

The Minutes of the Extraordinary General Body Meeting of All India Central Excise Association of Gazette Executive Officers Held on 11/8/2017 at Cochin.

1. The meeting commenced at 10:45 hours with a silent prayer. Shri Tainus Mathai, Secretary (Cochin zone) welcomed the office bearers, CEC members and delegates to the meeting. In the absence of the President and the Vice President, Sri. PV. Narayanan, Secretary (North Zone) presided over the meeting. In his presidential address, he explained the background on which the extraordinary general body of the association was convened. The meeting was convened as per the decision taken on the CEC meeting held on 24.7.2017 and purpose for which the meeting was convened was to elect office bearers for the post of President fallen vacant on account of the transfer of Shri. P.C. Ajithkumar on his promotion and for the posts of General Secretary, Secretary (Hqrs), Secretary (Calicut) who declared willingness to step down from their respective posts in the last CEC meeting. Further, the Vice President, Secretary (Cochin) and Treasurer are also expressed their willingness to step down to pave way for election to their posts also. It is also required to take decision as to where the Kerala unit has to align with in the All India Association consequent to the convening of 2 conventions of the Association at Gandhidam & Chennai and having two set of office bearers in for All India Body. Thereafter, he proposed the agenda for the meeting and the body approved the same. He also proposed name of Shri N.V.Saju as Election Officer to conduct election which was also accepted by the body.

2. Shri Somasekhara Pillai presented General Secretary Report on the state conference of the ALACEGEO, Kerala unit was held on 10th and 11th of November 2016 at Malampuzha, Palakkad and the activities thereafter. In the discussion held on the report, Shri N.P Padmakumar opined that the report was too brief and it did not bring out the facts and circumstances pertaining to the 2 conventions convened simultaneously at all India level. Shri E Sreedhar pointed out that the number of units stated to have attended the Chennai Convention was actually 17 and not 11 as given in the report. The general secretary replied that the reporting of the events pertaining to the 2 conventions have already been made in the previous executive committee meeting. The correction pointed out by Sri E Sreedhar was accepted. Thereafter the report was passed. Shri Roy Joseph, Treasurer presented accounts which was also passed without any objection. Meanwhile, the election officer announced the schedule for the election.

3. The returning officer announced that for all the posts on which election is being conducted, except for the post of general secretary, only one nomination each has been received. For the post of the general secretary two nominations has been received. He announced that if both the candidates are continuing, election would be

held after lunch. When the meeting was called to order after lunch, the Election announced that one of the candidates who have given nomination for the post of General Secretary has withdrawn the nomination and therefore there was no need to conduct the election. He thereafter announced the name of the office bearers who have been elected unopposed.

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| President | Shri. Antonio Netticadan |
| Vice President | Shri. C.J. Thomas |
| General Secretary | Shri. Arun Zachariah.P |
| Secretary (North) | Shri. P.V. Narayanan |
| Secretary (Hqrs) | Shri. E Sreedhar |
| Secretary (Central) | Shri. Joju M Mampilly |
| Secretary (South) | Shri. Biju J. Mathew |
| Treasurer | Shri. Padmarajan C |

4. The outgoing General Secretary Shri Somasekhara Pillai addressed the meeting. In his speech, he thanked the members for the support extended to him and he informed that he will not be a member of this Association from the next day onwards. Thereafter, the new office bearers were invited to assume charge. Shri. Antonio Netticadan, President and Shri. Arun Zachariah.P, General Secretary made acceptance speeches and thereafter the business session continued. The representatives of various units were called to express their opinion as to where the Kerala unit has to align themselves in the all India Association. Kannur, Kozhikode, Thrissur, Hqrs Cochin, Audit Cochin, Kathrikadaavu, CCP, Idukki, Kakkanad, Kottayam, Kollam, Alleppey, Pathanamthitta, Trivandrum AP/ACC and Trivandrum Hqrs Units favored joining the Association led by Shri. R. Manimohan. Representatives of Palakkad and Perumbavoor units stated that they have not taken a decision. The president concluded that it is the unanimous decision of the house that the Kerala unit will align with the all India Association led by Shri. R. Manimohan. Since some of the units have also suggested that the objection to the Association led by Shri. Ravi Mallik is that it is headed by an Assistant Commissioner, in case he vacates the post, efforts should be taken to unify both the associations. The general secretary stated that the reasons for the split in the all India level is not merely because of Sri Ravi Mallik's continuation in the Association leadership even after his promotion as assistant Commissioner. The basic issue is the manner in which the affairs of the Association was conducted by Sri Ravi Mallik that caused resentment. The proposal to include promotee Assistant Commissioners also as members of the Association was mooted in the Jaipur meeting which was the penultimate executive committee meeting before the Daman Convention. This proposal was rejected by the meeting. During the Daman convention again a proposal was mooted to include promotee Assistant Commissioners as associate members. While this proposal was accepted, some of the promotee Assistant Commissioners present there formed a welfare Association for the promotee Assistant Commissioners there itself. Thereafter this welfare Association was formally converted into a service Association at New Delhi and the Secretary General and the President had attended that meeting. When a separate Association for promotee Assistant Commissioners existsthere is no meaning

