

**ITEM NO. 2: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 87th MEETING
OF SPICES BOARD HELD AT KOCHI VIJAYAWADA ON 29th FEBRUARY,
2020**

**MINUTES OF THE 87th MEETING OF SPICES BOARD HELD AT KOCHI
VIJAYAWADA ON 29th FEBRUARY, 2020**

The 87th Meeting of the Spices Board was held at the Taj Gateway Hotel, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh at 11.30 am on 29th February, 2020. Shri Subhash Vasu, Chairman, Spices Board, presided over the meeting.

The following members were present:

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| 16 Shri GVL Narasimha Rao, MP (RS) | Member |
| 17 Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan, Vice-Chairman | -do- |
| 18 Shri Stany Joseph Pothen | -do- |
| 19 Ms. Annu Shree Poonia | -do- |
| 20 Shri S G Medappa | -do- |
| 21 Shri P Vikram Reddy | -do- |
| 22 Dr. Dasam Umamaheswara Raju | -do- |
| 23 Shri T T Jose | -do- |
| 24 Shri Nandyala Satyanarayana | -do- |
| 25 Shri Ajit Pai, OSD, Niti Aayog | -do- |
| 26 Dr. Borse, Head, SFS, CSIR-CFTRI | -do- |
| 27 Dr. Sathosh J Eapen, ICAR-IISR | -do- |
| 28 Dr. Rao, Jt. Director, IIP | -do- |
| 29 Shri D.Sathiyam, IFS, Secretary, Spices Board and Representative of the MoC | -do- |

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:

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|-----------------------------|--------|
| 1. Adv. Dean Kuriakose, MP | Member |
| 2. Shri B Y Raghavendra, MP | -do- |
| 3. Shri Bhojraj Saraswath | -do- |
| 4. Shri Rajendra Kasath | -do- |
| 5. Shri Sen Tabah | -do- |

The following members were absent:

1. Horticulture Commissioner, Min. of Agri. & Farmers welfare, GoI, New Delhi
2. Representative from the State of Karnataka
3. Shri Arun Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Empowerment, GoI, New Delhi
4. Economic Advisor, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GoI, New Delhi.

The following Officers from the Board attended the Board meeting.

- 1 Smt. A Shainamol, IAS, Director(Finance)
- 2 Shri P M Suresh Kumar, Director(Administration)
- 3 Dr. A B Rema Shree, Director(R&D)
- 4 Shri S Nallakannu, Director(Marketing) i/c

Shri Subhash Vasu, Chairman, Spices Board extended a hearty welcome to the Hon'ble Members, Secretary and the newly appointed member namely Shri GVL Narasimha Rao, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha). Chairman gave a brief opening address. In the opening address Chairman stated that he had come to know of corruption allegations against the Board and stressed the need to streamline the functioning of the Board in a transparent manner and to have some follow up action. Further he hoped that all Board members would take his observation in its right spirit and he requested the Board members for sincere input and cooperation for the successful journey.

This was followed by a round of introduction by all the members present. Thereafter the agenda items were taken up. Chairman distributed his written remarks on the agenda items to the members and requested the Director to read out the text on each agenda.

Item No.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 86TH meeting of the spices board and action taken.

In his initial remarks, Chairman stated that Item No.4 of the last meeting was discussed but not finalised. A gist of what he stated in the written remarks supplied is as follows: in the context of issuing auctioneer licenses issued for the block year 2017-20, neither the rules nor the guidelines formulated by the Board comprehend the constitution of a Technical Committee consists of external members and that the license issued during the era of former Chairman/Secretary was a result of breach of statutory provisions. The reason assigned by the illegal body for issuing new license to M/s. Spice More Trading Company was liable to be cancelled, as it had not complied with the statutory directions. He said that there had been fraud and mis-representation in the matter of process of the Applications as provided in Rule 7 of the Cardamom (Licensing and Marketing) rule 1987 and that as per Rule, a show cause notice to be issued to the said company to show cause, why the license should not be cancelled after affording reasonable opportunity.

