



Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

**Shri Chaudhary Birender Singh**

Hon'ble Minister of Steel  
Government of India  
Udyog Bhawan, Room No. 192  
Dr. Maulana Azad Road  
New Delhi-110 011

**Subject: Request for taking stringent action against First Construction Council and debar its activities in larger public interest**

Dear Sir,

We take this opportunity to place on record our deep sense of appreciation and convey our sincere gratitude for sparing some time to hear Shri Lalit Beriwal, Chairman of the MCCI Standing Committee on Steel of the Merchants Chamber of Commerce & Industry on the issues relating to Steel industry, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 despite your very busy schedule.

You are kindly aware that a deep-rooted conspiracy to malign and defame the Indian Steel Industry in general and the secondary sector who constitutes the backbone of the Indian Steel industry in particular, has been hatched *by some interested groups. and As a part of this conspiracy, First Construction Council (FCC)*, claiming to be a Foundation of Infrastructure Research Studies Training, has come out with a so-called Research Report which, inter alia, observed on the quality of the Indian Steel industry that "even renowned players... fail to clear basic research tests". The report further said that "while samples collected from primary players like SAIL, RINL, TATA, JSPL, JSW and Electrotherm managed to maintain the quality benchmark, most different diameter samples from secondary players failed to meet requirements."

On scrutiny of the results of the so-called laboratory test as presented in the Table of the published report of FCC it says that TATA's 8 mm, JSPL's 8 mm and SAIL's 16 mm have also failed the Physical tests but FCC has purposefully observed that they "have maintained quality benchmark". We have reasons to believe that such assertion of FCC despite their having their failed the tests clearly indicates FCC's mala fide intention.

We also feel it extremely urgent and necessary to draw your kind attention that FCC's manner of conducting the so-called research activities and testing of samples without the knowledge of the industries concerned are thoroughly unauthorized, unscrupulous and beyond jurisdiction. This appears to be very keen to facilitate import of Chinese Steel for

use in India's infrastructure projects to defeat the *Make in India* policy of the Government of India and cause depletion of the foreign exchange reserve of the country. The publication and circulation of the doctored research report at the instance of FCC spreading fabricated information and test results on the samples of the secondary steel producers are, therefore, obviously directed towards shattering the country's economy that is developing very fast.

In this context, it is also necessary to mention that FCC's reference to "events such as Kolkata bridge fall" for use of low quality raw materials is wholly unsubstantiated because this happened due to "maintenance failure and not design or material defect as it had lasted 54 years "as reported in the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018 edition of The Sunday Times of India. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that 54 years back, only steel produced by TATA and SAIL were in use, and there is also no evidence to suggest that collapse of any buildings had taken place for use of steel from secondary producers in the recent past or during the last two decades.

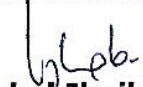
Again, the so-called research report has mentioned that steel produced from sponge iron is of inferior quality. Incidentally, India is the highest producer of sponge iron in the world with TATA and JSPL producing the maximum quantity of sponge iron in the country. On the basis of inputs and data available at our disposal, we have sufficient reasons to infer that FCC has been out to defame the Indian steel industry as a whole with a clear intention to subvert the interests of the country.

In view of the facts and circumstances stated above, we request you to kindly take stringent action against the First Construction Council, debar them to continue with such Reports prepared with mala fide intention which goes against the national interest and take affirmative action to protect the secondary sector of the steel industry in larger public interests.

An early action is solicited

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

  
**(Vishal Jhajharia)**  
**President**