

Minutes of Meeting dated 7 9 10

Present:

- A. Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner
- B. Shri A.N. Tiwari, Information Commissioner
- C. Prof. M.M. Ansari, Information Commissioner
- D. Ms. Annapurna Dixit, Information Commissioner
- E. Shri Satyanand Mishra, Information Commissioner
- F. Shri M L Sharma, Information Commissioner
- F. Shri Shailesh Gandhi, Information Commissioner
- G. Mrs. Deepak Sandhu, Information Commissioner
- H. Mrs. Sushma Singh, Information Commissioner

Agenda 1: Statement on receipt/disposal of the cases during August 2010

The Commission noted the receipt and disposal of cases during August 2010.

Agenda 2: Progress on the Convention of the commission

Agenda 3: Participation of CIC/IC on the proposed "Breakfast Show" as decided by the media committee chaired by IC (DS)- Decision regarding

Agenda 4: Participation of CIC/IC on the proposed programme on 10/11.9.10 to be aired on DD/AIR highlighting the convention-Decision regarding

The Commission desired that Sri M L Sharma, IC and Mrs. Deepak Sandhu, IC may represent the Commission in the proposed curtain raiser before scheduled convention on 13 & 14th. The Commission further decided to hold a press conference "Looking back at 5 years", just after the valedictory session on 14th September 2010. Commission directed the Secretary, CIC to send a series of success stories on RTI to Sri Ravinder Singh, DoPT. Decisions of the ICs, which may have larger implications or which might have brought about openness in the functioning of a Public Authority may be part of the success stories.

Information Commissioner Ms Deepak Sandhu apprised the Commission regarding the awareness programme on RTI that has been initiated by the Commission.

Supplementary

The Commission passed a resolution, which was endorsed by all except one Information Commissioner, who however endorsed the first para of the resolution. Chief Information Commissioner abstained. The resolution reads:

"The members of the Central Information Commission place on record their deep appreciation of the services rendered by the CIC, Shri Wajahat Habibullah, who is due to demit office on 30.9.2010 on completion of his 5 –year- term. Shri Habibullah led and guided the Commission

during its initial and difficult years, and helped the Commission contribute significantly to promote the right to information as well as transparency in governance.

The commissioners wish to reiterate and emphasize that the successor to Shri Habibullah should be found from within the Commission. If the Chief Information Commissioner were to be appointed from outside the Commission. it will not only run contrary to the healthy conventions established in such collegial bodies as the Supreme Court , CEC and UPSC , but will also be extremely demoralizing for those already serving the Commission with the exemplary dedication. It would also amount to uncritical acceptance of the loud clamour of certain vociferous interested groups, as rational wisdom.

In the interest of continuity, morale and the harmonious functioning of the Commission and the smooth and incremental evolution of the RTI regime in our country, it is necessary that the healthy convention of selecting the CIC from within the Commission be established and followed.”