

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
130th MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The 130th meeting of the Finance Committee of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was held at 10.00 a.m. on 19th February, 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.

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 129th Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 29th January, 2016.

The minutes of the 129th meeting of the Finance Committee, held on 29th January, 2016, 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 129th Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 29th January, 2016.

The Committee noted the action taken on the decisions taken in the 129th meeting of the Finance Committee, held on 29th January, 2016.

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

Secretary, NCERT stated that the Finance Committee in its 128th meeting held on 08.09.2015 approved 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.

Accordingly, the Council floated tender on 04.12.2015 for procurement of aforesaid quantity of paper because DGS&D R/c was not available at that time. While floating the tender, the Council decided to procure Maplitho Paper made from 100% virgin pulp as was done in previous years after obtaining approval from the Competent Authority.



[Handwritten signature]

Just after release of the tender, Council received various representations from different paper mills, paper mill associations and also from Dr. K C Patel (Hon'ble Member, Lok Sabha). Gujarat Paper Mills Association in their representation requested to delete the condition of virgin pulp and also consider use of recycled paper. It was also stated that, any restrictive clause in the tender will encourage cartelization and limit the tender for the benefit of very few players.

For looking in to these representations, tender process was put on hold and a Committee was constituted consisting of Head, Publication Division, NCERT Paper experts from CPPRI, IIT Roorkee & DGS&D, Director Printing BIS, JD (Prod.) NBT and Chief Production Officer, NCERT.

The Committee on 29.12.2015 recommended that Maplitho paper Type A with Eco mark' fulfilling all parameters specified in IS: 1848:2007, with brightness 80% (Type 'A' category of paper 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). Members suggested that the word 'virgin pulp' may be considered to be deleted from the tender document.

In the mean time, DGS&D also finalized Rate Contract on 19.12.2015 for Maplitho Paper with ISI mark IS: 1848/2007 in sheets/reels and as per general technical requirements. Seven Mills entered into rate contract of DGS&D for the aforesaid variety of Paper. All the seven mills manufacture agreed to supply either Type A paper or Type B paper.

In view of above, the following proposals were submitted before the Finance Committee in its 129th meeting held on 29.01.2016 for consideration and decision:

Procurement of 10500 MTs of 80 GSM Maplitho Paper as per BIS specification 1848/2007 manufactured from virgin pulp for which the tender has already been floated.

OR

Procurement of 10500 MTs 80 GSM Maplitho Paper - Type A, with Ecomark fulfilling all parameters specified in IS: 1848/2007, with

brightness 80 % with NCERT water mark as recommended by the technical committee alongwith its clarification mentioned at Sl. No. 10 through open tender as DGS&D rate contract for said variety is not available.

OR

Procurement of 10500 MTs 80 GSM Maplitho Paper duly ISI mark to IS: 1848/2007 in sheets/reels with NCERT water mark and as per general technical requirements on DGS&D rate contract.

After detailed discussion, the Finance Committee further directed to get a clarification from the Technical Committee as to whether 77% brightness Maplitho Type A Eco Mark paper as available in Rate Contract is sufficient to meet the quality of NCERT text books.

As per direction of the Finance Committee, a meeting of technical committee was held on 10.02.2016. In the meeting of Technical Committee, expert from BIS clarified the definition given at para 4.8.2 of BIS 1848/2007 of Type A paper is that Type A paper is manufactured from atleast 60% by mass of the pulp should be made from baggasse, wheat/rice straws and/or agricultural waste and balance mass of pulp may be bamboo, hardwood, softwood, reed, baggasse, wheat/rice straw and/or agricultural waste. It was also clarified that pulp made from recycled paper should not be used in the production of type A paper. Mills manufacturing Type A paper may be asked to provide evidences either for procurement of chemical pulp to the tune of 60% of its declared manufacturing capacity or mill's own pulp manufacturing plant as per Type A requirement. The mill may also be asked to produce the morphological test (quantitative) report from a government agency.

With regard to the term of reference of 77% brightness as general technical requirement, it was clarified by the experts that 77% brightness is minimum technical requirement. However, they also stated that most of NCERT textbooks are printed in four colours, hence the brightness of paper should preferably be minimum 80%.