His written remarks further mentioned that ‘issuance of license is the prerogative of the Board and the Board might constitute a Sub-Committee to enquire and report to the Board regarding the illegality committed in the matter in regard to the issuance of Auctioneer License and based on the report of the said sub-committee further action may be pursued in the matter. Since the issuance of the license under Cardamom Auction (Marketing and Licensing) Rules, is an exclusive exercise of the Board alone, the Board may constitute a permanent Sub-Committee consisting of its members and Chairman to process the application in accordance with Law’.

Secretary, Spices Board cum Representative of the MoC stated that the comments of the Chairman was just received when the meeting began; many of the statements were to be verified and hence he required some time to respond on this; since being a representative of the Ministry of Commerce, it would be proper for him to have studied and come up with a proper remarks on all the points raised. He further stated that, on the matter of issue of auctioneer licenses, the main charge made out by the Chairman was that under the former Chairman, there was breach of statutory provisions while granting licenses since the applications were processed through a Technical Committee with external members which was not specified in the Rules and Act. He pointed out that it was an internal mechanism of the Board for processing the applications. Secretary further stated that the technical committee was constituted, applications were processed and licenses were issued for the block year 2017-20 using the emergency powers of secretary when the Board was not in place as the decisions could not wait disposal by the Board. As required in the statues, the matter of grant of auctioneer licenses for the block year 2017-20 was placed in the previous Board meeting on 16th Nov 2019 for ratification.

Secretary further added that if the Board modifies or reverses the decision taken by the former Chairman when there was no Board in existence, such modification or reversion shall be without prejudice to the validity of any action taken before such modification or reversion; Such modification or reversion by the Board will have only prospective effect.

Shri Varghese Sebastian Moolan, Vice Chairman pointed out that during the last meeting of the Board, this was discussed and it was decided to constitute a sub-committee and wanted to know whether any sub-committee was formed in this regard. To this Secretary, Spices Board informed that it could not be done as confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting was still awaiting approval by the Chairman and that only after the minutes gets confirmed, further action could be initiated. He informed that the draft minutes pertaining to the agenda item on auctioneer license was not accepted by the Chairman till now, and the minutes of the meeting was not approved by the chairman for circulation.

Referring to the issue of licenses, Chairman told that actions were taken without placing it in the Board. He further told that there were lot of allegations against the Board and he didn't want the same to continue.

Hon'ble MP, Shri GVL Narasimha Rao commented that 'the Board meeting should address the real objectives of the Board instead of internal conflicts; Conflicts need to be resolved; Mandates given to the Board, Chairman and Secretary are to be respected'. He enquired about the cases filed in connection with the issue of Auctioneer Licenses and suggested that the Chairman, Secretary and others should sit down, discuss and resolve the issues; The conflicts should not be brought into the Board Meeting and the Board should discuss and plan about positive initiatives like export promotion, how to help the growers, etc. He observed that 'the current licenses would expire in August 2020; we need to look prospectively' and opined that the process of issuing licenses are to be carried out as per the provisions of the Act and Rules.

Secretary told that, in the last Board Meeting, Chairman wanted to cancel certain licenses issued, and a sub-committee was proposed to look into it. He stated that 'the proposal of cancellation of license, if implemented, would be a drastic decision; If cancellation of any license is required, it should be done only by adopting proper procedure'.

Mr. Stany Joseph Pothan informed that cancellation of already issued licenses may not be in the interest of the growers. He suggested that status quo shall be maintained in this regard.

Hon'ble MP Shri GVL Narasimha Rao, informed that cancelling the license without completing the due process will lead to court cases. He suggested that, with the support of the Chair, formation of sub-committee should be accelerated and the sub-committee should give recommendation as early as possible and then the Board has to take action.

At this juncture, Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan informed that he was appointed as Vice Chairman in the last Board Meeting and till date he is not given a room in Board's office. Secretary, Spices Board informed that 'the minutes of the last meeting is yet to be approved and that there is no provision in the act/rules to provide such facility to Vice-Chairman; However, a room is available in Board's Office which can be used by him whenever he visits Office'.

Hon'ble MP stressed the need for solving the issues amicably. Hon'ble MP enquired about the eligibility criteria for an applicant to get an auctioneer license and whether it was followed in case of licenses issued for the block 2017-20.

The criteria adopted for inviting EoI and issuing the licenses were explained by Director. It was also informed by Director that the EOI was invited in 2018 by releasing an advertisement all over India to get as many applications and scrutiny of application was done by the technical committee.

