

**Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Grievance Committee on DMI&SP Policy, held on 11/10/2018 at 05.00 P.M. under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Rasika Chaube, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Steel**

1. List of Officers who attended the meeting is enclosed as Annexure –I.
2. At the outset, Chairperson of the Grievance Committee welcomed the participants to the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Grievance Committee. The Committee was apprised that vide letter dated 26/09/2018 Ministry of Railways (MoR) had requested for exemption for procurement of 60 Kg (1080 Grade) for the quantity of 7.10 lakh metric tonnes rails through open global tender.
3. Later, vide letter dated 04.10.2018 MoR again informed that the quantity and specifications of the rails to be procured through global tender has been reviewed and requested for supersession of their earlier letter dated 26.09.2018 seeking exemption. They have stated that in view of operation of 25T Axle load trains, Indian Railways needs to procure 1.95 lakh Metric Tonnes 60 Kg 1175 HT ‘rails’ immediately.
4. In this context SAIL stated that they have successfully developed following rails which have also been proven in 10-15 years of field trial in association with Indian Railways which have higher yield stress than 1175 HT proposed by Railways for imports:
  - i) Niobium Rail
  - ii) Vanadium Rail
  - iii) Copper- Molybdenum Rail
  - iv) Nickel- Chromium- Copper Rail (NCC)
5. Further, SAIL stated that any of the above 4 grades of rails are suitable for usage on 25 T axle load. However, Copper-Molybdenum Rail has the best parameters for the purpose and in addition it also offers substantially high corrosion resistance and thus will have higher life on the track leading to lower product life cycle cost. SAIL stated that a transfer of technology would be required for Alumino–Thermic (AT) welding. This welding would be tested over a period of one year after installation of rails. Since rails would be laid at least 18 months from now, then in their case the trial would be successful after 30 months only after that Railways can utilise 1175 HT Rail for 25T Axle load. In case trial fails, then another 30 months delay will take place.
6. MoR on their part, stated that ‘rail’ is one of the main components of track and has direct bearing on safety of train operations and it cannot be treated at par with other routine products. Besides the technology, the consistency in the process of production of rails for

their suitability on passenger traffic operation is essentially necessary. They stated that past performance of rails on a passenger traffic and /or mixed traffic railway system will be included as part of the eligibility criteria for procurement of rails by Indian Railway.

7. MoR stated that the provision of 20% of Net procurable Quantity shall be kept in the tender for domestic bidder (s) as 'Developmental Order', if Railway is prima facie satisfied that they are technically suitable and capable of executing the order.
8. Other Indian 'rails' manufacturer i.e. M/s JSPL stated that they have supplied similar specifications 'rails' to Government of Iran. M/s JSPL further stated that they are able to supply requisite grade and quantity to Indian Railways.
9. The Committee opined that JSPL may submit the performance certificates of 'rails' supplied to other countries to the Grievance Committee. Chairman emphasized that tender conditions should not be restrictive so that more Indian bidders could participate.
10. **After detailed deliberations on the above matter, the Grievance Committee opined that since the matter is technical in nature, hence a Committee may be constituted consisting of members from RDSO, MECON and RDCIS (SAIL) to check the suitability of rails and technical issues raised by MoR and SAIL. The Committee may submit the report by 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.

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**List of the officers attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Grievance Committee on DMI&SP Policy, held on 11.10.2018 at 05.00 P.M. under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Rasika Chaube, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Steel**

**Members of Grievance Committee**

- 1) Smt. Rasika Chaube, Additional Secretary, M/o Steel
- 2) Shri Atul Bhatt, CMD, MECON Ltd.
- 3) Dr. A.S. Firoz, ERU

**Ministry of Steel**

- 1) Shri Pritam S. Purkayastha, DGM (TTD),M/o Steel
- 2) Shri S.K. Mohanty, Under Secretary, M/o Steel
- 3) Shri Amit Singh, IDD, M/o Steel

**Representatives from Organizations/ Associations**

- 4) Smt. S.Mondal, Director (Commercial) , SAIL
- 5) Shri Alok Sahay, ED (Comm), SAIL
- 6) Shri V.K. Chama, JSPL