

**BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS**  
**159<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee**  
**PROCEEDINGS**

***Day and Date*** : Tuesday, 06 August 2024

***Venue*** : Bureau of Indian Standards,  
DG's Committee Room,  
Manak Bhavan, 9, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,  
New Delhi - 110002

***PRESENT:***

***Chairman*** : 1. Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, DG, BIS

***Members (Present)*** : 2. \* Shri Shantmanu, AS&FA, MoCA, F & PD;  
3. Dr. Anant Sharma, National President  
Consumer Confederation of India (CCI);  
4. \* Shri Suhshil Pal, Joint Secretary, MEITY;  
5. \* Shri. V Arun Roy, IAS, Secretary, Industries  
Department, Chennai, Government of Tamil Nadu;  
6. \* Ms. Charu Mathur, Director General, IEEMA;  
7. \* Prof. Venugopal Achanta, Director, NPL;  
8. \* Shri Rajat Moona, Director, IIT Gandhinagar;  
9. \* Shri Shrikant Nagulpalli, Director General, BEE;  
10.\* Prof. Devendra Jalihal, Director, IIT Guwahati

***Representatives*** : 1. Shri. Shri Aashish Kumar, Sr. Consultant  
Director Level, DPIIT (representing Shri Sanjiv,  
Joint Secretary, DPIIT);  
2. \* Shri Rahul Singh, Special Secretary, IT  
(Representing Shri Anil Kumar Sagar,  
Principal Secretary, Infrastructure and  
Industrial Development Department  
Government of Uttar Pradesh)

***Members (Leave of  
Absence)*** : 1. Shri Bharat Khara, Additional Secretary,  
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public  
Distribution

***BIS Officers  
in Attendance***

:

1. Shri H.J.S. Pasricha, DDG (Certification);
2. Shri Sanjay Pant, DDG (Standardization–II);
3. Shri Rajeev Sharma, DDG (Standardization-I);
4. Smt Chitra Gupta, DDG (FMC, HM & Registration);
5. Shri Chandan Bahl, DDG (IR & TIS, MSC & SCM);
6. Smt Nishat S Haque, DDG (Laboratories);
7. Lt Col (Retd.) Kumar Shantanu, DDG (Administration);
8. Shri Vinod Kumar, DDG (Finance);
9. Shri A Chatterjee, Head (NITS);
10. Ms. Alka, Secretary (BIS);
11. Shri. Akshay Kaushik, Sc. C (HMD)

*\* Through video conference*

**Item 1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The 159<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of BIS was held on 06 August 2024 to discuss the Agenda circulated to the members on 26 July 2024.

**Item 2. PRESENTATION ON IMPORTANT INITIATIVES TAKEN BY BIS SINCE LAST EC MEETING HELD ON 22 DECEMBER 2023**

**2.1** DG, BIS welcomed the members. A presentation on activities of BIS, highlighting the important initiatives and achievements by BIS in recent past was made by P&C.

The presentation is enclosed.

**Item 3. CONFIRMATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF 158<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) OF BIS HELD ON 22 DECEMBER 2023**

**3.1** There being no comments from the members, EC confirmed the proceedings of the 158<sup>th</sup> meeting of EC held on 22 December 2023 as given as Annexure 3A (enclosed) of the agenda.

**Item 4. ACTION TAKEN REPORT (ATR) ON THE DECISIONS TAKEN/ACTIONABLE POINTS OF THE 158<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF EC HELD ON 22 DECEMBER 2023**

**4.1** EC noted the Action Taken Report of the 158<sup>th</sup> meeting of EC, held on **22 December 2023** as given in Annexure 4A (enclosed) of the agenda.

## **AGENDA(S) FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVALS/REPORTING**

### **Item 5           HIRING OF GRADUATE ENGINEERS TRAINEE IN LRMD -**

#### **Background**

The agenda item “Hiring of Graduate Engineers Trainee in LRMD” for the approval of EC members, by circulation, was received from LPPD on 13 February 2024 vide e-mail dated 13 February 2024 with the request to approve the proposal by 20 February 2024.

Following members communicated their approval of the agenda item:

- (i) DG, BIS;
- (ii) Shri Nirvik Banerjee, SAIL;
- (iii) Shri S. Bandyopadhyay, ISRO;
- (iv) Shri Vipin Sahni, CII

As no further comment/query were received, approval of other members was assumed.

The Executive Committee considered and approved the agenda item through circulation and the same was informed to the concerned department on 28 February 2023.

#### **Decision of the EC**

EC noted.

## **Item 6            PROPOSAL FOR INCREASE OF STIPEND UNDER THE INTERNSHIP SCHEME**

### **Background**

BIS laboratories, under the laboratory internship scheme, have been engaging interns from the local colleges and institutions in their respective region. These students joining as interns for the internship duration ranging from 02 to 06 months and till now a total no. of 71 interns have been engaged by BIS laboratories in 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The students under their internship have been provided training on the testing of products as per Indian Standards, laboratory practices, procedures, operation of testing equipment and the laboratory quality management system.

The interns have provided assistance in carrying out testing of samples along with their preparation, gap analysis of testing facilities, development of test methods, measurement uncertainty analysis, method verifications and maintenance of technical records.

The Laboratory internship scheme was approved by the Executive Committee of BIS in its 155th meeting held on 01-02-2023 and it was revised with the approval of the Executive Committee in its 157th meeting held on 29-08-2023 to increase the duration of the internship and to incorporate the eligibility for the students completing their degree/diploma courses.

In this context, the stipend to be paid under the internship scheme was fixed as Rs. 7,000/- per month for the Interns pursuing Bachelor's degree in Science / Diploma Courses and Rs. 10,000/- per month for the interns pursuing Bachelor's in Engineering/Technology or Master's degree or higher.

Various feedbacks in this regard have been received from the students as well as the institutions to increase the stipend amount. It is also worth mentioning that BIS also engages interns in other activities wherein the stipend amount has been fixed as Rs. 20,000/- per month.

From the implementation of the internship scheme, BIS is benefitting in the form of getting fresh thoughts, perspectives and updated technical knowledge from the young generation on the ongoing testing operations and procedures.

Under the clause 9 (1) (f) of the BIS Act 2016, the power to provide training services in relation to quality management, standards, conformity assessment, laboratory testing and calibration, and any other related areas has been delegated to Director General of the Bureau.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

In view of the above, it was proposed to increase the stipend amount for the interns engaged in BIS laboratories as mentioned below:

Rs. 15,000/- per month for the Interns pursuing Bachelor's degree in Science / Diploma Courses and Rs. 20,000/- per month for the interns pursuing Bachelor's in Engineering/Technology or Master's degree or higher.

It is expected that the additional annual expenditure as a result of the engagement of interns will be to the tune of Rs. 1,02,00,000/-.

**Decision of the EC**

EC approved the proposal.

## **Item 7 OPENING OF NEW SEPARATE BUDGETARY HEAD FOR SWACHHATA ACTION PLAN/ SWACHHATA CAMPAIGN AND RESPECTIVE ACTIVITIES**

### **Background**

In view of urgency, the agenda item was circulated to EC members vide e-mail dated 27 February 2024 with the request to approve the proposal by 04 March 2024. As there was some typographical error in calculation by Administration Department therefore revised agenda was re-sent to members on 28 February 2024.

Following member communicated his approval on the agenda item:

- (i) Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta, Director, NPL

As no further comment/query were received, approval of other members was assumed. The Executive Committee considered and approved the agenda item and the same was informed to the concerned department on 07 March 2023.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC noted.

## **Item 8                    CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS AT BIS HQS, CL, NITS, NRL, BNBL, RANCHI AND LUCKNOW FOR BIS OFFICES/LABORATORIES**

### **Background**

Plots allotted by State governments to BIS at Ranchi & Lucknow are lying vacant for 3 years and BIS Offices at these locations are operating from rented premises.

The increase in the number of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) being issued by the different Ministries has led to the need to expand in-house testing facilities for different products in BIS labs. Also, the increase in manpower of BIS (permanent and contractual) has resulted in a shortage of seating space. The expansion in existing buildings due to these reasons have resulted in shifting out the following BIS Branch/Regional Offices to rented premises:

- a) Central Regional Office (CRO),
- b) Delhi Branch Office – 1 (DLBO-1),
- c) Delhi Branch Office – 2 (DLBO-2),
- d) Eastern Regional Office (ERO),
- e) Kolkata Branch Office – 1 (KKBO-1),
- f) Kolkata Branch Office – 2 (KKBO-2),
- g) Western Regional Office (WRO),
- h) Mumbai Branch Office – 1 (MUBO-1) and
- i) Mumbai Branch Office – 2 (MUBO-2)

The total annual rental outgo towards these offices is around Rs 10 crore. Also, Ghaziabad Branch Office (GZBO) and Noida Branch Office (NOBO) are operating from the premises of Central Lab, Sahibabad and NITS, Noida respectively.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

To meet the growing demands of the infrastructure in BIS, it is proposed to construct new building blocks for offices and labs at the above locations with modern facilities. There are vacant spaces available in the premises of BIS Hqs, Central Lab, Sahibabad (CL), National Institute of Training for Standardization, Noida (NITS), Bangalore Branch Laboratory and Branch Office, Bengaluru (BNBL & BNBO) which can be utilized for constructing new building blocks for office and lab purposes.

The proposed buildings shall have the basic infrastructural features such as green buildings with sustainable building materials, energy efficient electrical fixtures, rain water harvesting, solar rooftops, ergonomic work stations with modular furniture, integrated communication and data network, visitor space(s) and break-off meeting places, server room, air-conditioning, one or two suites for visiting officers, Meeting rooms (30 - 50 persons), Conference Hall (200 seating capacity), library area, storage spaces (records/consumables/misc.), storage spaces for enforcement and regular samples (preferably basement), canteen and eating space, power back-up, adequate parking area, garage(s), security booths at gates, controlled access reception and lockers to keep personal belongings.