Secretary informed that he was not contesting the fact that the Board had powers to issue licenses. Issue of licenses involve certain administrative actions which are required to be completed before the matter is placed before the Board. He stated that Board is expected to provide guidance to the executive and to decide important matters and the executive should take care of administrative works. He requested that the Board should consider this aspect while framing any guidelines or arriving decisions. For example, he stated that in the matter of auctioneer license, the works of scrutiny of applications, field inspections, etc are to be taken care of by the executive while the Board may decide the grant of licenses and frame guidelines. Chairman, vice-Chairman and some other members felt that the Board members can do all these tasks through its sub-committee where officers can also be members.

Ms. Annusree Punia expressed her view that that Board should not consider ineligible applicants for issue of licence and issues to be resolved first.

Shri Ajit Pai had suggested that the Board should immediately accelerate the process

of formation of the Sub-Committee to resolve the issue of licensing matters at the earliest.

Secretary, Spices Board informed the Board that ‘another application for license which needs to be considered and decided by the board as per the orders of Hon’ble High Court, is placed in the present Board meeting as Agenda No 5’; a contempt of court petition has been filed by the applicant whose application is pending for the issue of license, against Secretary by name’. He informed that the office filed an affidavit before the Hon’ble Court seeking 45 days time for compliance, informing the Court that the issue of license would be considered by the Board in its next Board Meeting on 29th Feb 2020 and that the Hon’ble court passed an order to communicate the Board’s decision to the 7th respondent within seven days from its meeting on 29th Feb 2020. He reiterated the need to convey the board’s decision within the given timeline lest it would invite contempt of court. The members noted the direction of the High Court and contempt petition filed by the applicant against Secretary. Hon’ble MP shri GVL Narasimha Rao stressed that this issue needs to be handled sensitively as in involves Contempt of Court proceedings and the Hon’ble court would expect compliance to its orders within the timeline given.

Hon’ble MP observed that there exist a conflict between executive and the Board and wanted the provisions/ privileges available in the act/rules for Chairman and Vice Chairman have to be respected. Secretary told that there has been no deviation from any of the powers/provisions given to the Chairman as per the act/rule/Govt. direction.

Hon’ble MP stated that the Board should spend time for deciding the criteria for issuing licenses for the coming block period and suggested that the Board might nominate a committee to look into the various issues involved in issuing Auctioneer Licenses..

Chairman informed that he wanted to be a member of the sub-committee and that Legal matters also shall be considered by the sub-committee.

Secretary informed that ‘though there are 12 active auctioneers at present, we are not restricting the number of auctioneers to 12. It has been stated in the affidavits filed by the Board in the past that the Board would like to encourage as many auctioneers as possible to foster competition which may benefit the cardamom growers’. Chairman informed that the sub-committee may decide on this.

Hon’ble MP also commented that there should not be any limitation in the number of auctioneers. Farmers interest shall be safeguarded. Criteria for selection of auctioneers has to be circulated after extensive consultation with existing auctioneers and other stakeholders.

After detailed deliberations, it was decided to constitute a Sub-Committee to look into the merits of the eligibility of the applicants granted with fresh auctioneer licenses during the block period 2017-20

- 1 Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan, Vice Chairman
- 2 Shri Stany Joseph Pothen, Member
- 3 Shri S G Medappa, Member
- 4 Shri S Nallakannu, Director (Marketing), Spices Board

The Committee shall study the matter as per the Rules and Terms of Reference prescribed for the grant of Auctioneer License of the Spices Board and submit its report at the earliest, based on which a decision will be taken by the Board and submitted before the Hon’ble High Court of Kerala.

The following sub-committee was constituted for the future process for issue of licenses and ensure transparency.

- 1 Dr. Varghese Sebastian Moolan, Vice Chairman
- 2 Shri Stany Joseph Pothen, Member
- 3 Shri S G Medappa, Member
- 4 Shri P.M.Suresh Kumar, Director (Admin), Spices Board

Item No.2 Amendment of rules and regulations Of Spices Board published

Noted.

Item No.3 Enhancement of annual lease rent of plots allotted at Spices Parks

The functioning of various Spices Parks set up by the Board was reviewed and the members observed that only a small number of entrepreneurs have started establishing processing units in the land allotted to them. It was felt that the objectives of establishing Spices Parks were not fully achieved and that there was undue delay in starting the spice processing units in the allotted plots across all the eight Spice Parks.

