

Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission held on 21.2.2006
in the chamber of CIC

Present:

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

Joint Secretary & Registrar and Under Secretary assisted the Commission.

The Commission approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14.2.2006. The Commission was briefed on the action taken on the minutes of the meeting held on 7.2.2006.

2. The Commission discussed and approved that all decisions issued by individual Commissioner or group of Commissioners would be immediately circulated to other Commissioners for their information. In case of urgency it may be taken up with the Commissioner/group of Commissioners who had issued the decision or CIC. (Action by US(M) / DS(B))

3. The Commission directed the Joint Secretary and Registrar that in all cases whether of a complaint or an appeal received in the Commission, if documents received were in order, at the first instance, the comments of the CPIO would be sought and the concerned appellate authority, who would be asked to send a copy of their comments to the appellant/complainant within twenty one days of issue of the Commission's letter. On issuing the above request to the CPIOs/appellate authority, the file may be put up to the concerned Information Commissioners for their perusal. After receiving the comments or on the prescribed date, the file will be put up to the Commissioner properly flagged for taking a decision whether on calling a hearing or the taking decision on file. (Action by US(M) / DS(B))

3. The Commission discussed setting up of a National Institute of Accountability and Transparency. IC (T) brought to the notice of the Commission that Central Government had informally approved a provision for this Centre which was placed as an extended arm of the Commission as a single point contact for undertaking research on accountability and transparency issues and a data base of the best practice undertaken around the world in this regard. IC (T) agreed to circulate the proposal for information of the Commission and take steps for setting up of this Centre on behalf of the Commission.

4. IC (T) suggested that the Commission could engage the Centre for Good Governance Hyderabad for collecting the details from various public authorities that the Commission was expected to provide in its Annual Report as envisaged under Section 25 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. The Commission discussed and approved the suggestion and requested IC (T) to guide the team for taking this task as the Commission does not have adequate resources/infrastructure/manpower to undertake this gigantic task of collecting the information from all the public authorities of Central Government.

5. At the request of IC (PB) the Commission decided that all appeals arising from Ministries of Railways & Company Affairs would be handled by IC (K) and IC (A) respectively.

6. The Commission noted DOP&T OM No.10/8/2006-IR dated February 2, 2006 where Department of Personnel and Training had clarified to Department of Telecommunications that any request for inspection/copies of 'file notings' may not be acceded to. The Commission directed the Joint Secretary to write to the DOP&T the Commission's view point as reflected in its recent decisions.

7. The Commission took note of OM issued by Department of Expenditure where the financial powers of the Commission had been clarified and directed the Joint Secretary to examine the same for further necessary action.