

Central Information Commission

Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 20.03.2007 in the Chamber of the CIC.

Present:

1. Shri Wajahat Habibullah, CIC in Chair
2. Smt. P. Balasubramanian, IC
3. Dr. O.P. Kejariwal, IC
4. Shri A.N. Tiwari, IC
5. Prof. M. M. Ansari, IC

2. Secretary, Joint Secretaries and Under Secretary also attended the meeting.

I. Discussions of the suggestions sent by Shri M. Chandra.

1) The Commission directed that address, Telephone Nos., and Fax No. that the public can interact with, should appear directly below the name of the organization at the home page of the CIC web site. If a PBX system is installed, the calls can be directed to the correct person for answering. The Commission can think of taking professional help for the back-up officer for this purpose.

2) The Commission directed that regarding mode of payment the DoPT should be requested to send clarification. The Commission also recommended that the use of judicial stamps should also be allowed by DoPT as it will facilitate citizens in filing RTI applications.

3) Regarding the confusion of the name of the authority who can accept payment of RTI request the DoPT may be requested to clarify the position. Some kind of homogeneity can be thought of with regard to the nomination of the accepting authority in all public authorities.

4) Regarding the other suggestions it was decided to circulate them among all the ministries of Govt. of India.

5) The action taken may be intimated to Shri M. Chandra.

II. A point for discussion was raised whether the Indian Missions set up in foreign countries come under the purview of the RTI Act. Since these Indian

Missions are set up by the Foreign Ministry; they come under the ambit of the RTI Act. However, the mode of payment to be made by RTI applicants seeking information from the Indian Missions has not been clarified in the existing rules. The matter may be taken up with the Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Personnel & Training. However Missions will not have the right to reject applications on this ground alone till such time as the necessary amendments are made

III. The Commission decided that a print out of the cause list should be prominently displayed on a notice board in the Commission.

2) The issue of Audio Conferencing was taken up and it was decided that the Commission should also go in for Audio Conferencing. Details may be examined and presented to the Commission for approval

3) The Commission decided that in the next financial year, purchase should be made of telephone instruments with three lines which can provide two telephone lines and one fax in a single instrument.

IV. While expressing approval of the proposal received from ITDC regarding making arrangements for travel and stay for the Central Information Commission, it was felt that further negotiations should be done with ITDC to get a more favourable discount. The Commission also desired to know what arrangements the ITDC will make in those cities where the ITDC does not have its own hotels, and examine alternative possibilities..

Thereafter, the Commission met without officers to discuss redistribution of work among the Commissioners. The Commission left it out to the Chief Information Commissioner to take a decision in this regard.