Considering the imminent need to create requisite infrastructure for meeting the growing demands of testing facilities, new initiatives started by BIS and seating space, the buildings need to be constructed in a time-bound manner. It is proposed to approach PSUs as per Rule 133(3)(i) and Rule 194 of GFR 2017 which are reproduced below:



*“Rule 133 (3) As an alternative to 133(2), a Ministry or Department may award repair works estimated to cost above Rupees sixty Lakhs and original works of any value to:*

*(i) any Public Sector Undertaking set up by the Central or State Government to carry out civil or electrical works, OR*

*(ii) to any other Central/ State Government organisation /PSU which may be notified by the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) for such purpose after evaluating their financial strength and technical competence.*

*For the award of work under this sub-rule, the Ministry/ Department shall ensure competition among such PSUs/Organisations. This competition shall be essentially on the lump sum service charges to be claimed for execution of work.*

*In exceptional cases, for award of work under (i) and (ii) above, on nomination basis, the conditions contained in Rule 194 would apply. The work under these circumstances shall also be awarded only on the basis of lump sum service charge.”*

The Executive Committee was requested to note.

#### **Decision of the EC**

EC noted and agreed to the proposal.

**Item 9                    PURCHASE OF BSNL LANDS AT KOLKATA, HUBLI, PUNE, COIMBATORE  
AND DEHRADUN FOR SETTING UP BIS BRANCH/REGIONAL OFFICES**

**Background**

BSNL has published the list of their properties available for outright sale in various parts of the country on their website <https://assetmonetization.bsnl.co.in>. BSNL land parcels at Kolkata, Hubli, Pune, Coimbatore and Dehradun have been found to be suitable for setting up Branch/Regional Offices. BIS Branch/Regional Offices at these locations are presently operating from rented premises.

**Proposal made to the EC**

The observations and decisions taken by EC in this context in its earlier Meetings are given below:

a) EC in its 117<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 05 Feb 2014 observed that the ready-built premises do not provide the flexibility of expansion and making alterations to meet the BIS requirements. On the other hand, an office building on independent land gives greater flexibility in size, shape, and scope for expansion. It also adds to the assets of BIS and helps in capital formation. Given the stature of BIS, it was considered more appropriate to have its own independent buildings rather than having offices in a portion of the building.

EC in its 117<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 05 Feb 2014 approved the ‘Guidelines for purchase of land/built-up premises for BIS offices’. The relevant extracts read the following:

*“BIS may acquire land or independent ready-built premises in various locations where BIS operates from rented premises. BIS may acquire plot in the range of 2000 to 4000 sq.m. depending upon its requirement and availability. Minimum size of the plot for land or built-up premises may not be less than 1000 sq.m. for any office of BIS and higher sizes of plots could be considered where land prices are low.”*

b) EC in its 146<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 14 July 2020 approved the proposal of purchase of land parcels from BSNL and made an observation that BIS may ensure that BSNL has the approval of its administrative ministry for selling off the land.

c) The ‘Action Taken Report’ for 146<sup>th</sup> Meeting of EC was tabled in the 147<sup>th</sup> Meeting of EC held on 23 Dec 2020 whereby EC was informed that the Management Committee Board of BSNL obtains Presidential approval from DoT before monetizing the land parcels.

The Executive Committee was requested to note.

**Decision of the EC**

EC noted and agreed to the proposal.

## **Item 10            POLICY REGARDING FREE TRAININGS - THE TRAINING CHARGES, TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMODATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

### **Background**

National Institute of Training for Standardization (NITS), the dedicated training wing of the Bureau of Indian Standards has been organizing various types of training programmes for Industry, Central/State Govt, PSUs, consumer bodies as well as for its own employees since its establishment in 1995.

The Training Strategy was launched by BIS in 2023. Details of the Programmes being conducted in addition to other routine training programmes was given in the agenda.

In order to strengthen the quality ecosystem of the country, there is a need to enrich the technical competence for the Sectional Committees and personnel involved with Standards Formulation to help them keep abreast of the technological challenges of the changing times. It is further important to engage with Central & State Govt. Departments/PSUs, Regulators/ procurement agencies for apprising them of the adverse effects of sub-standard products & processes and guiding them in the use of Indian standards in govt. policies/ procurements/ regulations.

A focus on outreach program is also critically imperative for involvement of stakeholders in Standards Formulation, facilitate adoption of Indian Standards, Code of Practices, National Building Code and National Electrical Code etc. by all concerned and enhancing public image of BIS.

Training Charges - Proposal was put up to the 156th EC that Training Charges/Fees for all these programmes shall be borne by BIS and shall be made free of cost for the participants.

Other charges – The following were also placed before the 156th EC

1. For the Trainings / Capacity Building Programmes related to personnel involved in standard formulation (TC Chairpersons, TC members, Experts nominated in ISO/IEC/International Committees, Faculty of institutions having Chairs on Standardisation , members of standardization cells of Central Ministries/Departments , SDOs, Industry Associations ) reimbursement of TA/DA of participants shall be done as per the latest approved guidelines issued by SCMD for Payment of TA/DA to Members of BIS Technical Committees
2. For the Outreach/Awareness Programmes related to officials of Govt. departments (State, Central) and PSUs, travel Charges for the participants shall be borne by their respective organisation. The food & stay arrangements for these participants shall be made by NITS from the budget head of training
3. For the Outreach/Awareness Programmes related to teachers, resource persons, COs and NGOs the travel, food & stay arrangements for the participants shall be as per TNMD guidelines.

The EC during its 156th meeting held on 12 May 2023 stated that the proposed policy be followed for a year i.e. FY 2023-24 and based on the experience and feedback, policy be reviewed and proposed for 2024-25. Also, it was suggested that the tentative budget be prepared and mentioned in the ATR.

The no. of such programmes carried out in 2023 -24 and expenditure incurred are as summarized below. The programmes were appreciated by the participants and this year NITS has been receiving requests from various Govt. depts. for conducting such programmes.

Training category	No of training	No of Participants	Expenditure for food and logistics
For TC Chairpersons, members, experts nominated in ISO/IEC/Committees, Faculty of institutions having Chairs on Standardisation	19	1311	Rs 668212

For standardization cells of Central Ministries/Dept and Industry Associations	9	351	Rs 146239
For the officials of Govt departments - Central , State and PSUs	20	469	Rs 626472
For Students , Science teachers , COs, NGOs	5	323	Rs 269160
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Rs 1710083/-</b>

The no of programmes planned for this year are as given below.

Training category	No of training
For TC members	34
For the officials of Govt departments - Central , State , PSUs , ATI, STI	10
For Science teachers , Mentors, Resource persons	21

The expenditure to be incurred in such programmes is approx. Rs Thirty lakhs.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

It was proposed that for 2024-25 the policy may be retained. Also the additional programmes which are carried out on request of Govt departments / organizations (Central, State), PSUs and State Training Institutes may also be covered under the same guidelines.

The travel, accommodation and honorarium of faculties (external and internal) shall be borne by BIS as per existing rates

The Executive Committee was requested to consider and approve.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC approved the proposal.

## **Item 11            ENGAGING IIMs AS THE KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME**

### **Background**

Human resource is an important component of any organization for delivering services in effective and efficient manner. Leadership and Project management skills are essential for officers to enable them to optimize the available resources, improve communication, meet deadlines and increase productivity for achieving the desired output within specified time frame

The Training Policy of BIS which was approved by Executive Committee in its 145th meeting held on 20 Feb 2020, envisages Networking with Reputed Institutions, under which Scientific cadre officers of BIS may be deputed for one/two weeks to IITs/IIMs and other eminent institutions for various training programmes and BIS could also partner with such institutions for providing training on Standardization and Conformity Assessment.

It was also submitted for information of EC that IIMs are central government-owned-public business schools for management and were declared institutions of national importance by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), after the passage of Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017.

A training programme on leadership was organized at IIM-A from 26th to 30th September 2022 for the first batch comprising of total 38 Scientific officers of E and F level and 2 A& F cadre officers. Training for the second batch of officers comprising of 38 scientific cadre officers and 2 A& F cadre officers have been organized from 1st to 5th May 2023 at IIM-A.

Subsequently the EC during its 156<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 12.05.2023 expressed satisfaction with the programmes conducted by the IIM, Ahmedabad and suggested that IIM Indore and IIM Rohtak, IIM Nagpur and IIM Trichi may also be contacted and considered for such capacity building programmes. Accordingly training of 195 officers was carried out in 2023-2024 at these IIMs and also at IIM Ranchi at a cost of Rs 15763493/-. The feedbacks on the trainings at IIM Indore, Trichy and Nagpur were very good while some participants expressed inconveniences in the trainings conducted at IIM Rohtak and IIM Ranchi. Accordingly, approval was obtained from DG, BIS for training of total 5 batches (40/batch) of officers (Scientific and Non- Scientific) at IIM Indore – 1 batch, IIM Trichy – 2 batches and IIM Nagpur-2 batches at same rates as previous year at a total cost of Rs 17340336/-

It was mentioned that the scientific officers of BIS, dealing with standardization work requires the skills in project management, leadership, conflict resolution, stake holding engagement, etc. as standard formulation is basically a project work involving interaction with officials of multiple interests and agencies. The officers in the Branch offices and laboratories are increasingly assuming the role of project managers, as the focus of the organization shifts from mere grant of certification to the building of vibrant quality eco-system in the country through broad-banding the stakeholder participation in standard development and promotion of standards in tune with the ISO objectives of standards everywhere and All Voices Heard. Our Government has also placed added emphasis on the need for skilling, up-skilling and re-reskilling.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

The training programmes being organized by IIMs are very effective and useful in up gradation of skills. The training modules are customized to suit the requirements of BIS officers. Therefore, after approval of DG-BIS, five batches (40 officers per batch) of scientific cadre officers from Sc-B to Sc-D level as well as officers of A& F cadre of equivalent rank are being trained at IIM (Indore, Trichy, Nagpur) w.e.f. 29 July 2024.

The Executive Committee was requested to consider and approve.

**Decision of the EC**

EC approved the proposal.

## **Item 12            COURSES RELATED TO THE INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA**

### **Background**

Bureau of Indian Standards over the years have come out with several standards which are of prime importance to all its stakeholders including the academia and the industry.

Academic institutions not only play a crucial role in the formulation of standards through specialized knowledge and expertise but also contributes to educating and raising awareness about standards and their importance among students, researchers, and the broader public. Providing training to the experts from academia will ensure that they not only have a clear understanding of the standards and procedures in their respective subject areas but are also aware about the development of the standards.