The Board members suggested that in view of the fact that there was lot of demand for taking land in the Spices Parks, immediate action should be taken to take back such plots wherein the allottee had not started construction within the given time and the plot could be re-allotted to other interested parties.

The members who visited the Guntur Spices Park on 28th February informed that two processing units, warehouse and cold storage are established and the units are well functioning in the allotted plots in the Guntur Spices Park.

Vice Chairman suggested to circulate the status of Spice Parks to all Board Members. He also proposed to increase the lease rent of plots.

Based on the discussions, it was decided to issue show cause notice to the plot owners who have not started construction and also to increase the lease rent. The allottees are required to respond within 30 days. If no response is received within 30 days, it would be deemed to be considered by a sub-committee for cancellation of plot. Hon'ble MP suggested that the sub-committee may examine all cases wherein the plot owners responded to the show cause conveying the reasons for the delay in starting the construction and place it before the Board.

Item No.5: Implementation of directions of division bench of Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in the judgment dated 17.12.19 IN WA No. 2137 of 2018.

Deliberated in Agenda No.1

Item No.6: Approval of the rationalization and restructuring of Spices Board by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

Noted

Item No.7: Status of consignment samples analyzed by Quality Evaluation Laboratory, Spices Board

Noted

Item No.8: Setting up of QEL, Kolkatta and Spice Park lab at Rae Bareli & strengthening infrastructure of QEL for commencing monitoring quality of spice exported to Saudi Arabia

During the discussions, Vice-Chairman enquired about the result of the delegation to Saudi Arabia in the matter of resuming cardamom exports to Saudi Arabia. Secretary informed the Board about the communication received from Saudi Food and Drug Authorities on relaxation given by the them in number of pesticide parameters and permissible limits. Director(R) and Scientist QEL informed the Board regarding the follow-up actions taken by the office to start testing the pesticide residue parameters required by Saudi Arabia. Vice-Chairman appreciated the outcome of delegation to Saudi Arabia and he wanted the Labs to start the prescribed pesticide analysis for cardamom to Saudi Arabia at the earliest.

Vice-Chairman compared the analytical charge between Private Laboratories and Spices Board laboratories and observed that 'Spices Board's analytical charges are very low compared with that of private laboratories'.

Noted

Item No.9: Constitution of Turmeric Task Force

Hon'ble MP and Board member enquired about the objectives of Turmeric Task Force. Director (Dev) explained the objectives. Secretary explained the background of forming the Turmeric Task Force.

Hon'ble MP proposed for a Task Force Committee for Chilli, the largest exported spice. He shared a letter with Secretary regarding issues faced by Chilli farmers in AP. He wished that the Board should send a letter to the State Govt. based on the issues raised in the letter. He proposed to constitute a task force consisting of Board members from the concerned area, farmers & producer Organizations and Exporters. He told that farmers required chilli drying facilities including tarpaulins.

Hon'ble MP enquired about representation from the NE in the Board and he was informed that there is a member in the Board from NE. Considering the potential of organic cultivation in NE, Hon'ble MP emphasized the need for giving more attention to NE.

Mr. Vicar Reddy, member informed that there was lot of production of Ginger in Jehrabad, Telangana and proposed to organize Training Programmes and export promotion activities for the benefit of Ginger farmers. He also proposed to supply of Ginger Slicing & Peeling Machines in addition to Turmeric Boiler and Polisher & Telangana.

Vice Chairman proposed that 12 spices, viz, Chilli, coriander, turmeric, black pepper, fennel, mustard, cumin, ginger, garlic, cinnamon, cloves, cardamom were to be brought under Spices Board for production development. Vice Chairman also proposed to locate the Chilli Mandi at Guntur near to the Spices Park. He also informed the Board that a parliament committee earlier recommended the transfer of production development of major spices to Spices Board. Secretary informed that during 2017-18 there was one parliament committee namely Department Related Standing Committee on Commerce (DRPSC) to review the functions and activities of Spices Board and the committee had recommended to transfer the production & development of major spices to Spices Board. Hon'ble MP desired to get copy of the

report of DRPSC recommending transfer of production & development of major spices to Spices Board.

