

EPCH Southern Office organizes visit to Air Cargo Complex and Inland Container Depot

30th September, 2014; Bangalore

EPCH Southern Regional Office organized a visit to the Air Cargo Complex and Inland Container Depot, Bangalore on 30th September 2014 for its member-exporters based in Bangalore.

At the Air Cargo Complex, Mr. Praveen Kumar, Superintendent of Customs, conducted the group of exporters



The group of EPCH member exporters at the Air Cargo Complex and Inland Container Depot

around the export and import sections. Mr. Kumar, Senior Manager, Air India SATS Airport Services Pvt. Ltd., explained how a shipping bill is registered online, the documents verified against the cargo brought by the forwarding agents and after examining the cargo, how the 'Let Cargo' is issued. How the 'Vol. Wt.' is calculated was also explained to the group. In the import section, the examination of the cargo for levy of Duty, if any, and discharge was shown to the group. The members had an in-depth discussion with the Customs and the officials of the Air India SATS. The questions raised by the members related to the duration required for cargo inspection, the frequency of flights, the safety of cargo and maximum weights of cargo taken on board passenger and cargo flights.

The group visited the office of the Container Corporation of India Limited. Mr. Shastry, Senior General Manager, Southern Region, Concor, explained the working of the Container Corporation of India Limited. The group was taken around the various sections and showed how the Customs examination of cargo takes place, the storage facilities, the handling and the dispatch of cargo by rail to Chennai. The members expressed that such visits were more enlightening than class room discussions. ■

Govt. to put in place system to track movement of containers

The government would soon put in place a system to track the movement of containers real time with a view to remove logistical bottlenecks and ensure timely delivery of consignments. The project - Logistics Data Bank (LDB) - is being developed under the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), which is at an advance stage of implementation.

Different departments and ministries including the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and the Shipping Ministry are in the process of finalizing the project, conceptualized by Japan-based NEC Corporation. Regulatory framework for charging mandatory user charges has been deliberated with the Shipping Ministry. The LDB would address the issue of tracking and viewing the movement of containers across the ports to the Inland Container Depot (ICDs) and end users. It would also enable the centre, states, importers, exporters and other stakeholders to assess comparative performance, identify inefficiencies and bottlenecks to develop strategies to ensure the development of the sector.

Reduction in the lead time and transaction cost as a result of predictability and optimization achieved through LDB would attract companies to set up or open new centres in the DMIC zone. The project would be first implemented at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT). ■ Source: PTI