

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **DISCUSSION ON SIMILAR SYSTEM AVAILABLE IN SISTER SERVICES AND CORPORATE SECTOR**

#### **Equipment Provisioning and Accounting System( EPAS ) in Sri Lanka Air Force**

48. The Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) has strength of well over 25,000 personnel and more than 150 air craft. SLAF operates an inventory of over 50,000 items and these items are located at various locations. All items transactions are monitored by Supply and Maintenance Depot,(S&MD) Katunayake.

49. At present, SLAF is using a internally developed software systems which is called Equipment Provisioning and Accounting System( EPAS) and it is very similar to the Integrated Logistics Management System ( ILMS) in SLN. It has been achieved fully automation to its normal operations related to Procurement and Accounting Systems. EPAS facilitates to raise all the requisitions through the computerized system and it proceeds up to receipt of good and items are inventoried and issuing of the items to the end user are also being done through the automated system. All Stores/Warehouses are interconnected through data network which is designed and maintained by SLAF and the interconnected network which is using in SLAF is very similar to the network that is used by SLN. Existing EPAS system is run as parallel to the manual procedure. Especially, EPAS consists with following major modules and those are very similar to the procurement and stores management modules in ILMS.

- a. Procurement Module
- b. Material Resource Planning

#### **Drawback and Failure of the System**

50. The major hindrance that SLAF is facing like SLN is frequent network failure due to bad weather condition. Therefore, EPAS also unable to carry out day to day transaction and the data updating also are not taken placed and it will lead to inventory discrepancies with the physical stock. The other problems which are arising in the system could be rectified with the available

staff without more impact to the day to day transaction. SLAF also still seeking a better solution in order to introduce a better network system to minimize the network failure.

### **Inventory Control System in Cargills (Ceylon) PLC**

51. Cargills has streamlined their supply chain by integrating all out lets in Island wide and the ERP software packaged has been purchased from M/s Soft logic PLC in order to have a systematic function of their inventory management system. At present, all the Cargills out lets have been inter connected through the Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT) data network. They have the backup servers in each Cargills out lets and each transaction simultaneously updated the system at their Head office as well in the out let. The reorder levels for each items are calculated by the automated system and all the items are procured from centralized location (Head office- Colombo) and delivered to all out lets in Island wide. Each out lets has the facility to check the availability of items in all outlets in Island wide and this facility has been given only to the specific authorized person. Further, system has been facilitated to Radio frequency Identification System (RFID- bar code) and easy to locate any item within the out let.

52. Cargill has a representative from Soft logic in every out let in order to assist for a system failure or error. Other than that, they have dedicated staff in twenty four hours to attend for the system errors in Head office.

### **IT system and Infrastructure**

53. The Cargills is reliant on its IT system and operational infrastructures in order to conduct the business efficiently and inappropriate system or failure of key system could have a significant impact on the business. The Cargills have adequate control in place to maintain the integrity and efficient of IT infrastructures and to ensure consistency of delivery. The staff are trained and effectively engaged to mitigate IT related risks. The investment of IT related infrastructure is given priority at the boarder level and third party supplied hardware and software are covered by maintenance agreement.

### **Drawback and Benefits of the System**

54. There is no major drawback or failure when compare to the systems in both SLN and SLAF. The system failure may occur in seldom and there is dedicated specific staff to attend at any time in locally and Colombo(Head office) for such failure in every out let. The followings benefit have been identified from the system in Cargills software package.

- a. Minimum Network Failure
- b. Minimum System Errors
- c. Easy Price and Items Identification (Due to RFID)
- d. Indication of reorder quantity and time automatically through the system

**A model of ERP system in Cargills (Ceylon) PLC**

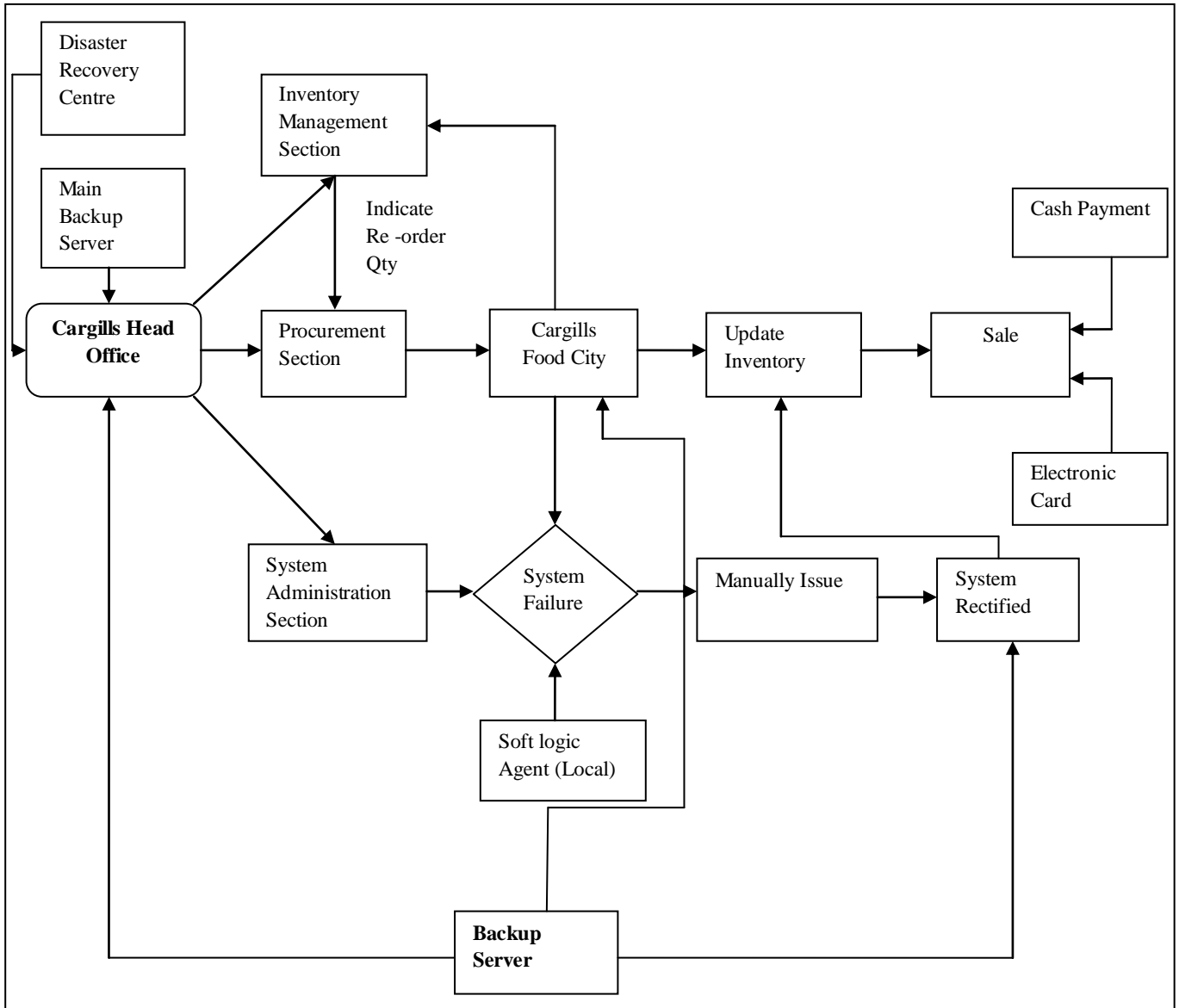


Figure 4.1: model of ERP system in Cargills