

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
129th MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The 129th meeting of the Finance Committee of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was held at 11.00 a.m. on 29th January, 2016 in the Conference Room, 1st Floor, Zakir Hussain Block, NIE Campus, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi - 110016 under the chairpersonship of Dr. Hrushikesh Senapaty, Director NCERT. A list of members who attended the meeting is attached as Annexure - I.

The Director, NCERT extended a warm welcome to the committee members, after which the agenda items were taken up by the Secretary, NCERT.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 128th Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 08th September, 2015.

The minutes of the 128th meeting of the Finance Committee, held on 08th September, 2015, were confirmed. The comments received from MHRD (Sch.4) under Item No.9 of the minutes was received and complied with the same.

Item No. 2: Action taken on the Minutes of the 128th Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 08th September, 2015

The Committee noted the action taken by the Council on various decisions taken in the 128th meeting of the Finance Committee, held on 08th September, 2015.

Item No. 3: Procurement of Paper for the Session 2016-17.

Head, Publication Division stated that the Finance committee in its 128th meeting held on 08.09.2015 approved the proposal for:

- i Procurement of 10500 MTs of 80 GSM Maplitho Paper with NCERT watermark conforming to BIS Specification 1848/07 with latest amendments, if any, from DGS&D rate contract, from the mills having DGS&D Rate Contract. In case the DGS&D rate contract is not available then procurement of above quantity of paper may be considered through open tender.

- ii Procurement of 570 MTs of 220 GSM Art Card conforming to BIS Specification 4658/1988 with latest amendments, if any. The Art Card may be procured on DGS&D rate contract. In case, there is no firm on DGS&D Rate Contract, the same may be procured through open tender.
- iii The inspection of both varieties of paper may be assigned to Quality Assurance, DGS&D and the payment @ 1% of value of procured paper and Art Card plus taxes, if any, will also be reimbursed to the supplying mills.
- iv NCERT may review the applicability of payment of DGS&D referral charges @0.25% of value of procured paper and Art Card plus taxes to DGS&D vendor.
- v An additional 25% clause for text and cover paper may be allowed.

Accordingly, the Council floated tender for procurement of 10500 MTs of 80 GSM Maplitho Paper made from 100% virgin pulp (as it was done in previous years after obtaining approval from competent authority) for text paper and 570 MTs of 220 GSM Art Card since DGS&D R/c was not available at that time for both the varieties of paper.

Just after release of the tender, Council received various representations i.e. N R Agarwal Industries Limited, Gujarat Paper Mills Association and Dr.K.C.Patel (Hon'ble MP, Lok Sabha). Gujarat Paper Mills Association in their representation requested to delete the condition of virgin pulp and also requested to consider use of recycled paper for open and wide competitive tender as done by DGS&D in the interest of nation. They also stated that, any restrictive clause in the tender will encourage cartelization and limit the tender for the benefit of a few players.

Regarding Art Card, Federation of Paper Convertors of India have stated in their letter dated 3.11.2015 that NCERT was using Pulp Board 220 GSM Grade "S" up to year 2011-12 as per IS:4664 but later on changed to Art Board conforming to IS:4658. It was stated that Pulp Board of Grade "S" is similar to that used in Food Packing and specify the permissible presence of containments, whereas Art Card does not specifies any containment and Art Card is costlier compared to Pulp Board. Hence, requested to procure only Pulp Board grade "S" for Text Book (Cover Printing). In view of this, competent authority decided to withhold the tender process.



NCERT has also received representations from M/s TNPL, M/s HPCL, M/s Satia Industries Limited and from Federation of Indian Agro Paper Mills in the support of paper made from virgin pulp. Mills have also quoted the judgement of M/s Shah Paper Mills Limited dated 09.03.2015 "So far as specification of recycled pulp and virgin pulp paper is concerned, if the State Government decides to use virgin pulp paper, the object appears to be to provide good quality of textbooks to the students an object that the paper quality may be good which may make interest in reading to the students and if the quality of paper is poor, undoubtedly, it is not accepted by the students". They have requested DGS&D to bring out Rate Contract for paper made from virgin pulp.

For looking in to these representations, Competent authority of the NCERT constituted a committee consisting of the following paper experts:

i	Prof. Dinesh Kumar	Head, Publication Division	Chairman
ii	Dr. Dharm Dutt	Prof. Dept. of Paper Technology IIT Roorkee, Saharanpur Campus	Member
iii	Dr. B.P. Thapliyal	Nominee, Director CPPRI	Member
iv	Sh. R. K. Sharma	Paper Expert, DGS&D	Member
v	Sh. Tarun Davey	Nominee, JD (Production), NBT	Member
vi	Sh. Shiv Kumar	Former CPO (Pub. Div., NCERT)	Member
vii	Sh. Arun Chitkara	CPO I/c	Member/Convenor

The meeting of the committee was held on 29.12.2015 in the Publication Division. During discussions, it emerged that though the BIS parameters are same for recycled and virgin pulp paper, Committee members showed concern for use of recycled paper.

Considering all facts, the committee has recommended for procuring following varieties of paper for NCERT textbooks:

1. Maplitho paper 'Type A with Eco mark' fulfilling all parameters specified in IS: 1848:2007, with brightness 80%, should be procured. Members suggested that the word 'virgin pulp' may be considered to be deleted from the tender document. (Type 'A' category of paper as defined in BIS 1848/2007 is "Manufactured from pulp containing not less than 60% by mass of pulp made from pulp other than bamboo, hard wood, soft wood and reed")

