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MESSAGE: DGQA DAY-2023

1. At the outset, I extend my felicitations and best wishes to all officers, Staff and their families of DGQA. On the occasion of 67th DGQA Day, I also take the opportunity to convey my warm regards and greetings to all retired DGQA personnel whose invaluable contribution has shaped this organisation and ensured its overall growth with changing time. My congratulations to all Award Winners for their outstanding achievements and service with sincerity and professionalism. I am sure that your contributions will add value to the tasks at hand and contribute towards shaping a brighter future.
2. I took over the charge of this organisation in Feb 2023 when the organisation was going through an important phase of transformation and restructuring to meet aspiration of emerging Defence Manufacturing Ecosystem. A series of reform activities have since been taken for metamorphosis of the organization so as to become an Enabler and Catalyst in pursuit of Hon'ble Prime Minister's Vision of "**Raksha Aatmnirbharta**" through promotion of Ease of Doing Business and handholding of new Defence Industry, MSMEs and startups.
3. As a premier QA agency, DGQA has onerous responsibility of ensuring Quality of wide range and depth of Defence equipment procured indigenously as well as imported by our esteemed Armed Forces. As we celebrate our 67th Raising Day, it provides us with an opportunity to take account of our achievements as well as revisit tasks in hand so as to create a vibrant DGQA capable of embracing fast pace of technological advancements and meeting future challenges.
4. Post Corporatisation of OFB into new DPSUs and with larger participation of Private Industries in Defence Manufacturing ecosystem, DGQA has realigned its QA approach with a view to bring uniformity in Acceptance of Defence Stores based on international & national standards. In last one year, more than 120

standards have been prepared and promulgated. Impetus is being given to prevention and risk based QA by strengthening supplier Quality Management System and assigning higher responsibility and accountability for quality, to their internal Quality control set up through regular Process Audit as part of Quality Assurance.

5. In our strive towards Quality in Defence sector, various initiatives have been taken during recent times to facilitate both Procuring as well as Production agencies. I would like to highlight some of these on this occasion.

(a) Functioning of DGQA has been realigned and restructured by undertaking internal reforms based on recommendations of various studies. Our Technical Directorates and AHSPs have been aligned based on Weapon Platforms and associated technologies, thereby converting Technology Centers into 22 Product Centers, which will foster decentralization, Single window engagement and faster decision-making. Field QA establishment have been consolidated at regional level.

(b) A Quality & Reliability Framework and procedure for Design, Development, production and sustenance of Land System at Apex level and a QMS Manual at Field Estt level has been formulated in line with ISO standards to ensure uniform QA methodology across all DGQA establishment.

(c) Comprehensive Quality Assurance Guide has been formulated to address all QA requirements in a systematic manner which will enable formulation of broader scope for all types of procurement processes with sufficient flexibility to achieve Quality and Reliability.

(d) Standard QA manuals have been prepared for a family of similar equipment and weapon platforms which will work as a guide to the Industry.

6. Several policy guidelines have been issued to empower industry through a liberalized and industry friendly AHSP procedure to enable timely upgradations/ improvements in their products in line with changing times and emerging technologies. These include

(a) Indian Defence Industry which have developed their own products with indigenous capability will be allowed to own and account for design & specification.

(b) Guideline on Form, Fit & Function trial has been issued to amplifying the methodology to be followed for upgrades or use of alternate materials.

(c) A SOP for **"Suppliers Document of Conformity"** has been framed to declare the conformity by the supplier in a standardized manner.

(d) NABL or National or International Lab test reports for evaluated test sample are also being accepted to avoid time delay.

(e) In addition to two Proof Ranges, DGQA currently has 400 NABL accredited test facilities at various laboratories of DGQA.

(f) In order to avoid delays, **Concurrent Testing** during product development & user trials is being implemented. Parallel/ concurrent evaluation of multiple vendors or samples will address early completion of equipment evaluations.

(g) Keeping in line with contemporary global best practices and to complement industry standard 4.0, guidelines are being framed to graduate to **Hybrid and Lean QA**. In this direction, Virtual Inspection is also being adopted by DGQA, where possible. This will reduce the QA lead time and the Inspection cost.

(h) Indian Defence Industries is being encouraged to adapt to global Defence Standards and corresponding adoption of Global QA practices will enable continual growth in indigenisation of stores and also in defence exports.

(j) Digital Technology is being incorporated in the field of QA and Testing. Allotment of Proof Ranges & Testing Labs to Industry through an online portal under development will ensure transparency, uniformity and level playing field across all manufacturers.

