

Composition of Board of Directors of Public Sector Enterprises. (DPE O.M. No. 18 (6)/91-GM dated 16th March, 1992.)

CHAPTER II PERSONNEL POLICIES

(g) Composition of Board of Directors

45. DPE/Guidelines/II(b)/16

Composition of Board of Directors of Public Sector Enterprises.

The question of Composition of the Board of Directors of PSEs has been considered from time to time and various guidelines have been issued in this regard by the Bureau of Public Enterprises. The Members of the Board of PSEs generally consist of the following three categories:—

i. Functional Directors:— These are full time operational Directors responsible for day to day functioning of the enterprise. The Economic Administrative Reform Commission (EARC) had recommended that each Board should have an adequate number of Functional Directors on it. This was considered by the Govt. and the Bureau of Public Enterprises had issued guidelines in 1984 that the posts of Director (Finance) and Director (Personnel) be created in all Schedule 'A' and Schedule 'B' enterprises and on a selective basis in Schedule 'C' Companies. Apart from these two functions, the enterprises could have representation at Board level for other disciplines such as production, marketing, project, planning etc. It is, however, observed that these guidelines are not being followed by the Administrative Ministries while constituting the Boards of PSEs. While in some cases the Boards are functioning without a single Functional Director, in others there is preponderance of such Directors.

ii. Government Directors:— These are appointed by the Administrative Ministries and are generally the officers dealing with the concerned enterprise. In most cases there are two such Directors on a Board; the Joint Secretary or Additional Secretary dealing with particular enterprise and the Financial Adviser of the Ministry. The question of representation of Government Directors on the Boards of PSEs was examined by the Arjun Sengupta Committee and following its recommendation, the Bureau of Public Enterprises have issued guidelines in 1986 that the Administrative Ministry concerned should not have more than one nominee Director on the Board of a PSE. In case of PSEs engaged in trading or dealing with important and exclusive items the number of Government Directors could be two. It is, however, noticed that in actual practice the number of Government Directors on the Boards of PSEs continues to be large.

iii. Non-Official Directors:– The induction of Non-Official Directors on the Boards of PSEs has been considered essential by various Committees and Commissions in order to make the Boards more professional. They are to be drawn from the public men, technocrats, management experts and consultants, and professional managers in industry and trade with a high degree of proven ability. The Bureau of Public Enterprises have issued guidelines in 1983 that the number of such Directors on a Board should be one-third of its total strength. This input is considered very important as it plays a complementary role in providing professional and managerial advice to the Board. It has, however, been the experience that the vacancies of these Directors are not filled up to stipulated levels in many enterprises by the Ministries.

2. The Department of Public Enterprises has recently considered the question of professionalization of the Boards of PSEs in pursuance of the New Industrial policy Statement made in the parliament on 24th July, 1991 and it has been decided that the composition of the Boards of Directors in PSEs should be broadly on following lines:–

(A) Functional Directors:

Every Board should have some full time Functional Directors. The number of such Directors on a Board should not exceed 50% of the actual strength of the Board.

i. In cases where the number of Functional Directors on the Board is more than the 50% of its actual strength (not sanctioned strength), Administrative Ministries will immediately undertake a review of the strength of the Board in consultation with Department of Public Enterprises and PESB.

ii. On such Boards where the posts of Functional Directors do not exist, Administrative Ministries will take immediate steps to create such posts in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

(B) Government Directors:

The number of the Government Directors on the Board of Directors of an enterprise should not exceed one-sixth of the actual strength of the Board.

i. It will be preferable to have only one Government Director from the concerned Administrative Ministry on each Board. The choice of the nominee Director would vest with the Secretary of the concerned Department.

ii. In case of PSEs where it is considered essential to give representation on the Boards to other concerned Government agencies/Ministries/State Governments, only one representation from the Group could also be appointed on the Board as part-time Government Director.

iii. The number of Government Directors on a Board should in no case exceed two.

(C) Non official Directors :

i. The number of Non-Official Part-time Directors on a Board should be at least one-third of its actual strength. Wherever there is under representation of such Directors on the Board the concerned Ministries should take immediate steps to fill up the vacancies to stipulated level.

- ii. A Panel of suitable persons who could be considered for appointment as Non-Official Part-Time Director on the Boards of PSEs will be maintained centrally by Department of Public Enterprises. This Panel will be prepared in consultation with PESB and the Secretary of the concerned Administrative Ministry.
3. All Ministries/Departments concerned with Public Sector Enterprises are requested to strictly adhere to above guidelines in the composition of the Boards of Directors in respect of PSEs under their administrative control.

(DPE O.M. No. 18 (6)/91-GM dated 16th March, 1992.)

(Guidelines issued on the same subject matter is reproduced below.)

DPE O.M. No. 18 (6)/91-DPE (GM) dated 13th November, 1995.

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Reference is invited to this Department's O.M. of even number dated the 16th March, 1992 on the above mentioned subject. In para 2 (B) (ii) of the said O.M., it was, inter-alia, mentioned that the choice of the Nominee Director would vest with the Secretary of the concerned Department. The matter was reconsidered in this Department and it has now been decided that the choice of the Nominee Director would vest with the administrative Ministry of the concerned Department.

2. All Ministries/Departments concerned with Public Sector Enterprises are requested to take note of the above decision and follow the same at the time of composition of Board of Directors of PSEs under their administrative control.