

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING  
130<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

The 130<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was held at 10.00 a.m. on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 in the Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup>-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 129<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.**

The minutes of the 129<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee, held on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 129<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.**

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

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

Secretary, NCERT stated that the Finance Committee in its 128<sup>th</sup> 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 129<sup>th</sup> 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.



