

SCOPE Organizes Workshop on Public Procurement & Competition Law

Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), and Competition Commission of India (CCI) jointly organized a Workshop on "Public Procurement and Competition Law" on 26th April 2012 at Hotel Lalit Ashok in Bengaluru. Mr M.L. Shanmukh, Director (HR), BEL and Member, SCOPE Executive Board inaugurated the workshop and delivered the keynote address. Mr. G.R. Wadhwa, Advisor, CCI and Mr. U.K. Dikshit, Director (Programmes), SCOPE also addressed the participants in the inaugural session. In the concluding session Mr. K.L. Dhingra, Vice Chairman, SCOPE & CMD ITI delivered the valedictory address. Mr. G.R. Wadhwa, summed up the days' proceedings and shared his observations while Mr. U.K. Dikshit, proposed the vote of thanks.

In his Inaugural address Mr M. L. Shanmukh, Director (HR), BEL and Member, SCOPE Executive Board said transparent, fair and competitive procurement process is crucial for the progressive Indian economy. Public Sector Enterprises commit huge expenditure on procurement and they have been following laid down system and procedures which are advanced and time-tested. PSEs also have elaborate system of checks and balances to eliminate corrupt practices. However, in this global competitive environment, there is need for level playing field viz-a-viz private sector. Enhanced autonomy and adequate flexibility will result in speedier decision making and effective implementation of the process, he added.

Mr. U. K. Dikshit, Director (Programmes) in his welcome address said, SCOPE has been organizing interactive programmes for gaining better understanding of the latest developments and for skill building of various levels of executives. This workshop will be fruitful for the senior



Mr. M. L. Shanmukh, Director (HR), BEL & Member, SCOPE Executive Board (center) with Mr. U. K. Dikshit, Director (Programmes), SCOPE (left) and Mr. G. R. Wadhwa, Advisor, CCI (right) at the Inaugural Session of the Workshop on Public Procurement and Competition Law

executives involved in the procurement process and also create awareness about the Competition Compliance Programme to help avert unconscious infringement of provisions of the Competition Law. Mr. G.R. Wadhwa, Advisor, CCI, while giving the Workshop Perspective said, the objective of the workshop is to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, protect the interests of consumers, and to sensitize the PSEs about the potential cost

savings generated by introducing increased competition and transparency in procurement policies.

A number of technical sessions were held during the day. In the first session Mr. R.N. Sahay, Adviser (Eco), CCI gave a general overview of Competition Law while Dr. Seema Gaur, Adviser (Eco), CCI discussed the issues in Public Procurement. Mr. Manoj Pandey, Director (Law), CCI spoke on detection and prevention of Bid Rigging.

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The post lunch session began with Competition Compliance by Mr. Rajinder Kumar, Deputy Director (Eco), CCI. Important features of New Procurement Bill were taken up in a Panel Discussion and a presentation on the key issues was made by select PSEs. Both the sessions had question and answer rounds in the end.

Mr. K. L. Dhingra, Vice Chairman, SCOPE & CMD ITI while delivering the valedictory address said

that in the 21st century business environment, the system of purchasing has undergone a paradigm shift and procurement plays a crucial role in the success of an organization. Effective and sound public procurement system today is a critical pillar of good governance and crucial for ensuring national security, safety of passengers, health of the citizen and the quality of infrastructure and services. PSEs spend large funds on procurement and their procurement processes are credible and advanced, he added.

At the concluding session, Mr. G.R. Wadhwa, summed up the days' proceedings and presented his observations while Mr. U. K. Dixshit proposed the vote of thanks.

The workshop, second in the series, was attended by about 50 delegates from various PSEs involved in the procurement process. The first workshop organized in New Delhi had also received an overwhelming response. SCOPE plans to organize more such workshops in different regions in future. ■