Hon'ble MP emphasized the need for improved interaction with Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) for the development of spices other than cardamom. Secretary informed that 'a proposal is being prepared by the Board, state wise, in consultation with DASD, to ensure that funds from the MoA is made available to meet the requirements of development of spices'. He informed that the same would be submitted to the MoA soon.

Smt Annu Shree Poonia proposed for State/National level seminar and Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. She talked about the quantum of cumin produced in Rajasthan and adulteration happening in Cumin and conveyed that farmers were not getting the facility for testing the quality of cumin in University Labs. She proposed schemes and a quality lab with basic testing facilities in Jodhpur Spices Park for the benefit of cumin farmers. She wanted to confirm whether Labs/Universities available in Rajasthan are willing to analyze the quality of cumin samples from farmers.

Secretary informed the Board about total investment required for establishing each laboratory and that such requests had been pending in respect of few other States. He also informed that BSM and National and State level seminar could be conducted soon in Jodhpur. Director (Dev) informed that there was provision for establishing Quality Laboratory in Agricultural Export Policy (AEP).

The member representing IISR Director informed that NRCS was going to conduct a national seminar in Ajmer on 14-15 March 2020. Vice chairman suggested that such information about major events happening in Spices Sector may be communicated to all Board Members.

Director (Dev) explained the reasons for not implementing certain post harvest programmes in the last three years and briefed Board's flag ship programmes proposed for the coming years. Secretary explained on fund allocations and the reasons as to why the Board discontinued supply of tarpaulins. Hon'ble MP informed

that he would be organizing a stakeholders meeting on 7th March at Guntur with the involvement of senior marketing and development Officers of the Board.

Noted

Item No. 10: Upgradation of Divisional Office Nizamabad to Regional Office Nizamabad

Secretary informed the Board about upgrading Nizamabad office to regional Office cum extension centre, posting a Deputy Director level Office in Nizamabad Office. Secretary informed the Board that the Nizamabad Office will take up extension activities very soon.

Noted

Item No. 11: Crop production details of cardamom (small and large) during 2019-20.

Noted

Item No. 12: Buyer Seller Meet for turmeric at Nizamabad in Telangana.

Mr. Vikram Reddy informed the Board regarding the success of BSM in Nizamabad. Director informed that, in Nizamambad, farmers used to sell Turmeric without proper drying and traders were taking advantage of this by procuring semi-dried turmeric and sell at a higher price after drying it and mixing with Turmeric from other Origins. During the BSM and during Board's Officers visit to Nizamabad Turmeric Market, farmers were advised to sell their produce with proper drying to get better price.

Noted

Item No.13: Review on export of Spices from India during April-Dec 2019 compared with April-Dec 2018

Director briefed the growth in export performance during Apr-Dec 2019 compared with Apr-Dec 2018.

Vice Chairman stressed the need for setting higher target for increasing exports. Members also emphasised the need for increasing the production, exports & quality and measures required for achieving the targets. Noting the limited mandate of the Board, they expressed the need for expanding the mandate of Spices Board and allocation of more funds.

Hon'ble MP emphasized the need for reducing the cost of production and processing the spices. Spices Board has to look for measures for cost effectiveness in production, quality improvement, competitiveness in the global market with due consideration of WTO restrictions.

TABLE AGENDA PLACED BY THE CHAIRMAN IN THE BOARD METING

Table Agenda No. 1: Appointment of new Standing Counsels on removing the existing panel:

Chairman and Vice-Chairman proposed appointing new standing counsels for the Board by replacing the existing standing counsel. They informed the Board that the present standing counsel has been attending Board's cases in High Court for more than 5 years and not effectively pleading the matters concerning the interest of the Spices Board.

Secretary informed that from the Secretariat side, they are happy with the services rendered by the present standing counsels and no complaints has been received against them for changing the standing counsels.

Hon'ble MP suggested to formulate criteria for selection of standing counsels, fix period for which they have to be engaged and prepare a panel by releasing an advertisement. He said 'selection of standing counsel has to be done by following due process

Secretary suggested for selection of standing counsels through a transparent process. Secretary also proposed that existing standing counsels may be continued to attend important cases before the High Court. The Board approved the replacement of the existing standing counsels with a panel of efficient standing counsels. Chairman informed the Board that new standing counsels will be appointed in consultation with Secretary.