in including them in the Superintendents Association. There is no comparison with a Central Excise group B Gazetted Executive Officers Association comprising of promotee group A officers also and that of ITGOA. In the case of Income Tax the promotion to the Assistant Commissioner level is from a single feeder cadre. Whereas in our case it is from 3 streams which have conflicting interest. Therefore a single Association for group B and promotee group A officers is not feasible in our department. The manner in which Ravi Mallik compromised the interests of the Association was also a major issue. Just before the executive committee meeting/ preconvention meeting held at New Delhi in February 2017, the IRS officers Association had called for a meeting of all the staff associations to discuss the threat perceived on account of implementation of GST. It was reported in our meeting that our association had agreed to go along with agitation led by IRS Association but the president had refused to sign the minutes of the joint meeting stating that the ratification of the association has to be taken. The meeting forcefully rejected the idea of having a joint moment with Group A Association. In spite of the same Sri Ravi Mallik reneged from the decision and went along with the IRS Association for agitation movements. His promotion was only the last straw in the chain of events. As of now most of the units who have strong organisational base and are in a position to collect DDO certificates are with Manimohan and those with Mallik does not have the organisational base to collect DDO certificates. So once the recognition issue is resolved, the other faction would become insignificant. From our side we have to complete the exercise of collection of subscription within the month of August itself and hand over the DDO certificates.

5. The General Secretary also made a suggestion to the house that over the period more and more lady officers are attending the association meetings but we do not have a representative in the leadership. Since in all spheres of public activity proactive steps are being taken to give representation to the women, we should also fall in line by inducting a lady representative by creating an additional post of Vice President. This proposal was accepted by the house and the President asked anyone of the lady officers present to volunteer for the post. Smt. Thara Divakar expressed willingness and the house selected her to be the vice president of the Association

6. The President thereafter invited the members to raise issues that requires immediate attention of the Association. Sri. N P Padmakumar raised the issue of wearing of uniform in the coming Independence Day as a circular has been issued by the administration that all uniformed officers should be present in proper uniform and they should also attend the parade training which are to be conducted by 2 Superintendents. Shri Sebastian DeSilva said that he is one of the Superintendent who has been detailed for conducting the parade training since he is an Ex serviceman. He stated that if the association requires he has no hesitation to attend without wearing the uniform. Shri Biju J Mathew exhorted that a strong stand should be taken in this matter and a clear message should be given to the administration that none of our

members would be wearing the uniform. Sri, C.J. Thomas suggested that since the all India Association had addressed the revenue Secretary seeking clarification as to the continuance of uniform in the GST regime it would be better to maintain status quo. Considering all the opinions expressed it was decided that the association would you a letter to the Chief Commissioner stating the fact that there is no authority for uniform and therefore our members may not be insisted on wearing the uniform.

7. Sri. PV Narayanan pointed out to the fact that many of the Superintendent's posts remains vacant in formations and the shortage is acute in the Calicut side. At the same time the information is that there is no vacancy in the cadre of superintendents. This requires a detailed study.

8. Sri. EC Sasidharan pointed out that at the time of the organisation consequent to GST the newly created divisions are not housed in convenient places. In the case of Chalakudy division it should have been stationed in Irinjalakkuda which is more prominent area having a higher HRA rate. With regard to the training imparted on GST he stated that no training was given as to how the assessee has to work in GSTIN and hence it is very difficult to guide the members of the trade who comes for advice. The president informed that information videos are available in the CBEC website.

9. Sri Vinay Kumar representing Calicut airport highlighted the difficulty in doing 24 hours continuous duty. Sri Gangadharan stated that the 24 hours duty is on account of combining two 12 hours shifts and this was being done to enable officers from outside the Calicut to go home during their off days.

10. Sri Biju J Matthew stated that the present of transfer norms are outdated and effort should be taken to redraft the norms by making postings on the basis of station choice Commissionerate choice as is being done presently. He drew the attention to the report of the stagnation committee and asked to pursue the non-functional upgradation proposal. He wanted the association to be aggressive and should go to the extent of pointing out that in the GST regime officers off and above that of joint Commissioner has no role.

11. Shri. M R Ramachandran cautioned the meeting that the customs reorganization in on the anvil. The Associations in Custom house had proposed 3 customs commissionerate in Kerala and there is a threat of encroachment into our jurisdiction. We have to take efforts to retain our territory.

12. The issue of requirement of additional staff for legacy work was discussed. The units were required to quantify the legacy work in respect of formation under their charge so that in required places reinforcement could be sought.

13. Shri. Muraleedharan stated that after GST reorganization, the situation in Palakkad is unmanageable since 2 divisions have been merged into one. Additional staff is required in Palakkad North & South Ranges.

It was decided to address these issues after a proper study. The meeting was concluded at 3.30 PM