Industry as well as Govt. departments are the major stakeholders of BIS both for formulation/revision of standards and implementation of standards once they are published. The country is on the path of rapid urbanization and all-round development. The standards on code of practices provide a consistent set of guidelines, which helps ensure that they are of a consistent quality across different organizations and industries. They play a critical role in ensuring safety, quality, and efficiency. Imparting training to stakeholders on such Standards is essential to ensure compliance, enhance quality and safety, improve productivity and efficiency, enhance reputation and facilitate continuous improvement.

Considering the importance of these standards in enhancing the quality ecosystem in the country it was decided that BIS can initiate short duration courses on such topics. Identification of topics and the venue was finalized through 5 different consultative committees chaired by DDGs and comprising of BIS officers from various departments as well as members from Training Advisory Committee, Academia and Industries.

Each course would be of 1 or 2 or 3 days' duration. The courses will be conducted in off-line / online mode from National Institute of Training for Standardization (NITS) or at any of the branch offices/labs of BIS depending on the nature of training and concentration of stakeholders. The courses are open for participation by all. Faculties for the courses will be drawn from both within BIS and outside.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

As the purpose of these courses is skill development and national capacity building, it is proposed to keep the course fee at very nominal rates of Rs. 1,500/- (GST extra) for 2-day course and Rs. 2,000/- (GST extra) for a 3-day course in line with that of NBC training which has already been approved by EC during its 154th meeting held on 21.10.2022. For one day courses it is proposed that the training fees may be extrapolated from the above and fixed at Rs 1000/- (GST extra) per participant. NITS also has hostel facilities and any participant availing the hostel facility shall be levied the hostel fee in addition to the above charges.

For Govt. employees nominated by their department for the trainings categorized under "Industry", the training and accommodation may be made free. However, Travel arrangements are to be made by participants themselves.

External faculty who are experts in the particular field, experts from BIS tech committees, BIS officers will be invited for delivering lecture on different aspects of the standard. As these courses are being conducted essentially as part of national capacity building efforts of BIS, it is proposed that no honorarium be paid to serving BIS employees acting as faculty for these courses. This is also in line with the practice being followed for capsule courses for products.

The honorarium for external faculty may be as per the earlier approved guidelines considering them as experts. Accommodation may be provided to external faculty at NITS hostel free of charge and Travel charges may be paid as per Economy Class by Air/II AC by train and reimbursement of A/c taxi charges.

The Executive Committee was requested to consider and approve.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC accorded its approval on the proposal.



**Item 13            CONSTITUTION OF ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTION UPTO THE LEVEL OF SCIENTIST-E**

**Background**

The promotion process for Scientist in BIS is governed by Modified Flexible Complementing Scheme of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) for Scientists which provides for two level of assessment, the first one being the Internal Screening Committee for screening purpose followed by assessment by the Assessment Committee.

The promotion process of Scientific Cadre Officers upto the level of Scientist-E (i.e. Scientist-B to Scientist-D) were conducted twice with cut-off date as **01 January 2024** and **01 July 2024**. However, the constitution of the Assessment Committee could not be approved by the Executive Committee (EC) during the promotion process as the tenure of EC had expired on 15 March 2024 which is before the Assessment Committee meeting. In order to avoid delay in the promotion exercise, all activities including the assessment was carried out as per the Assessment Committee members nominated by DG, BIS in capacity of Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The Clause 14 (3) (a) of Bureau of Indian Standards (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019 states the following regarding constitution of the Assessment Committee:

*“14 (3) (a) An Assessment Committee for promotion upto the level of Scientist-E, shall be constituted by the Executive Committee, comprising the following members, namely:*

- (i) Two officer of Bureau not below level of Scientist-F, senior among whom shall be the Chairpersons: and*
- (ii) Three experts from outside not below the rank of Scientist-F*

*Provided that one member shall belong to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes category, in case of selection of person from these categories.”*

As per the above provision of Bureau of Indian Standards (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019, the Director General, BIS has nominated the following Officers from BIS/External Organization as Member of the Assessment Committee for promotion exercise held with cut-off date **01 January 2024**:

- (a) Shri H J S Pasricha, Scientist-G & DDG (Cert. & CSM) : Chairperson
- (b) Shri S. D. Dayanand, Scientist-F & Head (MDBO): Representative from SC/ST Category
- (c) Three Experts from Outside not below rank of Scientist-F from the following Organizations:
  - (i) National Physical Laboratory (NPL)
  - (ii) Central Electricity Authority (CEA)
  - (iii) Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC)

Further, the following Officers from BIS/External Organization has also been nominated by the Director General, BIS as Member of the Assessment Committee for promotion exercise held with cut-off date **01 July 2024**,

- (a) Shri H J S Pasricha, Scientist-G & DDG (Cert. & CSM): Chairperson
- (b) Shri Shyam Sunder, Scientist-G & Head (NOBO): Representative from SC/ST Category

- (c) Three Experts from Outside not below rank of Scientist-F from the following Organizations:
- (i) National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)
  - (ii) Central Electricity Authority (CEA)
  - (iii) Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

**Proposal made to the EC**

In view of above, Executive Committee was requested to consider post-facto approval of both the above constitution of the Assessment Committee for promotion upto the level of Scientist-E, as proposed above.

**Decision of the EC**

EC approved, as proposed in the agenda item.

## Item 14 RECRUITMENT OF SCIENTIFIC CADRE OFFICERS IN BIS

### Background

HRD Department is in the process of recruitment of Scientific Cadre Officers. The recruitment process of Scientific Cadre Officers in BIS is governed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations.

As per Recruitment Regulations, the authorized strength of Scientific Cadre is 579. Out of these 579 posts, 10% (i.e., 58 posts) are to be filled by promotion from Group B Laboratory Technical Posts of BIS and remaining 521 posts are to be filled by direct recruitment at the post of Scientist-B. The posts of Scientific Cadre of the Bureau and method to fill is detailed below:

**Table 1**

Sl. No.	Post	Number of posts	Methods
i)	Scientist-B	Variable*	Direct Recruitment (90% of posts in cadre), LDCE (10% of posts in cadre)
ii)	Scientist-C	Variable*	Promotion, Deputation
iii)	Scientist-D	Variable*	Promotion, Deputation
iv)	Scientist-E	Variable*	Promotion, Deputation
v)	Scientist-F	Variable*	Promotion, Deputation
vi)	Scientist-G	Variable*	Promotion, Deputation

\* Total number of posts under Sl. No. i) to vi) as on date is 579.

At present, the total strength (filled by direct recruitment & by promotions) of Scientist Cadre officers is 532.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019 provides that:

- Regulation 6(1) – Direct recruitment of Scientist – B – Direct recruitment to the post of Scientist-B shall be made in accordance with sub-regulation (3) on the basis of valid GATE score, in respect of those disciplines in the Second Schedule for which GATE is conducted, and by competitive online examination, in respect of those disciplines for which GATE is not conducted.
- Regulation 6(2)- The discipline wise requirement of scientists shall be determined with the approval of the Executive Committee on the basis of the existing strength of scientists and the discipline-wise vacancies.
- Regulation 8- Selection to other posts by deputation. – (1) Where the Executive Committee considers it is expedient so to do in the interest of the Bureau, it may fill up such number of posts at the level of Scientist-C and above upto Scientist-G by deputation: Provided that in case of posts of Scientist-F and Scientist-G, approval of Central Government shall also be required.
- Regulation 16- Standing committee. – (1) A Standing Committee to determine the equivalence of disciplines shall be constituted by the Executive Committee comprising of three officers of the Bureau not below the rank of Scientist-F and the senior most amongst them shall be the Chairperson of the committee. (2) In order to accommodate the dynamic needs of expertise that may be required, the Standing Committee shall also determine the additional disciplines as required from time to time for recruitment purpose.

Identification of Disciplines for current recruitment:

A panel comprising of DDG(Certification), DDG(Standardization-I), DDG(Standardization-II), DDG(Laboratory) and Head(HRD) was constituted by Director General to identify the disciplines, determine the number of posts in each discipline and to identify qualifying year(s) of GATE/Online

Competitive Examination for eligibility of candidates for recruitment of Scientist-B. Further, the requirements of recruitment of Scientific Cadre Officers from Agriculture Science discipline and the number of vacancies, method of recruitment was also to be looked into by the committee.

The meeting of the committee was held on 21.06.2024. Based on the recommendations of the committee, and further directions of DG, BIS, disciplines and the no. of seats in each discipline for the recruitment process of scientific cadre officers is proposed as follows:

**Table 3**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Discipline</b>	<b>No. of Seats for recruitment</b>
i)	Agriculture Science	03
ii)	Chemistry	02
iii)	Civil Engineering	06
iv)	Electrical Engineering	07
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>

A meeting of Standing Committee (as per Regulation-16) for determination of equivalence of disciplines was held on 01 August 2023. For recruitment of Scientist-B, Bachelor's degree in Agriculture and having Master's degree in any of the following disciplines will be considered to be equivalent to the discipline 'Agriculture' given under Science courses in Second Schedule to the BIS Recruitment to Scientific Cadre Regulations 2019:

- a) Agronomy
- b) Soil Sciences/Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry
- c) Agricultural Entomology/Entomology
- d) Agricultural Chemicals/Chemistry

### **Proposal made to the EC**

- i) In view of the above and in accordance with the regulations 6 (2) of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019, the Executive Committee may please consider to grant approval for discipline wise distribution of the vacancies for recruitment of Scientific Cadre Officers, as given in Sl. No. ii), iii) & iv) of Table 3 above.
- ii) In case i) above is approved, recruitment of the scientific cadre officers will be done through Direct Recruitment to the post of Scientist-B from the disciplines Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering for which GATE is conducted.
- iii) For the recruitment of Scientific Cadre officers of Agriculture Science discipline, in accordance with the regulations 8 of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019, the Executive Committee may please consider to grant approval to fill up 03 posts in Agriculture Science discipline as given at Sl. No. i) of Table 3 above by deputation at the level of Scientist-C or Scientist-D as GATE is not conducted in Agriculture Science discipline. The equivalence of discipline as decided by the Standing Committee will be considered for the recruitment purpose.

The Executive Committee was requested to consider and approve.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC approved the proposal.