(k) A Supply Orders Monitoring Portal has been launched to monitor progress of contract implementation w.r.t targeted timelines. All stakeholders i.e. Service HQ, OEMs/ vendors, DPSUs associated in execution of contracts can login and update their progress on the portal. The aim is to enhance transparency and online monitoring of status of delivery of Stores to Armed Forces.

(l) Quality conclaves and monthly interactions are being conducted by DGQA for defence manufacturing industry, SIDM, FICCI, DPSUs, MSME and Startups to discuss quality related issues and give opportunity to stakeholders to be abreast with latest directives of the GoI in order to achieve 'Aatmnirbharta in defence manufacturing , testing , indigenisation and export goals.

(m) Measures like Self Certification, Green Channel Certification, Fit for Military Use Certificate have been taken to ease out QA procedure and cut down inspection and delivery timings with higher autonomy to Suppliers. Use of Third Party Inspection Agencies is being encouraged for non-core stores.

(n) Improvement and upgradation of Proof Ranges with new testing facilities is being given impetus to cater to increased requirement of Defence Industry involved in design & development and indigenization projects.

(o) To strengthen the efforts of sustenance and better inventory management, initiative has been taken by DGQA to identify slow/ dormant moving inventory for elimination/ reduction of waste as part of Lean Management and recommendations have been made to upgrade stores based on current requirement and technology.

7. Interaction with industries regarding utilization of government schemes has been conducted at PAN India level by DIQA and field establishments. Various webinars and seminars on Government Schemes, QMS, Online registrations including IDM portal, and interaction meetings have been conducted with industry. Online Quality conclave has also been conducted with 300 plus defence industry partners and members of FICCI, SIDM, CMDs of all DPSUs, MSMEs and Startups.

8. Training of human resources is a key performance indicator of growth and excellence of any organisation. In this regard, necessary capability and professional skill development of officers and staff is being given due importance keeping job specific training requirements in mind. Our premier Training Institute, DIQA is being developed into a Centre of Excellence and collaboration has been done with IITs and ISI for Quality & Reliability related certification courses. Training Courses have also been added for Industry representatives and more than 200 persons have been trained on a tailor made training programme for alignment to MoD policies and global QA standards for Defence products.

9. During the last six months, a lot of hardwork has been done to resolve long outstanding issues and this has resulted in grant of Substantive Rank and permanent secondment. All pending DPCs have been completed and RTPs carried out considering Academic Year. All compassionate postings have been processed and deserving ones considered sympathetically. All efforts are being undertaken to expedite Cadre Review proposal by aligning it to NPC recommendations. The issues related to career progression of Gp B Officers are being taken up with due sincerity and proposals of internal committee involving affected cadres has been taken up with DDP and also brought under the ambit of Cadre Review.

10 The Defence Manufacturing Ecosystem is changing at a very rapid pace and Procurement Agencies are also re-defining and re-orienting their policies. It is incumbent on us to adapt to these changes and embrace the fast pace of technological advancements so that we can meet the aspirations of User and Suppliers. I would urge you all to take necessary steps in this direction.

(a) The process of restructuring and reorganisation should be given due priority and new PEs formulated with due diligence considering workload and tasks at hand.

(b) Automation and digitisation of data and processes at Estt, AHSP and Dte level is a must for effective performance of technical activities in current times. Proof Ranges and Labs must upgrade and enhance their capacity to meet indigenisation requirements of Industry. Towards this end, sanctions have been accorded for infrastructure upgradation projects worth 31.17 Cr at CPE Itarsi and 60 Lakhs at LPR Khamaria. Works worth 7 Cr and 7.33 Cr are in the pipeline at both the ranges respectively.

(c) Officers and Staff interacting with Industry and User should provide sound technical advice and resolve issues in a time bound manner. For this, it is important that they are abreast with latest policies and guidelines. There should be uniformity and absolute clarity on role of QA agencies related to inspection of input material, advance sample evaluation and class C tests.

(d) Large number of representations and Court Cases are being received which take away a lot of productive time of the organisation. Estts must make effort to arrest these by taking necessary timely action.

(e) Revised guidelines have been issued for discard and disposal of unserviceable or surplus stores. Estts must implement the policy and dispose off undesirable stores. Similar exercise must be done for weeding out documents and implementation of lean management.

(f) All Estts must exercise financial prudence and maintain high level of integrity while incurring expenditure under various heads.

11 We must acquire new competencies in response of changing contours of technology in defence manufacturing with an aim of timely delivery of high quality Defence Stores to Users as well defence exports in pursuit of vision 2047.

12. On this momentous occasion, let us all collectively re-dedicate ourselves to the nation with clear focus on objectives for the future.

13. I once again wish all serving and veteran DGQA officers & Staff and their families all the very best for the times ahead.

-Jai Hind-


Lt Gen R S Reen
Director General of Quality Assurance