

**Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on
01.04.2008**

Present: -

- A. Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner
- B. Smt. Padma Balasubramanian, Information Commissioner
- C. Shri A. N. Tiwari, Information Commissioner
- D. Prof. M. M. Ansari, Information Commissioner
- E. Secretary, JS (S), JS (TK), DS (PP), US (DCS), US (GS) assisted the Commission.

1. Commission took note of the receipt and disposal statistics of the Commission during March 2008. Commission further took note of the fact that all decisions written by the Commission as on 31st March 2008 stand uploaded on the website. As such only such decisions taken but not written were pending for uploading on Commission's website. The Commission noted the improvement.

2. The CIC directed that Shri Tarun Kumar, Joint Secretary and Additional Registrar be appointed the CPIO of the Commission. Keeping in view the volume of RTI applications it was also deemed proper that all the designated officers for each Commissioner will also be the PIO, CIC in respect of the information concerning the cases disposed of or dealt with by the concerned Commissioner to whom they are attached. The information in respect of any case file before the office of a particular Commissioner will be responded to by the designated officer under intimation to JS (A), CIC. JS (A) will be the coordinating CPIO for the Commission. Any RTI request, which concerns different aspects and may relate to more than one IC will be responded to by Shri Tarun Kumar JS after collecting the same from the custodians of the specific information. An office order to this effect may be issued immediately.

3. Commission has received a notice u/s 80 CPC against one Information Commissioner.

The Commission directed the Registrar to initiate an appropriate legal course of action on this notice.

Agenda Item 1: To adopt and approve procedure for the meetings of the Commission.

4. Commission discussed the need of having a formal procedure for its meetings. Secretary pointed out that it may be looked into in the background of Section 4 (1) (b) (iii) of the RTI Act. After detailed discussion procedure was adopted retaining the informality in the ambience of the meetings.

Agenda item 2: To create a Centre for Applied Research etc. in the CIC

5. The Commission desired that the proposal of the Centre for applied research etc. in the CIC may be firmed up in consultation with IC (AT) and put up before the Commission for further directions.

6. Presentation was made by MDI, Gurgaon on the diligence exercised by them in the presentation of the Report of the Commission for 2006-2007. Secretary also apprised the Commission that the chapters and subtitles for the Annual Report of 2006-2007 were approved by the Commission in its weekly meeting dated 03.04.2007. Commission observed the following:

- (i) MDI may submit a brief impact assessment and trends emerging post implementation RTI Act 2005.
- (ii) MDI may further submit their assessment in respect of the difficulties faced by the Public Authorities due to poor record maintenance, losing files, complaints about loss of RTI requests in transit of the Public Authorities.
- (iii) MDI may also capture Best Practices around the world, say, in regard to practices being followed by Canada, Mexico, US, Norway and South Africa.

MDI agreed to such analysis on the observations made by the Commissions subject to availability of data. The Commission directed that at any rate detail data be captured for the Annual Report for 2007-08 keeping in view the above observations.