**Item 15      PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT IN THE BIS (RECRUITMENT TO SCIENTIFIC CADRE) REGULATIONS, 2019**

**Background**

The recruitment of Scientific Cadre Officers in BIS is governed by BIS (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019. The regulation specifies the manner in which direct recruitment of Scientist-B may be done, along with other related provisions. However, some provisions relating to the direct recruitment to the post of Scientist-B is proposed for amendment as given below:

**1. Amendment for inclusion of recruitment through scores of national level online examination conducted by a government agency such as National Testing Agency (NTA)**

- a. As per the regulation 6 of the BIS (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019, the recruitment shall be made on the basis of valid GATE score in respect of those disciplines for which GATE is conducted, and by competitive online examination, in respect of those disciplines for which GATE is not conducted. Further, for appointment through competitive online examination, a competitive online examination shall be conducted by the Bureau through a professional institution or agency as decided by the Director General.
- b. During the recent recruitment exercise completed in January 2024, two vacancies were identified for recruitment of Scientist-B through Agriculture Science discipline. However, as the GATE is not conducted for the Agriculture Science discipline, it was suggested by the Standing Committee that all India online examination conducted for admissions to Doctoral degree programs and award of JRF/SRF (Ph.D) under ICAR (i.e, ICAR AICE-JRF/SRF(Ph.D) examination) may be considered for recruitment purpose.
- c. For disciplines for which GATE is not conducted, there are other reputed all India level examinations conducted by government agencies such as National Testing Agency (NTA) and are used by various government bodies such as ICAR and government colleges for admissions in higher studies.
- d. For recruitment of Scientist-B from such disciplines for which GATE is not conducted and there are other equivalent All India Level examinations conducted by government bodies, it is proposed that BIS may be allowed to use such examinations as the entrance test, and the score of such examinations be used for shortlisting candidates for interviews on the line of GATE score.

**2. Amendment for increase in number of candidates called for interviews:**

- a. Further, the regulation mandates that the number of candidates to be called for interview shall not be more than four times the number of vacancies advertised in respective disciplines. During the past recruitment exercises, it has been observed that many candidates do not appear for interviews and thus the final selection is done from a reduced competition. During the last five recruitment exercises spread over past three years, overall, only 58% of the candidates appeared for the interviews.
- b. Many other PSUs who also recruit officers based on GATE score calls candidates for interview in 1:5 ratio or higher e.g., ONGC (1:5), NHPC (1:5), NLC (1:6), NALCO (1:10), DRDO (1:10) etc.
- c. In view of the above, it is proposed that BIS may be allowed to call candidates for interview up to six times of the advertised vacancies.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

In view of the above, the Executive Committee may consider to approve the following:

- a) The proposal for amendment of BIS (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019 for inclusion of recruitment through scores of national level online examination conducted by a government agency such as National Testing Agency (NTA) may be considered for approval.
- b) The proposal for amendment of BIS (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019 to increase the number of candidates called for interviews from four to six times the vacancies advertised may be considered for approval.

The proposal for amendment of BIS (Recruitment to Scientific Cadre) Regulations, 2019 has been forwarded for further approval from Central Government, with approval of DG, BIS as Chairman, Executive Committee. EC was requested to consider and accord post-facto approval.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC approved the proposal.

## **Item 16            REVISION OF REMUNERATION OF GRADUATE ENGINEER TRAINEES**

### **Background**

There are 25 Graduate Engineer Trainees (GETs) hired on contract basis for Registration department. The hiring of GETs have been done through manpower outsourcing agency and a consolidated remuneration of ₹35,000/- per month is being paid to them.

Brief about hiring of GETs for Registration department:

Initially 14 Graduate Engineers were hired on contract basis for six months with a remuneration of ₹15,000 per month for the Registration department in December 2015. The services of 15 hired manpower were extended for one year in June 2016 and the remuneration was enhanced to ₹25,000/- per month. The EC in its 134th meeting held on 09 May 2017 had approved to extend the term of hiring of 13 Graduate Engineers (two had since resigned) by further period of 2 years and had raised the consolidated monthly remuneration from ₹ 25,000/- per month to ₹35,000/- per month. The approval on the proposal to engage Technical Services of Graduate Engineer for the Registration Department of BIS was received from DoCA on 27 July 2020, under which the remuneration was fixed at ₹35,000/- per month. Since, May 2017, the remuneration has remained fixed as ₹35,000/- per month. Currently, the GETs are being hired through a manpower outsourcing agency (Gravity Facility Management Solutions Pvt Limited).

Justification for enhancing Remuneration:

The remuneration of the Graduate Engineers has remained fixed at ₹35,000/- per month since May 2017 till date. Over these seven years, the Dearness Allowance of government employees have increased from 5% to 50%, which indicates the inflation level over 2017-2024 period. In view of the effect of inflation, the present remuneration of ₹35,000/- per month is unattractive for the desired level of qualification (i.e, B.E./B.Tech in Electrical or Electronics Engineering) and is needed to be enhanced according to inflation and current market rates.

Rule Position and financial implication:

A. The approval to engage GETs for Registration department, with terms and conditions including the remuneration has been obtained from the Central Government. Any change in the terms and conditions will need the approval of Central Government.

B. The selection of the manpower outsourcing agency has been done by fixing remuneration as ₹35,000 per month. The financial implication of revising the salary of 25 GETs to ₹50,000/- per month would be ₹45 Lakhs (₹15000 X 25 X 12) per year.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

In view of the comparison made above, the Executive Committee was requested to consider to revise the remuneration of GETs from ₹35,000/- p.m. to ₹50,000/- p.m. for further approval of Central Government.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC approved the proposal.

**Item 17            REDISTRIBUTION OF 12 MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVES****Background**

EC in its 144<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 05.12.2019 approved the proposal for Hiring of Services of Professional due to re-organisation of Department. The approval was accorded for hiring of 10 professionals as per the below mentioned criteria:

Department	Number of Professionals	Qualifications
Think, Nudge and Move Department (TNMD)	Two	MBA in Marketing or Degree in Mass Communication from reputed Institution
Policy, Research & Training Department (PRTD)	Two	MBA/ Ph. D with 3-5 years' experience in policy-making and research work
Planning & Coordination Department (P&C D)	Two	MBA in Project Management and Finance with three-five years of experience
Services Sector Department –I (SSD-I)	Two	MBA Degree with three-five years' experience of working with the Service Sector.
Services Sector Department-II (SSD-II)	Two	MBA Degree with three-five years' experience of working with the Service Sector.

In addition to the above, hiring of two professionals in the field of Project Management and Action Research under BIS Training Institute with engineering background and MBA having 5 years' experience in the area of project management was approved in 144<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting.

The approval of DoCA was obtained for the hiring of above 12 professionals. The 12 professionals have been hired as Management Executives.

EC in its 155<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 01 February 2023 approved the re-distribution of the 12 Management Executives as under:

Department	Number of Professionals
Think, Nudge and Move Department (TNMD)	02
Policy, Research & Training Department (PRTD)	01
Planning & Coordination Department (P&C D)	-Nil-
Services Sector Department (SSD)	-Nil-
Standards Coordination and Management Department (SCMD)	03
International Relations, Technical Information Services (IRD)	02
National Institute of Training for Standardization (NITS)	04

The work of PRTD is now looked after by NITS as such the posting of the 12 Management Executives is proposed to be done as follows:



<b>Department</b>	<b>Number of Professionals</b>
Think, Nudge and Move Department (TNMD)	02
Policy, Research & Training Department (PRTD)	-Nil-
Planning & Coordination Department (P&C D)	-Nil-
Services Sector Department (SSD)	-Nil-
Standards Coordination and Management Department (SCMD)	03
International Relations, Technical Information Services (IRD)	02
National Institute of Training for Standardization (NITS)	05

### **Proposal made to the EC**

EC was requested to consider and approve the above re-distribution of the Management Executives hired.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC approved the proposal.

**Item 18            MEDICAL FACILITIES TO BIS EMPLOYEES/ PENSIONERS/ FAMILY PENSIONERS - OUTSIDE DELHI/NCR**

**Background**

The agenda item was regarding medical facilities availed by BIS employees, pensioners, and family pensioners. Presently, BIS employees, pensioners, and family pensioners residing/posted in Delhi/NCR avail medical facilities through the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS). Additionally, BIS has also signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with hundreds of CGHS-empanelled hospitals and diagnostic centers to provide cashless medical facilities for BIS employees, pensioners, and family pensioners in Delhi/NCR.

CGHS facilities are not extended outside Delhi/ NCR to BIS employees/ pensioner and family pensioners. Instead, at present, they are availing medical facilities as per CSMA rules.

BIS has been in receipt of several representations from ROs and BOs stating that BIS medical facilities being availed by the employees, pensioners, and family pensioners are not uniform compared to their counterparts posted/residing at Delhi and NCR as they are facing several issues while availing CSMA facility at locations where CGHS facility is available as BIS is a Central Statutory Body instead of being completely under Central Government, which is largely inept in comparison to CGHS facility being availed at Delhi/NCR. The issues being faced are summarized below: -

- i) Non-availability of Govt. hospitals nearby;
- ii) Refusal of CGHS recognized hospital for treatment in CGHS rates;
- iii) Difficulty and inconveniences faced regarding medical treatment on transferred outside Delhi/NCR;
- iv) Less availability of doctors for CSMA; and
- v) Hospitals are not ready to provide cashless facility, as ROs/BOs are not covered under CGHS.

It was represented that this put them at disadvantage purely on the basis of their posting location in the same organization at similar hierarchy levels which was deemed unfair. It was also represented that much better medical facilities were available to employees in other similar organizations which made the disparity even more unfair.

In order to mitigate the issues being reported, an attempt was made to extend CGHS facilities outside Delhi/NCR. BIS requested DoCA for extending the CGHS facilities to its employees, pensioners, and family pensioners on September 23, 2021, and January 31, 2023. DoCA forwarded these requests to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on September 30, 2021, and February 14, 2023. However, no response has been received till date.

