

Minutes of the meeting of 3rd RGC Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZ Units-VSEZ held at 11.30 AM on 15 April 2026 Virtually on Zoom platform from VSEZ Administrative Building, Visakhapatnam

1.In Chair: Shri B.S.S.V.NARAYANA

Regional Chairman

Present:

2.Shri. Srikanth Badiga

Chairman EPCEs

3.Ms. Sridevi Dasari

Regional Governing Council Member

4.Sri Shankar Kuna

Regional Governing Council Member

5.Sri. S. Maheswara Rao

Regional Governing Council Member

6.Sri. Raja Ramesh G

Regional Governing Council Member

7.Sri Srinivasulu Dodla

Regional Governing Council Member

8.Sri. N.V.Sudhakar

Regional Governing Council Member

9. Dr. P.P. Lal Krishna CEO & MD

Regional Governing Council Member

10. P. Arun Kumar G.M

Regional Governing Council Member

11. Sri. PKV Prasad

Regional Governing Council Member

Shri B.S.S.V Naryana Regional Chairman of EPCES for EOUS & SEZ Units-VSEZ Chaired the meeting.

At the outset, Shri. B.S.S.V.Naryana Regional Vice Chairman RGC-EPCES-VSEZ welcomed to the Shri Srikanth Badiga Chairman EPCES and Sri.M.Srinivas D.C-VSEZ and RGC members and thanked them for making Convenient to attend the meeting.

The Agenda Points were taken up for discussion:

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 9th January 2026.

“Resolved “Confirmed the previous minutes of the meeting dated 9th January 2026’.

2. Discussion of issues on SEZ to DTA sales.

“Resolved “ Sri B.S.S.V. Naryana Regional Vice Charman requested the members to share the issues on SEZ to DTA sales. Members not raised any issues, hence he requested the members to send the issues if any please share by an email for takeup with the ministry.

3. Agenda point take up discussion on Sri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, SEZ Division, Department of Commerce, chaired a meeting on 7th April 2026 regarding ease of doing business. The meeting was attended by Sri Vimal Anand, Joint Secretary, SEZ Division, and Shri Gaurav Anand, Director, SEZ Division, Department of Commerce. From the EPCES side, Shri Alok Chaturvedi, Director General, EPCES, Shri Srikanth Badiga, Chairman, EPCES, and the Vice Chairman, EPCES, participated in the meeting. EPCES have compiled the points discussed during the meeting, along with the key pending issues related to SEZs and EOUs. I request all members to kindly go through the same and share any additional points for consideration.

“Resolved”

The Vice Chairman requested Sri Srikanth Badiga to brief the members on the deliberations held on 7th April 2026 with the Additional Secretary.

Sri Srikanth Badiga informed the members that Shri Alok Chaturvedi, Director General, EPCES, had compiled the issues faced by SEZs and EOUs and presented them before Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, SEZ Division.

It was informed that, pursuant to DoR Notification No. 11/2026-Customs dated 31.03.2026, certain duty exemptions have been provided for supplies made from SEZs to DTA. However, the industry has not expressed much satisfaction, as nearly 80% of DTA supplies have not been granted any concession, and in respect of about 13% of DTA supplies, only a marginal 1% duty concession has been extended.

It was further highlighted that the notification appears to be complex and requires additional clarification, particularly with regard to certification and procedural aspects. Further, issues relating to Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) were circulated by Mr. Sekhar, who requested members to share any proposals or suggestions either directly with him (Regional Director, EPCES) or through email to EPCES for inclusion in the EoDB representations.

The Managing Director of TUFF Industries also participated in the meeting and raised an issue regarding procurement of low carbon ferro chrome from DTA. Their request for duty foregone benefits was denied, following which they approached the Hon'ble High Court and obtained orders in their favour. However, the same was not initially implemented, resulting in the filing of a contempt petition. Subsequently, the benefit was extended upon submission of an undertaking.

He further highlighted that their group has units in Dubai (jewellery sector) and Sohar, where industries are provided with more favourable policies, including lower electricity costs and tax benefits. He expressed concern that the present SEZ policy in India, framed in 2005, has become outdated and requires comprehensive revamping; otherwise, there is a risk of industries shifting their operations to other countries.

The Chairman concurred with the above views and requested him to submit a detailed note, including a comparative analysis of facilities and benefits offered in other countries, which would be useful for making representations at higher levels. He agreed to submit the same.

Further, one of the VSEZ units raised the issue of limited working hours at VSEZ Customs. At present, customs operations are restricted to regular office hours, causing delays, particularly for time-sensitive shipments. It was requested that customs operations be extended at least to A & B shifts to ensure smoother processing, avoid congestion, and support continuous export/import activities.

The Regional Vice Chairman and Regional Director, VSEZ, discussed the matter with the Development Commissioner, VSEZ. The Development Commissioner assured that a Customs Officer would shortly be posted at the gate, and the office would operate in two shifts (A & B), and, if necessary, operations may be extended to 24/7.

Members were requested to share any additional issues relating to Ease of Doing Business for consolidation and submission to the appropriate authorities.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.