical arena – both ferrous and non-ferrous. Leaving aside the 1872 "Foundry & Shell Factory" legacy, today OFB is galloping a full speed in the field and some of its notable achievement have been granting of a Patent on "2000 Magapascal Ultra High Strength Steel" to signing of a MoU with Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research. The sincerity of the organization can also be illustrated by the emphasis laid during the Steel Conference held at New Delhi on 17/02/2020 wherein the need for an institutional mechanism led by Ministry for identifying steel grade for indigenization was stressed by Chairman/OFB.
5. A study of global scenario clearly reveals the monopolistic trends in Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Rare Earth Materials (REMs) and hence it would be prudent at this junction to emphasis on own R&D and exploration of our own reserves rather than ToT's from OEMs.
6. As on date, OFB's various metallurgical units – be it as Katni (Madhya Pradesh) or Ambarnath (Maharashtra) or Ishapore (Kolkata) does not have adequate work load and our affiliated Unions, especially that of Katni has been highlighting their plight through various correspondences to Hon'ble RM and RRM from time to time.
7. As already mentioned above, OFB not only has infrastructure but a huge pool of talented manpower and hence it would be prudent to utilize its services in the fulfillment of the national endeavor, rather than depending on ToT's from OEM's.
8. The report of the subject committee may have already been received at MoD and we are quite confident that it is under examination.
9. In the meantime we request you to kindly explore ways to ensure adequate workload to the existing Metallurgical units of OFB and also rope in OFB in this great national cause.
10. We do hope MoD will consider our request and provide adequate work load and R&D opportunity to OFB metallurgical units.

Thanking You,

Yours truly



(Mukesh Singh)
General Secretary