There being no respite despite multiple attempts, other options were explored to resolve the issue. It was observed that the following provisions exist in Regulation 16 of the BIS (Terms & Conditions of Service of Employees) Regulations, 2020 for providing medical facilities to BIS employees / pensioners / family pensioners:

**16 (1):** The employees covered under the Central Government Health scheme shall be entitled to such medical benefits as extended by the Central Government under that Scheme;

**16(2):** The employees not covered under the Central Government Health Scheme shall be entitled to benefits as admissible to Central Government employees under the Central Civil Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944;

**16(3):** The pensioners, family pensioners and retired employees covered under New Pension Scheme shall also be entitled to the benefits as admissible to the Central Government employees under the Central Civil Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944:

Provided that wherever the benefits under the Central Government Health Scheme are extended by the Central Government to retired employees of autonomous bodies, the same may apply; and

**16(4):** “Notwithstanding anything contained in this regulation, instead of entitlement to medical benefits specified in the sub-regulations (1) to (3), *the Bureau may extend any of its medical scheme approved by the Executive Committee to the employees, pensioners, family pensioners and retired employees* covered under the New Pension Scheme.

As per the provision in the Regulation, as BIS has been unable to provide the medical facility to its employees/ pensioners and family pensioners except those posted at Delhi/NCR as per sub regulation 16 (1), 16(2) and 16 (3) for considerable time, and to address the difficulties faced by employees, pensioners, and family pensioners in Regional Offices (ROs) and Branch Offices (BOs), a high-level committee was constituted. The committee comprises the following members:

<i>Chairperson:</i>	DDG(Admin)
<i>Members:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DDG(Finance)</li><li>• Head (HRD)</li><li>• Director (Establishment)</li><li>• Member from BIS Administrative Officers’ Association</li><li>• Member from BIS Employees’ Union</li><li>• Member from SRO region</li><li>• Member from WRO region</li></ul>
<i>Member Secretary:</i>	Shri Gopi Chand, DD(A&F), Legal Department
<i>Invitee:</i>	BIS Officers’ Association

The committee met at several occasions under chairpersonship of DDG(Admin) and issues were heard from officials from SRO and WRO. They communicated the difficulties faced by employees and pensioners outside Delhi/NCR while availing the medical facilities.

Need was felt by the committee for constitution of a sub-committee to research the Medical Facility schemes/ Insurance Policy implemented by various Statutory Bodies/PSUs/ Autonomous bodies of the Central Government for their employees residing/posted outside Delhi NCR as well as identify and study the feasibility of implementing the insurance policies in BIS. The sub-committee constituted comprised of the following officers:

- a. Shri Ritesh Baranwal, DD (A&F), HQ-Accounts Department
- b. Smt. Parul Gupta, DD (A&F), HQ-HRD [Now NITS]
- c. Shri Amit Garg, DD (A&F), SRO, Chennai
- d. Shri Akshay Kaushik, Sc. C, HQ-HMD

The sub-committee conducted extensive research including analysis the existing schemes of various Statutory Bodies, PSUs, Autonomous bodies and submitted its recommendations in form of a medical policy for BIS applicable to all the locations outside of Delhi/NCR.

The policy was duly reviewed by the Finance department and various queries were raised, which were adequately addressed by the sub-committee.

Subsequently, the recommendations of the Sub-Committee along with the justification submitted, was duly approved by DG-BIS for further submission to the Executive Committee (EC) for its approval. Additionally, approval was also accorded to GSD to proceed with the selection of Insurance Service Providers as necessary for the purposes of implementation of the proposed policy.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

In view of the above, the Executive Committee is kindly requested to review the recommendations and grant approval for the policy's implementation within BIS.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC accorded approval to the proposed policy.

**Item 19            ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS FOR THE  
FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024**

**Background**

Under Rule 46 of Bureau of Indian Standards, Rules, 2018 annual statement of accounts signed on behalf of the Bureau by the Officers-in-charge of Accounts and Director General shall be submitted to C&AG office for audit after approval of EC.

The Annual Statement of Accounts of Bureau of Indian Standards for the financial year 2023-24 have been prepared in the following forms as per the Uniform Formats of Accounts prescribed by the Ministry of Finance:

- (a) Balance Sheet,
- (b) Income & Expenditure Account,
- (c) Schedule 1 to 7 forming part of the Balance Sheet
- (d) Schedule 8 to 15 forming part of the Income & Expenditure A/c
- (e) Accounting Policies – Schedule 16
- (f) Contingent Liabilities and Notes on Account – Schedule -17
- (g) Details of Investments – Schedule -18
- (h) Receipts & Payments Account

**Proposal made to the EC**

The FAC in its 66th Meeting held on 13.06.2024 had already considered the Annual Accounts and recommended the same for consideration and approval of EC. As the tenure of the EC had expired on 15.03.2024 and proposal on reconstitution of EC was submitted to DoCA for approval, hence, DG in his capacity as chairman of the Executive Committee of BIS had accorded APPROVAL to the Annual Accounts of BIS as recommended by FAC for 2023-24 on 25th June 2024. Thereafter, the Annual Accounts were forwarded to CAG on 26th June 2024 to meet the statutory compliance of submission of Annual Accounts duly approved by FAC/EC. After approval from EC, the formal approval of EC will be sent to C&AG.

**Decision of the EC**

EC approved, as proposed in the agenda item.

## **Item 20     STRENGTHENING THE SURVEILLANCE AND ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS: NEW GUIDELINES, OUTSOURCING OF REPORT EVALUATION, PARALLEL TESTING UNDER CRS, INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPING**

### **Background**

During the 157th meeting of the EC dated 29 August 2023, the proposal for empanelment of agencies for product certification works, i.e. factory inspection and documentation review activities, on behalf of the Bureau was approved.

From FY 2020-21 onwards, factory surveillance activities of BIS increased with the engagement of outside agencies and similarly market surveillance also increased with creation of dedicated market surveillance cells established at Branch Offices (BOs). Given the limited number of BIS own human resources, after conclusion of contracts under earlier RFP, the scope of work for outside agencies engaged in product certification work has been enhanced. With this enhanced scope, the outside agencies will also support BIS in all back-end documentation review work under product certification schemes (ISI Mark and CoC under Scheme-IV) for domestic manufacturers except decision making. This back-end documentation review work includes scrutiny of applications, examination of documents, inspection reports, test reports, review of auto-renewed certifications.

Under the new RFP, following NABCB accredited agencies have been appointed through an open competitive bidding process:

Factory inspection activities

- i) Quality Austria Central Asia Pvt. Ltd.
- ii) TUV India Private Limited
- iii) Intertek India Pvt. Ltd.
- iv) TUV SUD South Asia Private Limited

These four agencies have started the work of carrying out inspection activities for BIS product certification from 12 April 2024 after appropriate training.

Documentation review work

- i) TUV SUD South Asia Private Limited
- ii) SGS India Private Limited

Both these agencies have started the documentation review work for BIS product certification from 16 July 2024 after appropriate training.

To account for enhanced surveillance activities and more objective evidence approach towards certification, the product certification guidelines/procedures were also revisited. The revised product certification guidelines have been issued for implementation w.e.f. 01 June 2024. Some of the salient features are as follows:

1. Post communication of failure of samples by BIS, Onus of taking corrective actions lies with the manufacturer.
2. Repeat or Consecutive failure of surveillance sample may lead to suspension or cancellation of licence
3. Enhanced surveillance for non-compliant manufacturers including those manufacturers where effective factory and market surveillance is not getting facilitated

Market Surveillance from e-commerce sites - An online market surveillance cell has been formed at BIS HQs for procurement of market samples from e-commerce sites.

In view of the increasing number of products getting notified for compulsory BIS certification through notification of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) by the Central Government, the manufacturers in the MSME sector have been given relaxation for the mandatory requirement of setting up in-house laboratory for operation of BIS certification.

The Scheme of Inspection and Testing (SIT) prescribed by BIS has been made recommendatory. SIT contained in product manual documents issued by BIS includes levels of controls, frequency of testing, control unit, in-house test facility (whether required or can be sub-contracted).

Now, Manufacturers have the option to either accept the recommended SIT or declare their own Quality Assurance Plan (QAP). Further, the MSME manufacturers have the option to utilise the services of laboratories recognised by BIS as well as laboratories accredited by NABL without any need to maintain in-house test facilities.

However, for critical products related to consumer safety, i.e. for food products, products regulated by PESO like LPG cylinder/valve/regulator which are under lot inspection, cement and products with certifications operated on factory testing basis; the above relaxations are not applicable.

For small scale manufacturing units, the concession in minimum marking fee has been enhanced from 20% to 50%. The concession of start-up units in minimum marking fee has been raised to 80%, as is the case for micro scale manufacturing units. The additional 10% concession is also being provided to units located in north-east areas and women entrepreneur enterprises.

For situations like misuse of BIS Standard Mark or violation of QCOs issued under the BIS Act, 2016; search and seizure operations are carried out as part of enforcement activity at BIS. Such violations are cognisable offence and cases are filed in the Court of Law, i.e. Metropolitan Magistrate/ Judicial Magistrate of first class. Currently, the certification officers of BIS have been given the authority of enforcement under the BIS Act, 2016. To strengthen the enforcement activity, BIS has moved the proposal to the Central Government for empowering district administration to undertake enforcement through an amendment to the BIS Act, 2016. As per the proposal, the District Collector/ District Magistrate (DC/DM) or any other officers authorised by them not below the rank of Executive Magistrate will exercise enforcement powers.

The BIS Act, 2016 also has enabling provision towards compounding of first offence which is in line with initiative of the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023 to strengthen trust-based governance. However, the enabling provision to compound first offence is under-utilised due to existing provision leading to imposition of high compounding amount. The proposal towards rationalisation of compounding amount as prescribed under the BIS Rules, 2018 has also been taken up with the Central Government.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

The Executive Committee was requested to note for information.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC noted.

## **Item 21 STRENGTHENING THE LABORATORY OPERATIONS: AUGMENTATION OF THE EXISTING LABS, NEW LAB AT LUCKNOW, RECOGNITION OF LABS OF INDUSTRIAL UNITS AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, INTEGRATION OF EQUIPMENT WITH THE LIMS, INTERNSHIP SCHEME**

### **Background**

#### **Strengthening of the Laboratory Operations**

Bureau of Indian Standards, the National Standards Body of India has its own laboratories at 10 locations in the country which are engaged in the testing of various products for the Conformity Assessment Schemes of BIS.

#### **Augmentation of the existing laboratories**

With a focus on the automation of the testing and sample preparation activity in the laboratories, the overall testing output of the laboratories has been increased and BIS labs are regularly giving output of more than 6500 samples per month which has also crossed 7000 samples in a few months.

In 2023-24, BIS tested 2,15,357 samples, out of which 1,19,706 samples were tested in BIS own labs and 95,651 samples were tested in BIS recognised and empanelled labs.

