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के.सी. राउत, आई.टी.एस.  
 अतिरिक्त सहायक

K.C. ROUT, I.T.S.  
 Additional Director General of Foreign Trade

*Dear Sir (copy),*

05/06/2016

Vide Order No. 14/19/2015 E&MDA dated 29 July 2016, I have been appointed as the Returning Officer for the election to the post of Vice Chairman of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE), Chennai.

2. On 3 August, I scheduled a meeting with ED, CLE for 3 August. ED couldn't come that day and the meeting took place on 5 August, 2016 at 4.30pm. ED, CLE informed me that CLE in its meeting of the Committee of Administration (COA) dated 27 July 2016 has already short-listed following three members from the existing Executive Committee as the candidates for the post of Vice Chairman:

- a. Shri Mukhtarul Amin
- b. Shri Subash Kapoor
- c. Shri Nari Kalwani

3. In this regard, the Memorandum of Associations (MoA) of the CLE at para 10 reads as follows:

"There shall be a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council amongst elected members. The Committee members who are newly elected after due election process and wish to offer themselves for the post of Vice Chairman shall submit his/her willingness to Election Authority for election to the post of Vice Chairman....."

4. Apparently, the provisions of the para 10 of the MoA and the decision of the COA of the CLE as at para 2 above are conflicting. Further, it may be noted that the decision of the CLE's Executive Committee at para 2 was intimated to DoC on 27 August by ED, CLE and the order of my appointment as Returning Officer for the above election was issued by the E&MDA Division, DoC on 29 July, 2016. In that case, do I assume that the action of the CLE as at para 2 above is accepted by DoC as legitimate and my role is confined only to oversee the election process by taking these three candidates for the post of VC, CLE as legitimate candidates?

5. My understanding on the role of Returning Officer is that he/she has to invite nominations from the eligible candidates followed by a scrutiny of their nomination papers; thereafter finalise the names of contestants for the election and conduct free and fair election. In view of the action taken by the CLE's COA, it would be appropriate for the DoC to clarify the role of a Returning Officer expeditiously so that I can proceed further.

*With - kind regards,*

*K.C. Rout*  
 (K.C. ROUT)

Sri Ravl Kapoor,  
 Joint Secretary,  
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*Seek clarification from ED As reply*