

Meeting With DIPP, Ministry of Commerce & Industry at New Delhi on 6-6-2008

A Meeting was held on 6th June 08 in Udyog Bhavan ,New Delhi with DIPP,Min of Commerce & Industry to discuss & review the various issues of the Foundry industry.The meeting was Chaired by Shri Ajay Shankar,Secretary to Govt of India . Mr Sanjay Thade,Director, Ms Priti Madan,Economic Adviser, & Mr S.K.Mukherjee Addl Economic Adviser,DIPP were also present during the meeting .

IIF was represented by M/S Satyanarayana,Chairman Policy Initiative Committee (On behalf of IIF President, Mr V.Mahadevan as he could not attend the meeting due to last minute change in his schedule due to unforeseen circumstances), Surendra Verma, Chairman,FIC Delhi, Naresh Garg Past Hony Secretary, J K Menon,MD,DCM ,Sanjay Gupta of Century Recycling & A K Anand, Director,FIC,Delhi

At the outset,on behalf of President, IIF, Mr V.Mahadevan, Mr Satyanarayana thanked Mr Ajay Shankar & other present senior officials of DIPP for their support to various points raised by IIF during the meeting held in DIPP on 14th Dec 07 during which large delegation led by President Mr V.Mahadevan took part .These issues were pursued further by IIF by formal written proposals & in various press conferences,Newspaper advertisements & also at various forums & meetings with Ministry of Steel by Delhi office & have resulted in announcement of various fiscal measures by the Govt. like abolishing import duty on steel & aluminium scrap ,metcoke,pig iron ,Imposition of Export duty on pig iron,suspension of DEPB benefit on export of pig iron till further notice ,ban on PSUs on export of pig iron etc etc which are meant to make the availability of these key inputs better till prices of these key foundry inputs stabilize .The impacts of these measures will be felt in near future .Govt may revisit some of these once the prices stabilize

The other important issues discussed were new challenges in the form of unprecedented price hike,creation of 4 centres training & skill upgradation, benchmarking, Co Financing of UNDP/GEF supported project ,Energy availability at competitive prices,Environmental clearances & review of existing IIUS (Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation scheme) for clusters to make it more attractive for clusters by increasing the upper cap from Rs 50 to Rs 100 Crores as Central grant since the scheme is more than 5 years old & since then prices of everything have gone up tremendously

Shri Ajay Shankar acknowledged the importance of Foundry industry & remarked that “It is a sunrise industry” & his department will support all legitimate issues of the industry to sustain its growth & asked IIF to submit separate detailed proposals for each issue for their consideration & recommendations to the concerned Ministry for further pursual.