Further, the no. of products which are currently under the mandatory certification by BIS through Quality Control Orders (QCOs) has increased to 644 whereas QCOs have already been issued for additional 188 products which are due for implementation in the coming months. This has led to an increased demand for testing across all sectors for applying new licenses for BIS Certification. To cater to these demands, BIS labs in last year has created testing facilities for 51 new products under QCOs in BIS own labs and procurement of testing equipment is under process for creating test facilities for approx. 200 products under Steel, Plywood, Chemicals, Footwear, Electrical Appliances, Building Material and Plastics.

In addition to the above, for the testing of textile products under the QCOs, BIS has established a textile testing laboratory at Hyderabad Branch which is in final stages of completion.

In 2023-24, BIS recognised 37 no. of outside laboratories and empanelled 02 no. of government laboratories for testing of products under BIS Conformity Assessment Schemes, bringing the total no. of recognised labs to 326 and the total no. of empanelled labs to 268. With the increase in the number of products being brought under the QCOs, the no. of new applications for BIS recognition are also regularly increasing.

#### **New Laboratory at Lucknow**

In addition to the augmentation of existing testing infrastructure, it has been proposed to initiate the construction of a new testing laboratory at Lucknow. The lab would come up as a Centre of Excellence for the testing of all types of domestic electrical appliances and medical devices.

#### **Recognition of the laboratories of manufacturers and educational institutions**

To bring the existing testing facilities in the country under the laboratory network, BIS has reached out to the educational institutions having MoUs with BIS. The large & medium scale manufacturers having their in-house testing laboratories have also been approached and sensitised for obtaining recognition by BIS.



The laboratories under these institutions and industries are carrying out testing operations for the internal training, teaching and quality control purposes only. Therefore, obtaining the recognition/empanelment by BIS for testing of samples under the Conformity Assessment Schemes provides additional financial

incentive to these laboratories. In return, BIS is able to provide the necessary infrastructure to the industrial sector for the implementation of QCOs.

Laboratories operated by Siemens (Mumbai), Novateur (Nashik), Vijay Electricals (Haridwar) have been recognised for power transmission equipment and Haldia Petrochemicals (Haldia), HPCL-Mittal Energy (Noida), have been recognised for petrochemical products. Similarly, the Laboratories operated by CIPET institutions, IITs and various other engineering colleges have also taken BIS recognition and are now providing testing services to the industries under BIS Conformity Assessment Schemes.

### **Integration of testing equipment with LIMS portal**

As a next step towards the laboratory automation, BIS has initiated the work of integration of the testing equipment in the BIS laboratories with the Laboratory Information Management System Portal.

This integration will lead to the direct entry of testing observations in the online portal without the need to noting down the results, thereby reducing the human intervention in the testing operations. This system is being provided with inbuilt formulas and calculations to further reduce the error in the reporting the results.

In the first phase of the integration, the testing equipment having capabilities to transfer to the data through open ports or connected systems have been taken up and in the next phase the equipment having no such facility will be taken up for modification and upgradation to connect with the online systems.

### **Laboratory Internship Scheme**

BIS laboratories, under the laboratory internship scheme, have been engaging interns from the local colleges and institutions in their respective region. These students joining as interns for the internship duration ranging from 02 to 06 months and till now a total no. of 71 interns have been engaged by BIS laboratories in 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The students under their internship have been provided training on the testing of products as per Indian Standards, laboratory practices, procedures, operation of testing equipments and the laboratory quality management system.

The interns have provided assistance in carrying out testing of samples along with their preparation, gap analysis of testing facilities, development of test methods, measurement uncertainty analysis, method verifications and maintenance of technical records.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

The Executive Committee was requested to note.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC noted the information.

**Item 22 PARALLEL TESTING OF PRODUCTS NOTIFIED UNDER ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOODS (REQUIREMENTS OF COMPULSORY REGISTRATION ORDER), 2021 UNDER COMPULSORY REGISTRATION SCHEME (SCHEME II)**

**Background**

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) grants licence to use or apply Standard Mark through registration based on self-declaration of conformity as per Conformity Assessment Scheme II of Schedule II of BIS (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018.

The Compulsory Registration Scheme (Scheme II) was started in 2013 with the notification of Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirement of Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012. Presently, there are more than 24200 operative licences under Compulsory Registration Scheme covering 73 product categories.

With an aim to reduce the time required for certification of the end product, a pilot project was instituted for parallel testing with effect from 01 January 2023 for a period of six months for Mobile Phones.

Basic features of the parallel testing project include:

- a. All the components which require Registration under Compulsory Registration Scheme can be sent for testing in parallel at any of BIS labs /BIS recognized labs.
- b. BIS/BIS recognized labs can test the first component and issue test report. This test report no. along with name of lab is mentioned in the test report of second component. This procedure is followed for subsequent component(s) and final product also.
- c. The parallel testing scheme allows only parallel testing of component(s) and end products but registration of the component(s) and the end product is done sequentially by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- d. The parallel testing scheme is voluntary in nature and the manufacturers still have the option for submitting the application sequentially to BIS for registration.

The parallel testing pilot project was converted into a permanent scheme with effect from 09 January 2024 for all the product categories notified under Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements of Compulsory Registration Order), 2021.

The time-line and findings of the parallel testing scheme is enumerated in the table:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Product(s) Covered</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	<b>Major Products received under parallel testing</b>	<b>Time taken under Sequential Testing (approx. in days)</b>	<b>Time taken under Parallel Testing (approx. in days)</b>	<b>Time Saved (approx in days)</b>
01 January 2023 to 30 June 2023	Mobile Phones	Pilot Project	Mobile Phones	160	118	42

01 July 2023 to 08 January 2024	(a) Mobile Phones (b) Laptop/Notebook/Tab let (c) Wireless Headphone and Earphones	Pilot Project	Wireless Headphone and Earphones	147	109	38
09 January 2024 to till date	All 64 product categories notified under Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements of Compulsory registration Order), 2021	Permanent scheme but voluntary in nature i.e. manufacturers still have option for submitting application sequentially to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).	(a) Wireless Headphone and Earphones (b) Battery (c) Mobile Phones	140 132 78	78 83 66	62 49 12

Till date, a total of 104 Applications and 210 Inclusions have been granted under the parallel testing scheme across the product categories notified under Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements of Compulsory Registration Order), 2021.

The parallel testing scheme has considerably reduced the time required for certification of the end product facilitating Ease of Doing Business and faster time to market of products covered under Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements of Compulsory Registration Order), 2021

#### **Proposal made to the EC**

The Executive Committee was requested to note.

#### **Decision of the EC**

EC noted.

**Item 23      STRENGTHENING THE STANDARD PROMOTION ACTIVITIES: PRINTING OF COMIC BOOKS, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR THE EXPOSURE VISITS, PUBLICATION OF THE REFERENCE HANDBOOKS, ENGAGEMENT OF SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS, GP PORTAL**

**Background**

The role of standards in creating a quality ecosystem is well established. Therefore, it is imperative to effectively communicate their significance to consumers, manufacturers, academia, and other stakeholders. BIS has been striving to promote standards and increase the awareness among the stakeholders through its outreach programmes. BIS has introduced several new initiatives to increase outreach and engagement of consumers and other stakeholders, through focused campaigns, workshops, trainings and seminars. Sensitization workshops for State level officers, district level officers and Gram Panchayat Presidents and Secretaries, Manak Manthan programmes, Capsule courses and training of Industry personnel, Standards Clubs, Learning Science via Standards, Quality Connect Campaigns, Capacity Building Programmes for senior officials of PSUs and Central/State Govt officers are some of the successful ongoing outreach activities of BIS. Moving forward in these lines, BIS has introduced the following initiatives since the last EC meeting to strengthen the Standards Promotion activities.

**1. GP Portal**

To strengthen BIS's Gram Panchayat Sensitization initiative, a pivotal digital resource has been established: the 'Gram Panchayat Portal'. This portal is designed to enhance governance and community engagement at the grassroots level by providing a centralized platform. It offers access to a diverse range of information and resources essential for rural development. Through this portal, Gram Panchayats can stay updated on initiatives aimed at enhancing their quality of life. It also facilitates efficient communication between BIS and community members, promoting collaboration for the effective implementation of rural development strategies and projects.

**2. Engagement of Standard Promotion Consultants**

- a. Recently, BIS has undertaken numerous initiatives to expand its outreach to stakeholders, encouraging their participation in various programs and services, and informing them about the mechanisms and portals available for interacting with BIS and accessing Indian Standards directly.
- b. Consequently, the scope of standard promotional activities has expanded significantly. These initiatives are carried out by BIS branch offices and Standards Promotional Officers (SPOs). To strengthen stakeholder engagement further and enable scientific officers to focus on core conformity assessment tasks, BIS is engaging Short-Term Consultants specifically for standards promotion activities at the branch office level.

**3. Logistical support for the exposure visits**

- a. Following the principle of, seeing is believing, BIS has introduced exposure visit to academia in addition to exposure visit for industry professionals, aimed at raising their awareness of quality standards. These visits entail bringing students to learning spaces within Industries, BIS-recognized labs, BIS offices and laboratories, offering a hands-on understanding of manufacturing and testing processes. Similarly, industry personnel gain invaluable insights into best practices and standardized testing methods for their products. During exposure visit, the laboratory tours offer the visitors the opportunity to witness cutting-edge infrastructure and testing facilities in action at both BIS and BIS-recognized labs. Furthermore, students are provided the unique chance to observe manufacturing processes and in-house product testing at various industries.
- b. To facilitate the seamless organization of Exposure visits, BIS has partnered with Balmer and Lawrie to provide logistical support across various locations nationwide for its offices by entering into an MoU.

As per terms of the MoU, M/s Balmer and Lawrie shall provide a dedicated tour manager to all the Branch offices to carry out the exposure visits for standards club students to industry/ laboratories. The tour manager shall be responsible to carry out the following tasks:

- a) Escorting the students/ college in the hired vehicle to the Industry/labs and dropping them back.
- b) Making food arrangements wherever required.
- c) Making stay arrangements in case of two-day exposure visit to far flung areas.
- d) Ensuring the safety & security of the students
- e) Arrangement of vehicles (requirement will be communicated directly by the concerned Branch Office)
- f) Liaisoning with BIS resource person who will meet the team at the concerned industry/ Labs.

