

WELFARE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE CHENNAI CUSTOMS ZONE W.E.F. 01.01.2017

Welfare includes anything that is done for the comfort and improvement of employees and is provided over and above the salary. The very logic behind providing welfare schemes is to create efficient, healthy, loyal and satisfied labor force for the organization. The welfare measures need not be in monetary terms only but in any kind/forms. Employee welfare includes improving the working atmosphere such as lighting, water, lifts, first aid, canteen, sitting facility for the staff and traders, restrooms etc. and providing accommodation facilities. The purpose of providing such facilities is to make their work life better and also to raise their standard of living. The Chennai Customs Zone has been striving to improve the welfare of the staff. Some of the initiative taken or under process during 2017 as given here under for the information of staff of the Zone.

1. ACCOMODATION FACILITIES

(a) ANNA NAGAR QUARTERS:

In order to provide better living condition, it is proposed to demolish the existing quarters at Anna Nagar and to construct 6 Block of (G+18 floors) consisting of 726 nos. residential quarters (288 nos. Type II quarters, 288 nos. Type-III quarters and 150 nos. Type-IV quarters after demolition of old quarters. This proposal has been accepted by the Board and the Standing Finance Committee has approved Rs.348.77 Crores towards this project. Approval has been communicated to ADG(SR-1), CPWD Chennai to start preliminary work of demolition and other preparatory works towards construction.

(b) NUNGAMBAKKAM QUARTERS

In respect of Nungambakkam Housing Project, Type V & VI it is proposed to construct one Block consisting of 36 houses in G + 18 Floor building with Multilevel Mechanical Car Parking at GST Bhavan Campus, Nungambakkam. The approved drawing of the proposed building has been sent to Senior Architect (CPWD), Chennai to prepare estimate cost of the project to obtain financial approval from the Board.

2. PRE 2016 PENSION CASES

Consequent to the implementation of the recommendation of the Seventh Pay Commission, the pension / family pension of the retired officials of the Chennai Customs Zone has to be revised and appropriate PPOs are to be issued.

As far as Chennai Customs Zone is concerned, a Special Team has been constituted under the supervision of Joint Commissioner (P & V) to look into the matter related to Revision of Pension of Pre-2016 pensioners/family pensions. Retired officials are taken care of and this zone is in the process of obtaining requisite information such as Pan Number, Aadhaar No. etc. As on date pension cases 1005 retired officials have to be processed out of which 80% of the cases have been completed and forwarded to PAO for issuance of revised PPOs.

To overcome the shortage of staff in Pay and Accounts Office (PAO), considering the importance of the matter, this office has extended support to the PAO'S Office by posting additional staff from the Chennai Customs Zone for speedy disposal of the pension cases. Revision by PAO, Custom House and uploading in the CPAO Website is also under progress.

3. DISPOSAL OF APPEAL CASES OF OFFICERS

Welfare of the staff is being taken care of and priority is accorded for speedy disposal of the Appeal filed by the Departmental staff against the vigilance / disciplinary cases. Strenuous and constant efforts are taken to study and analyse the issues in depth and

wherever possible, within the framework of the Rules and Regulations, appropriate orders are issued. Within the short span of ten months and with the shortage of staff, this Zone has managed to dispose of 47 appeal cases.

4. SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN (SBA)

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBA) is a campaign in India that aims to clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of Indian cities. Chennai Customs Zone has devised and executed the plan in an exemplary manner making a visible change in and around Chennai Customs Zone. This zone have organized several events such as Cleaning up of Thiruvanmiyur Beach, Chennai Port WQ3/Wharf Area, May Day Park and providing colour coded garbage bins at May Day Park.

Funds has been allotted for cleaning / weeding of old records / removal of E-Waste, damaged furnitures etc. in the Sections and installation of compactors and beautification of the premises. Renovation of Sections are in progress. Compactors have been installed in some of the Sections.

(a) LANDSCAPING AND BEAUTIFICATION AND CLEANLINESS OF SURROUNDINGS:

Arranging of potted plants like ornamental flowers, seasonal flowers in Courtyard gardens and outer lawn to create an eco-friendly environment and plantation of trees in and around office complex have been undertaken and well maintained.

Issues of seepages in the office rooms, all overhead hanging wires, whitewashing and maintenance of room and toilets were attended.

(b) PROVIDING BORE WELL AND REVERSE OSMOSIS PLANT

Due to drop in ground water level, it is proposed to dig two bore wells to increase the water supply and to install Reverse Osmosis Plant to cater to the drinking water needs. The proposal presented by the Chennai Customs Zone has been included as Proper Project by the Board. The estimated cost is Rs.10,00,000/- (Appx.) and the same will be carried out after allocation of fund by the Board.

