

## **OPENING REMARKS OF PRESIDENT 11.09.2023**

Good Morning friends. Welcome to all of you to this 2<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting is call to order, of the year being held at this beautiful venue India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

I congratulate all elected Chairmen /Hony.Secretaries and Council Members on their election to respective offices. I thank you all for reposing faith in me and electing me to the high office of President for the term 2023-25. You have placed great responsibility on shoulders of office bearers. We through meetings and correspondence with Departmental officers, will try to get the all new and pending issues resolved.

Friends, attendance is very good today which is most encouraging, I hope members will keep it up in future as well. Past Presidents Sh. B.R. Kohli, Sh. Harish Bhatia, Sh. Bharat Bhasin, Sh. Anil Raizada and Sh. Lakhbir Singh ji have spared their valuable time and graced the occasion. I welcome you sir, and thank you from the core of my heart.

Friends, after taking over the charge of coveted office of President, myself along with my team of office bearers have met respected Engineer-in-Chief and other senior officers and discussed pending issues specially related to Performance Security, E Class Contractor and GST. It is a matter of pleasure that the response of the Departmental officers was very positive and

constructive. We hope that with your support we would be able to get the pending issues resolved at the earliest.

Friends as you are aware about the recent developments in the Association. After completion of HQ elections for the term 2023-25, a complaint was made by Sh.Bijender Singh who has lost the election for the post of Sr.Vice President to DRRC on 08.08.2023. As you all are aware the DRRC under the Chairmanship of Sh.Balbir Singh Vij was nominated by the then President Sh.Anil Kapoor in 2019 for the term 2019-21. Though the term of office bearers of Branches and HQ was extended to 2021-23 by the AGM. However, no extension was approved for DRRC neither by Council nor by the President. Further, one of its member Sh.Zachariah P John had expired. No new member in his place was elected/selected by the Council. The remaining three members viz. Sh.Satish Ghai, Sh.Ashok Kandoi, Sh.Shaukat Ahmed Dar and Chairman Sh.Balbir Singh Vij have taken part in election and contested for the post of Vice President Central B, Vice President Eastern B, Chairman Srinagar Branch and Council Member Nagpur Branch respectively. Hence they were advised not to conduct meeting of DRRC with defunct body. However, meeting of the defunct DRRC was conducted by Sh.Balbir Singh Vij Chairman DRRC for 2019-21 in which Sh.Satish Ghai and Sh.Ashok Kandoi Members DRRC for 2019-21 took part. Without any discussion/deliberation Sh.Balbir Singh Vij had pre-typed decision with him and forced them to sign even without giving them time to read. Sh.Balbir

Singh was very rude with me and he even didn't allow us to speak saying that Ex-officio members have no right to take part in discussion/deliberations and even cannot sign the decision. He even asked me to leave the meeting hall which cannot be appreciated at all. Sh.Balbir Singh Vij has given his decision that the Chief Election Commissioner and Members Election Commissioner elected by the Council in its meeting held at Pune were not eligible being ex-officio council members hence the election of HQ office bearers for the term 2023-25 conducted by the EC is not valid. Since, the decision was given by the Defunct DRRC, I have under the powers given as per MOA cancelled their decision. They have gone one step ahead by sending letter to Commissioner of Police and to Prime Minister of India through Sh.Anil Mittar requesting them to not allow the Association to conduct Council meeting. We will discuss the matter i.e. action to be taken against them as per item of Agenda.

With this I once again thank you all for sparing your valuable time to grace the meeting.

Friends, today agenda is very lengthy, therefore, I request Sh.Sandeep Srivastava to take up the remaining points of Agenda. I would request Hony.Gen.Secretary to please take up Administrative points first.