A remuneration of Rs. 3,000/- per day of exposure visit per manpower plus applicable taxes shall be paid to M/s Balmer and Lawrie towards the service of the tour manager. No service fee shall be paid to M/s Balmer and Lawrie on the remuneration of the tour manager.

#### **4. Publication of Reference Handbooks**

a. One of the major objectives of the MoUs with premier institutes of the country is to promote the education of Indian Standards as part of the regular teaching-learning process in these institutions for which the Bureau would provide all inputs required to create teaching modules on the concept of Standardization and Conformity Assessment. While revising curricula to accommodate teaching of standards may be a long-drawn process, the standards can easily be integrated with the teaching-learning process, if the faculty members are well-informed about the relevant Indian Standards across various academic disciplines. Hence, it was decided to develop reference handbooks related to identified subject areas and Indian Standards.

b. Accordingly, BIS scientific officers at the level of Scientist G have developed Reference Handbook(s) that concentrates on Indian standards relevant to the curriculum. This initiative aims to enhance awareness among students and faculty about the contributions of BIS in this field.

To facilitate broad access to the completed reference handbooks, all publications are classified as non-priced and freely distributable. The reference handbooks are available in the BIS Academic Dashboard. A total of 1000 hardbound copies of each handbook are being printed, with 10 copies of each handbook earmarked for distribution to the libraries of partner MoU institutes.

#### **5. Printing of comic books**

a. Recognizing the need to engage with the younger generation and foster an understanding of the critical role of standards, BIS will shortly launch a series of comic books aimed at young students. This innovative initiative seeks to make the concept of standards more accessible and relatable to children, ensuring they grasp the importance of safety, quality, and reliability in their everyday lives. Through captivating stories and vibrant illustrations, these comic books will educate students about how standards are integral to their safety and well-being, from the toys they play with to the food they eat and the technology they use.

b. By instilling this knowledge early on, BIS aims to cultivate a generation that values and adheres to standards, contributing to a safer and more conscientious society. This initiative not only spreads awareness but also inspires young minds to appreciate the significance of standards in building a secure and sustainable future. The comic books are being developed on topics such as electrical appliances, stationery, sports goods, kitchenware etc. The comic books will be printed and distributed to around 10,000 Standards Clubs of BIS. The identified Central Bureau of Communication agencies have prepared sample illustrations and the series of comic books are currently being developed as per sample illustrations.

**Proposal made to the EC**

The Executive Committee was requested to note.

**Decision of the EC**

EC noted and appreciated the initiatives.

## **Item 24            ENGAGEMENT OF SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS AT BOS, TERMS    &    CONDITIONS OF ENGAGEMENT**

### **Background**

BIS had taken the initiative of creating Standard Clubs in educational institutions with an objective of inculcating the concept of standardization and quality consciousness in young minds. Diverse activities like Standard Writing Competitions, Quizzes, debates, Essay Writing & Poster Making Competitions, etc. are regularly held in these clubs.

During the year 2023-24 two short term consultants for Standard Promotions, namely, Standards Promotion Consultants (SPCs) were engaged at each BO for a fixed period of 06 months for a special drive to reach the target of 10,000 Standard Clubs as per terms and conditions approved by EC through circulation via email on 10 August 2023. As on date, more than 10,000 Standard Clubs have been created across the country.

As per the existing guidelines 03 activities in School Standards Clubs and 02 activities in Standards Clubs in engineering institutions have to be carried out each year for successful operation of these Standards Clubs. Around 28,000 activities are to be conducted with an average of 65 activities per month per BO in these clubs each year among other activities.

In addition to Academia, BIS is also engaging with the other stakeholders like Government, Industry and Consumers at all levels and to keep the network robust and functional consistent engagement with them is necessary.

To facilitate BOs to conduct the activities of Standards Clubs, exposure visits and other Standards Promotion Activities like Gram Panchayat Sensitization among other activities with quality conscious approach in FY 2024-25, BIS is in process of engaging two Short Term Consultants for Standard Promotions, namely, Standards Promotion Consultants (SPCs) for 06 months' duration in each of the 36 Branch Offices of BIS.

Terms & Conditions containing educational and experience criteria of consultants, remuneration, etc. are same as earlier approved by EC, with the following revised Scope of work:

(a) The Engagement of short-term consultants for standards promotion is intended for various branch offices of BIS as per requirement and in the organizational interest. After the successful creation of more than 10000 nos. of standards clubs currently, various activities like Standards Clubs activities, Exposure visits, Gram Panchayat Sensitization etc. are to be organized by BIS BOs across the country.

(b) The functions of consultants for standards promotion include, but are not restricted to:

- i. Provide assistance to the Branch Office in preparing the plan of action for the conducting activities of Standards Clubs, Exposure visits, Gram Panchayat Sensitization etc.
- ii. Liaise with the educational institutions, resource support teams, gram panchayats etc. to conduct activities and sensitization programmes.
- iii. Provide assistance to the Branch Office in organizing the capacity-building programmes for the Mentors and Science Teacher Training Programmes and activities at the institutions.
- iv. Provide assistance to the BO in identifying Resource Persons, organizing capacity building programmes for them, deputing them for Standards Club activities and keeping a record of their activities.
- v. Maintain the error-free database of the Standards Promotion activities in the manner laid down by the Bureau in this regard.
- vi. Maintain the records and reports relating to the Standards Promotion in the manner laid down by the Bureau.

- vii. Any other work assigned in connection with the creation, operationalization, or effective functioning of the Standards Clubs and other Standards Promotion activities.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

The information was put before the EC for information.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC noted.



## **Item 25            CREATION OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT FOR STANDARDISATION: ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY DEPARTMENT (EED)**

### **Background**

Environment, by definition, encompasses all the factors that influence and impact the development and sustainability of life for all organisms on Earth. It is the immediate surroundings in which living organisms reside and operate. Ecology is the study of the interrelationships between organisms and their physical and biotic environments. Organisms and the environment are interconnected and mutually dependent. Any changes in the environment affect living organisms, and vice versa.

Importance of Standardization in Environment and Ecology: Standardization plays a vital role in the continuous pursuit of sustainable development. This is because standards have a significant influence on the development of both products and processes. The purpose of setting standards in the field of Environment and Ecology is to safeguard the environment, human health, and natural resources. These standards can define acceptable levels of energy consumption, waste management procedures, and other measures for environmental and ecological preservation. They can encompass a wide array of activities such as addressing air and water pollution, proper disposal of hazardous waste, and conservation of biodiversity. Adhering to these standards can enhance environmental performance by offering clear and consistent guidelines for businesses and governments. Furthermore, it can contribute to lowering pollution levels, preserving natural resources, and safeguarding biodiversity, thereby addressing issues related to air and water quality, waste management, and climate change. Ultimately, the implementation of these standards can lead to an overall improvement in environmental performance throughout the region and help reduce the environmental impact of businesses and governments.

Key Areas: The standardization efforts in environmental and ecological domains majorly encompass the following key areas:

- a) Pollution: Air, Water, Noise Soil
- b) Waste Management and Sanitation: Municipal Solid Waste, Effluent Treatment, Other Solid Wastes (all 6 types), Hygiene
- c) Ecology: Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Environment Impact Assessments
- d) Climate Action: Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change Impact Reduction
- e) Environmental Measurement and Management: Monitoring and Management, Management System, Life Cycle Assessment, Environmental Services

Currently, standardization activities in these areas are conducted through Sectional Committees under various Division Councils.

In light of the national importance of addressing environmental protection and climate change issues, proposal to establish a dedicated Division Council on Environment and Ecology has been put up to SAC. This council will aim to focus on long-term strategies that prioritize sustainability and resilience, addressing both current challenges and future needs.

In order to establish a new Division Council, approval from the Standards Advisory Committee (SAC) has been sought through circulation along with draft scope, proposed Sectional Committees under Divisional Council with their liaising with ISO Technical Committees (TCs) and proposed composition of Divisional Council.

**Proposal made to the EC**

The Executive Committee was requested to note.

**Decision of the EC**

EC noted.

## **Item 26            STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDISATION ECOSYSTEM**

### **Background**

In ambition to be one of the best National Standards Bodies of the world, it was need of time to direct the focus on the following areas while Standards are formulated:

- A. Research and Development projects
- B. Addressing Sustainability in Standards
- C. Operationalization of IRD portal
- D. Efficiency Index for Sectional Committees
- E. Revamping the expert nomination process based on Level of Interest in ISO/IEC projects.

### **Proposals made to the EC**

- A. It was decided that the changes in the R&D guidelines shall be informed to EC after its reconstitution. Hence the guidelines were put up for the approval of the committee. The Executive Committee was requested to ratify the revised guidelines.
- B. The Executive Committee was requested to note the information at Point B, w.r.t. 'Addressing Sustainability in Standards'.
- C. The Executive Committee was requested to note the information at Point C, w.r.t. 'Operationalization of IRD portal'
- D. The Executive Committee was requested to note the information at Point D, w.r.t. 'Efficiency Index for Sectional Committees'
- E. The Executive Committee was requested to note the information at Point E, w.r.t. 'Revamping the expert nomination process based on Level of Interest in ISO/IEC projects'

### **Decision of the EC**

EC noted the information.

**Item 27            WORKING WITH THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS: ANNUAL PLAN FOR TECHNICAL SESSIONS, ACADEMIC DASHBOARD, BIS CORNER ON THEIR WEBSITES, WORKSHOPS WITH DEANS AND HODS**

**Background**

There are several ways in which academia can contribute to the standards formulation process. Most important of them are listed below:

- a) Getting the membership of the Sectional Committees or Working Groups of BIS.
- b) Taking up the Research & Development projects offered by BIS.
- c) Promoting the education of Indian Standards as part of the regular teaching-learning process in these institutions.
- d) Jointly organizing seminars, conferences, workshops symposia or lectures on topics of Standardization and Conformity Assessment and to invite each other's faculty to participate therein.
- e) Exchanging publications and other literature of common interest related to Standardization and Conformity Assessment.

To achieve the above objectives, following initiatives have been taken from BIS:

- i) Academic Dashboard
- ii) Annual Action Plan for Technical Sessions
- iii) BIS corner on institute websites
- iv) Workshops with Deans and HoDs

**Proposal made to the EC**

The Executive Committee was requested to note.

