

**Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on
05.02.2008.**

Present: -

- A. Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner
- B. Shri A. N. Tiwari, Information Commissioner
- C. Prof. M. M. Ansari, Information Commissioner
- D. Secretary, JS (S), JS (TK), Deputy Secretary (PP), Under Secretary (DCS), Under Secretary (G Subramanian), Prof. Nigam, Legal Advisor assisted the Commission.

1. Prof. Nigam apprised the Commission that about a dozen of the cases filed against the CIC before High Court of Delhi has been disposed of by Hon'ble High Court. In a couple of cases they have remanded the matter to the Commission, and in the rest the decision of the Commission stands.

Prof. Nigam also informed the Commission that one of the two petitions filed by UPSC against the decision of the Commission has been withdrawn by the UPSC while another petition is scheduled for argument on 18.02.2008.

2. The Commission directed that a system to apprise any such matter to the Commission at the earliest wherein any references/observations has been made by the judicial bodies be put in place. The Commission directed that these matter should immediately be reported to the Commission in writing through Secretary.

3. While discussing the compliance of the minutes of the meeting dated 29.01.2008, the Commission was apprised with the requirements of invoking Sec 195 I. P.C. Commission suggested that the word "prescribed" may also be studied in respect of other sections of the Act and a similar proposal in respect of those sections may be moved.

4. The Commission desired that some constructive suggestions received by the Commission may be incorporated in CIC (Management) Regulations.

Agenda Item 1: Compliance of the minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 15.01.2008.

5. The Commission directed that a "technical know how" session for the PPSs may be organized so that NIC can explain the modus operandi of uploading decisions of the Commission on the Website.

6. The Commission was apprised of the action taken on the minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 15.01.2008.

Agenda Item 2: Proposing target date of 31.03.2008 for completing the Annual Report (2006-2007) for the Commission.

7. The Commission directed that placing the Annual Report before the Parliament during Budget Session may not be a feasible proposition and therefore Commission may aim at sending the Report to the Government by such a date that the Government can have 20 days in hand before the same is placed in both the houses of Parliament during the monsoon session.

8. The Commission took stock of the data submitted by public authorities in the form of annual Returns and expressed their displeasure on the delayed submission of the Annual Returns by some of the Public Authorities. However, the Commission desired that those Public Authorities must submit their Annual Returns latest by 29.02.2008 failing which they may be reported as defaulters in the Annual Report. The defaulters list so emerged will also be placed as marquee on the Website of the Commission. This decision will also be so placed.

Agenda Item 3: Identifying various milestones and fixing a target date by which every year Annual Report of the Commission may be prepared.

9. The Commission approved the various milestones and its target date submitted by Secretary, by which every year preparation of the Annual Report of the Commission will be scheduled.

Agenda Item 4: Preliminary discussion on the Annual Convention of the Commission for 2008.

10. (i) The Commission while discussing the proposed Convention decided that before this proposed Convention at the National level, four Regional/Zonal level Convention may also be organized by the State Information Commissions as desired by them during the Convention held on 17.10.2007

(ii) The Regional/Zonal Convention may be organized in the months of June, July, August & September 2008 followed by a national level Convention. The National level convention may be organized by the

Central Information Commission on a convenient day around 12th October 2008.

(iii) The venue of the National Convention may be at the Vigyan Bhawan and the duration of the Convention be of 2 and a half days.

(iv) The dignitaries to be invited to inaugurate and close the Convention was discussed.

(v) Experts from US, Mexico, Scandinavian and South Asian Countries may be invited at the National Convention. The details of these experts may be suggested by the Commissioners.

Agenda Item 5: Progress of approval of CIC's new building.

11. As per the procedure of SFC, the DoPT has sought clearances from CPWD, M/o Finance, Planning Commission and M/o Urban Development out of these clearances CPWD and Finance have been obtained and the JS (RTI) has submitted the file to Secretary DoPT for date of SFC. This is likely to be 7th or 8th of February 2008 as reported on telephone by OSD (RTI), DoPT.

Agenda Item 6: IC wise disposal/pendency.

12. The Commission took stock of the receipt & disposal figures of the Cases during this month.

13. The Commission recommended including a chapter on RTI Act 2005 by the CBSE in their curriculum. The Commission desired that in the future an All India Debate on RTI may be planned.