In addition, Expert from BIS also informed that brightness of 80% for Maplitho paper has been finalized and approved by the Committee of BIS standards, though the same has not yet been notified.



In view of above, the following proposals were submitted for consideration and decision of the Finance Committee.

Procurement of 10500 MTs of 80 GSM-Maplitho Paper with NCERT water mark as per BIS specification 1848/2007 manufactured from virgin pulp for which the tender has already been floated.

OR

Procurement of 10500 MTs 80 GSM Maplitho Paper - Type A, with Ecomark fulfilling all parameters specified in IS: 1848/2007, with brightness 80 % with NCERT water mark as recommended by the technical committee alongwith its clarification mentioned at Sl. No. 10 through open tender as DGS&D rate contract for said variety is not available.

OR

Procurement of 10500 MTs 80 GSM Maplitho Paper duly ISI mark to IS: 1848/2007 in sheets/reels with NCERT water mark and as per general technical requirements on DGS&D rate contract

Finance Committee discussed the proposals that had been submitted for consideration and noted that the Technical Committee had not given a clear mandate as to whether paper with 77% brightness or 80% be procured. It was brought to the notice of the Finance Committee that the Technical Committee had stated that 77% brightness should be considered as the minimum technical criteria but 80% brightness be preferred.

The Finance Committee was also informed that no Rate Contract has been finalized for brightness of 80% till date as stated by the BIS member in the Technical Committee meeting.

Chief Business Manager, Publication Division stated that procurement of text paper has already been delayed and further delay will cause delay in supply of books. He had also submitted the details of last three years of placing the order for procurement of paper as under:

S.No.	Session	F.C. Meeting held on	Order Date
1.	2013-14	112 th dated 14.05.2012	29.08.2012
2.	2014.15	124 th dated 28.05.2013	29.07.2013
3.	2015-16	126 th dated 03.06.2014	23.12.2014

It was also informed to the committee that the academic session is beginning in April 2016 and if we go for open tender now, there will be a further delay in procuring paper which will lead to crisis in the market. Hence we may consider going for the Rate contract available in DGS&D while agreeing the same, Shri T.S. Rautela, Deputy Secretary, MHRD desired that such issues should have been highlighted in the main agenda itself. The convenor noted the proposition.

The samples of printers were also shown to the Committee. The samples of NCERT books printed of last two years were also shown to the Finance Committee which were printed on paper made from virgin pulp with brightness of 80% for the year 2014 and with brightness of 77% for the year 2015. The Committee could not find any perceptible change in the printing quality.

Joint Director, NCERT stated that the DGS&D contract on Type A Ecomark is now available with BIS specifications. In the last year the NCERT had printed the books with brightness 77% in virgin Paper and no complaints have been received.

In view of all these aspects, the Committee felt that Type A Ecomark Maplitho paper with BIS specifications on DGS&D Rate Contract be procured for printing NCERT books for the session 2016-17.

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


(Sudeshna Sen)
Secretary


(Hrushikesh Senapaty)
Director

ANNEXURE

**LIST OF MEMBERS AND SPECIAL INVITEES ATTENDED THE 130th
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19th FEBRUARY, 2016.**

Dr. Hrushikesh Senapaty
Director, NCERT
New Delhi - 110016

Chairperson

Sh. Anil Kakaria
Deputy Secretary (Finance)
Representing
JS & Financial Advisor
Ministry of HRD
(Department of School
Education & Literacy),
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi - 110001

Member

Sh. T.S. Rautela
Deputy Secretary
Representing
Joint Secretary (SE-II)
Ministry of HRD
(Department of School
Education & Literacy),
Shastri Bhawan
New Delhi - 110001

-do-

Shri Amit Cowshish
Additional Secretary (Retd.)
Ministry of Defence
578, Sector 'A'
Pocket 'C'
Vasant Kunj
New Delhi-110070.

-do-

Ms. Sudeshna Sen
Secretary, NCERT
New Delhi - 110016

Member-convener