(c) RECYCLING OF WASTE WATER:

As the country is facing huge water scarcity, it is proposed to set up a water purification plant/recycling plant at this Custom House from the sewage waste water which can be reused for the secondary purposes such as gardening, flushing, washing of vehicles and pathways, floors, AC plant. This is the technology that enables reclamation of more than 95 percent of water. This Sewerage Treatment Plant is proposed to be carried out at the cost of Rs.6,72,000/-.

5. UPGRADATION OF REST ROOMS, RENOVATION OF RECEPTION AREA , SECURITY MEASURES IN WAREHOUSE

Attention and importance is given to the hygienic condition of the working place and to improve the situation, as a first measure, renovation of Rest Rooms are being taken up on Top Priority. The proposal for upgradation of restrooms was forwarded to Board and funds to the tune of Rs.1,07,43,500/- Crores was sought for Renovation of Reception Area, Upgradation of Toilets and for Security measures in Warehouse. At present Rs.47,43,500/- has been sanctioned for executing the project. CPWD (Civil) has been entrusted with the work and preliminary works are carried out by them for commencement of the work.

6. REPRESENTATION RECEIVED FROM STAFF REGARDING SERVICE MATTERS / TRANSFER ON ICT/LOAN BASIS/DEPUTATION

In the recent past there were many representation seeking transfer on Loan / Deputation / ICTs to various places on compassionate and this is due to appointment of large number of officers from other regions. The main cause for the ballooning of transfer requests is that the present system of recruitment is not able to find placement for local residents or people from the State.

A Committee consisting of Commissioners was constituted to frame the transfer policy on transfer and postings on loan basis/deputation /ICT. The meeting being conducted on quarterly basis to sort out the grievances. Circular to deal with Transfer Policy to deal with the requests of Gr. B & C officers for transfer on deputation or transfer on loan basis to other formations has been issued. Committee has considered all the representations received and about 60 representations have been disposed off. In the interest of transparency the action taken against the representation received have been displayed on the intranet.

7. ASSOCIATIONS GRIEVANCES

The grievances of the various Associations have been called for and a meeting was conducted for discussing the issues and the same has been referred to Board for consideration as a point for Chief Commissioner's Conference.

8. TRAINING

Training is critical for capacity building and since all the officers could not attend the training programmes outside the office due to work pressure or any other inconvenience, a In-house Training Cell has been set up and the same was launched vide Circular No. 51/2017 dated 08.08.2017. The training session is being conducted on every Wednesday between 10.30 to 11.30 hours and so far 11 trainings on various topics have been conducted.

9. VEHICLE REQUIREMENT

Due to the expansion of jurisdiction of Sea Customs which consists of Chennai Sea Port, Kattupalli Port and Ennore Port which are 25 kms. Away from Custom House and Air Customs consisting of Airport and Air Cargo Complex and consequent to the introduction of GST, the Customs work hitherto done by the Central Excise Officers have now been entrusted to Customs by which the territorial jurisdiction has been extended. Further creation of new Audit Commissionerate having All India jurisdiction, the requirement of vehicle have been increased.

In view of the above, this Zone has requested Board to grant administrative approval and financial sanction for purchase of 3 vehicles to Air Commissionerate and to accord expenditure sanction for purchase of 8 vehicles for Sea Commissionerate.

10. LED LIGHTS

This Zone presented the proposal for providing LED Lights in the Custom House (both interior and exterior) as an Energy saving measure by replacing the existing conventional tubelight fittings with that of LED fittings through CPWD at an estimated cost of Rs.1,42,24,053/-. Fixing of LED Lights will reduce the power cost and will work even at low voltage supply. These are eco friendly and produces little infra red light and close to no UV emissions. Due to long life span of LEDs maintenance and replacement cost will be very less and this is a go green project.

The above proposal was approved by the Board and fund was allotted to the tune of Rs.1,42,24,000/- under the 1% Incremental Revenue Scheme during the current Financial Year 2017-18 Fixing of LED Lights is in progress and tender is likely to be called for by the CPWD (Electrical).

11. SOLAR PANELS

Installation of 61KWP grid connected solar power system at Custom House, Chennai has been completed. The service provider i.e. Hero Future Energies is in receipt of approval from TANGEDCO and CEA for synchronizing the plant. TANGEDCO has instructed the service provider to install reverse power relay to curtail the excess generation during less/NIL consumption. The service provider is in the process of installing the reverse power relay suitable to the installed Solar Roof Top Plant.