**Decision of the EC**

EC noted.

**Item 28 REORIENTING THE MS CERTIFICATION: ANNUAL PLAN, YPS AT ROS, RATIONALISATION OF FEES, AUGMENTING THE AUDITOR BASE, IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDIES**

**Background**

Management Systems Certification (MSC) activity of BIS is operating numerous systems certification schemes targeting various industry sectors as per the provisions of Scheme III, Scheme VIII and Scheme IX of BIS (CA) Regulations, 2018. These schemes aim to comprehensively address organizational requirements and help in achieving optimal efficiency and transparency in all or specific aspects of operations. They serve as a tool to foster a resilient quality ecosystem across all industry sectors in the country.

BIS's perspective regarding management system certification is more than just a business opportunity; rather, the primary aim is to actively contribute to the process of nation-building and enhance the overall quality standards across India. On one hand, through a very extensive audit process performed by our learned auditors helps our clients (Government organisations, prominent PSUs and large scale private industries) in implementation of Management Systems standards. On the other hand, it also gives an opportunity to our officers to visit different kinds of industries and organisation (some of them very unique in nature) which otherwise would not have been possible. This widens their horizons and tangibly or intangibly helps them in other activities such as standards formulation or setting up new labs for BIS etc. The focus is on increasing the outreach activities and reaching out to Government organisations / PSUs and other important institutes and apprising them of benefits of implementing management systems and distinct advantages BIS certification provides. Keeping this in view, the annual action plan of the current year has been re-designed taking into consideration of some key parameters such as grant of license, meeting / sensitization meeting, seminar, awareness / promotional programme (along with felicitation), auditors meet, licensee meet and participation in tenders.

In order to achieve above, adequate resources are required. Therefore, regions have been provided with additional man-power of twenty Young Professionals (YPs) who are being engaged especially for promotional activities of different management systems certification schemes, to explore target costumers, organizing seminars and workshops on MSC activities, media campaign and publicity of the MSC schemes, awareness and training programs, etc. It is expected that this will magnify the performances of the regions in MSC activities.

BIS charges a licence fee from all its licences for a period of three years. In order to make it easy for all organisations to seek BIS certification, the licence fee has been proposed to be reduced substantially. The comparison of old fee structure and proposed fee structure is as below:

Old Licence fee structure	New Licence fee structure
<i>a) Large Enterprises - Rs. 30,000/</i>	<i>a) Large Enterprises - Rs. 2,000/</i>
<i>b) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises- Rs. 15,000/</i>	<i>b) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises- Rs. 1,000/</i>
For organizations with multiple service outlets	For organisations with multiple service outlets
—	—
For each additional site (with similar activities) to be covered under the scope, additional licence fee to be paid for each site shall be Rs 5,000/- per site	For each additional site (with similar activities) to be covered under the scope, additional licence fee to be paid for each site shall be Rs 1,000/- per site

The approval of Governing Council of BIS has been received in this regard. Gazette notification to this effect is expected shortly. It is highly likely that this reduction in the fee component will attract a larger group of organisations to seek certification from BIS. Consequently, this influx of variety of

organizations is expected to create a robust feedback mechanism that contributes to the refinement of Indian Standards.

While BIS maintains a monopoly in product certification, the dynamics shifts in Management Systems Certification as multiple private bodies are competing for the same. The industry and service sectors place

considerable reliance on BIS for efficient, timely and quality services. The delivery of quality services imbues real value into the audit process. High quality service delivery leads to satisfied clients. Satisfied clients become repeat customers and recommend BIS Management Systems certification to others. A successful audit process involves competent auditors, team leaders and experts. Competence, a blend of attributes and honed through training, experience, and personal aptitude, underpins the effectiveness of the audit process. BIS possesses a distinct advantage of diverse team of skilled auditors. BIS auditors must not only be proficient but also attuned to the latest ISO developments. External and internal auditors are trained to maintain high quality audit principles which encompasses confidentiality, impartiality, openness, competence and responsibility.

The objective of Management Systems Certification activity of BIS is to actively contribute to nation-building and enhance quality standards across India through management system certification. It aims to foster a resilient quality ecosystem and promote a culture of quality in the country. BIS encourages organizations to seek certification through a nomination basis, emphasizing its significance beyond just a business opportunity.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

The Executive Committee was requested to note.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC noted.

## **Background**

### **1.        Operation of BIS Internship Scheme**

The BIS Internship Scheme was approved by EC in its 144th meeting of BIS held on 05 December 2019. The Scheme is envisaged to be mutually beneficial to students as well as BIS. BIS would benefit in the form of getting fresh thoughts, perspectives and updated technical knowledge from the young generation. For the "Interns", the exposure to the functioning of BIS and understanding of quality ecosystem, would be an add-on in furthering their own career goals in the Industries or International Organizations.

Accordingly, 34 and 42 students underwent the summer and winter internship of 2022, respectively while 177 students underwent the summer internship in 2023. The duration of internship was two months and interns were paid a stipend of Rs. 20,000 per month after the successful completion of internship. Feedback received from the technical departments indicated that the internship programme was mutually advantageous for both the students as well as BIS.

In the current year, 216 interns have been engaged for technical departments and 137 interns have been engaged in 36 Branch Offices of BIS across the country.

### **2. Strengthening BIS Internship Scheme**

During the operation of the scheme so far, certain procedural modifications were made in the same to ensure its smooth implementation. In order to subsume such modifications for bringing out more clarity as well as smooth implementation of the scheme, it is proposed to revise the scheme.

Some of the important changes proposed in the scheme include criteria for 6 months internship as well as for the 8 weeks internship scheme incorporating year/semester of students who may opt for eight weeks summer internship and six months semester internship; prohibiting applications for eight weeks internship from the final semester students of undergraduate courses; allowing applications from students pursuing five year integrated degree courses; prohibiting applications from research scholars as they may not be able to devote time to internship from their crucial period of research work; inclusion of BIS' MoU Institutes and specialized institutes offering courses in specialized disciplines; seeking NOC from the college that the student shall not be engaged in any other assignment/course during the internship period; changing admissibility of travel and stay expenses (including lumpsum amount) from that admissible to Pay Level 6 to that to Pay Level 10 employees; expansion of list of areas/disciplines considering several new focus areas in BIS such as cyber security, artificial intelligence, energy, etc.

The draft BIS Internship Scheme were presented before the EC.

## **Proposals made to the EC**

- a.    The Executive Committee was requested to note the information at Point 1, w.r.t. 'Operation of BIS Internship Scheme'.
- b.    The Executive Committee was requested to consider the draft BIS Internship Scheme as detailed at Point 2, w.r.t. 'Strengthening BIS Internship Scheme'

**Decision of the EC**

EC noted the information and approved the BIS Internship Scheme.



**Background**

As approved by the 146th Executive Committee, guidelines for engagement of consultants were formulated. The guidelines were published and operationalized from 13 Jan 2022.

However, some operational difficulties were experienced in some of the clauses mentioned in the guidelines, namely experience required to apply for the position and composition of the selection committee for engagement of the consultants. In view of the same, following modifications are proposed in the existing guidelines:

Sl No	Cl.No	Current Provision	Proposed change
1	5 b)	Minimum Experience: 05 Years	Minimum Experience: 02 Years
2	5 h)		A person can be engaged for only one consultant position at a time.
3	6	<p>The decision to engage a Consultant shall be taken with the approval of DG BIS. HRD shall process for appointment of Consultants for Standardization through an open advertisement, followed by selection of the Consultant by a Selection Committee comprising the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DDG (Standardization-I) (Chairman)</li> <li>2. Chairman of concerned Division Council/ Sectional Committee</li> <li>3. Other Members of the same committee (i.e. Division Council/ Sectional Committee)</li> <li>4. DDG (Standardization-II)</li> <li>5. DDG (Laboratory)</li> <li>6. Head (HRD) (Member Secretary)</li> </ol>	<p>The decision to engage a Consultant shall be taken with the approval of DG BIS. HRD shall process for appointment of Consultants for Standardization through an open advertisement, followed by selection of the Consultant by a Selection Committee comprising the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chairperson of concerned Technical Committee (Chairperson)</li> <li>2. One Member of the Technical committee concerned as nominated by Chair.</li> <li>3. Head of the concerned Technical Department</li> <li>4. Member secretary of the concerned Technical Committee (Member Secretary)</li> </ol>

**Proposal made to the EC**

The Executive Committee was requested to approve.

**Decision of the EC**

EC accorded approval.

## **Item 31          APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

### **Background**

In accordance with Rule 45 of the BIS Rules 2018 and BIS/DGO (450)/2018 dated 09 July 2018, the Bureau is required to prepare its annual report and, with prior approval from the Executive Committee (EC) and the Governing Council, submit it to the Central Government for being laid before both the Houses of Parliament.

The Draft BIS Annual Report for 2022-23, including both English and Hindi versions received approval from the Director General (DG) of BIS on 26 March 2024. Given that the EC was not reconstituted by then (previous EC's term completed on 15 March 2024), it was decided and approved by the Competent Authority to seek post facto approval of the Annual Report following the reconstitution of the EC. Draft BIS Annual Report 2022-23, including SAR was forwarded to DoCA for obtaining approval of Hon'ble Minister, CA, F & PD. DoCA vide letter dated 18th July 2024 conveyed the approval of Hon'ble Minister, CA, F & PD for Annual Report for 2022-23 along with SAR and delay statement.

### **Proposal made to the EC**

As the EC has now been reconstituted, Annual Report 2022-23 was put before the committee with a request to approve.

### **Decision of the EC**

EC approved.

**Item 32      ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. During the meeting, Shri Venugopal, Director, CSIR-Nation Physical Laboratory (NPL), raised concerns over the issues related to the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) regarding ease of doing business and ensuring the product quality. He requested if BIS through its surveillance activity, can oversee the quality assurance on the GeM platform.
2. Dr. Anant Sharma, National President Consumer Confederation of India (CCI) suggested that BIS should have better representation of consumers, consumer groups and NGOs in the Sectional Committees and Technical Committees of BIS. Additionally, he advised BIS to conduct a study or survey on products intended for export so that better standards, at par with international standards can be formulated by BIS. He laid emphasis on creating more awareness towards the importance of Standards and Standard Marks.