Table Agenda No. 2: Delegation of powers of the Board & Delegation of powers to the Chairman:

This agenda was moved by the Chairman seeking to empower him with more powers through delegation by the board. In the agenda notes, Chairman stated that in all matters other than day-to-day affairs, transfers and posting, before taking action in any matter the previous concurrence sanction of the Chairman shall be obtained. In those matters wherein decision of the Board is necessary, the official concerned shall not take any decision overriding the Board. Chairman further stated that in the matter of Cardamom Auctioneer Licenses the officials concerned shall have no authority to proceed with the matter without concurrence and approval of the Board. In such matters, a sub-committee of the Board is essential. Prior to the constitution of this full board there had allegation of financial irregularities in relation to the Spices Exhibitions, Travel expenses (domestic and abroad).

Vice-Chairman also stated that 'every decision has to go through the Board except daily routines'. Hon'ble MP opined that 'as the Board is in place, whatever envisaged by the Board shall be followed'. Hon'ble MP told that 'exceptional powers available to the Secretary, when the Board was not in place, cannot be exercised as a routine when the Board is in place'.

Secretary informed that ‘the act and rules and its amendments detailing the powers of the Board, Chairman and Secretary are put in place by the Govt’. He further informed that the amendments in rules made by the Ministry were duly placed in the parliament and any proposal to bring any change in them could not be decided by the Board.

Hon’ble MP informed that the Board can only function within the purview of acts and rules framed by the Govt. The Board cannot frame rules. Any proposal to change the rules has to be referred to the Govt and approval to be obtained. He stated that ‘the matter of powers of the Board, Chairman and Secretary may be better left to the Government and the Legislature’.

Vice-Chairman told that new policies for development of Spices and participation in overseas exhibitions and delegations abroad have to be decided by the Board. Secretary opined that policy decisions and formulations of guidelines will be taken only with the approval of the Board. He informed that the matter participation in overseas exhibitions is now decided by the Ministry and the approval of Hon’ble Minister is taken for each such participation. Secretary further told that that the suggestion of vice-chairman regarding participation in overseas exhibitions can be referred to the Ministry.

Smt Annu Shree Poonia reminded her request for issuing ID Card and visiting Cards. She told that she was informed by the Office that the request for issuing ID cards to members was referred to the Ministry. Hon’ble MP informed that this issue exist in other organizations also. Hon’ble MP desired to know whether any other Board provides ID cards to its members and wanted to sort out this matter at the earliest.

Table Agenda no. 3: The reconstitution of vigilance wing of the Spices Board:

Chairman moved this agenda proposing that the Vigilance wing of Spices Board has to be reconstituted in consultation with the Board or Chairman on deputing employees having strong credentials for the sake of the institution and once the Vigilance wing is constituted it will have effective toll in all respects. Secretary informed that he is

satisfied with the performance of Officers posted in Vigilance wing and finds no reason to change them.

The Chairman emphasized the need for changing a particular officer working in the Vigilance department of the Spices Board as the present incumbent has been continuing for more than seven years.

The Board agreed to the suggestion of replacing Officer/s in Vigilance wing.

Table Agenda No. 4: The expenditure incurred by the Board from the last four years for providing gifts on behalf of the Board.

The details of expenditure incurred by the Spices Board in providing gifts during the last four years were sought by the Chairman.

Noted for compliance.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Item No.14: Downgrading the post of Dy. Director (Publicity) as Assistant Director(Publicity) temporarily

Approved.

Item No.15: Recruitment regulations – relaxation in experience

Approved

Item No. 16: Re-Designation of the then secretary post as Director (Administration)

Noted

Item No. 17: Trophies & awards for excellence in export of Spices during 2015-16 & 2016-17

Trophies & Awards for excellence in export of spices during 2015-16 & 2016-17 was distributed by Hon Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Govt of India on 22.2.2020 at Kochi. On the sidelines of Export Award function, new projects for the Indian Spices Sector have been launched by the Hon'ble Minister

Noted.

The Board members desired that the Minutes of the meeting needs to be circulated in advance before the next meeting.

The meeting came to a close at 2.30 pm with a vote of thanks to the Hon'ble Members.
