

Minutes of the Weekly meeting held on 08.07.2008

Present: -

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

The Commission welcomed Mrs. Anita Gupta on joining the Commission as Additional Secretary.

Commission opened the discussion with making some general observations about the functioning of the Registry. It emphasized on a need for minimizing the time taken in processing the receipts in the registry of the Commission.

Commission has once again reiterated that setting up an RTI Institute should be prioritized in the work of the Secretariat of the Commission. Additional Secretary was advised to consider associating another senior officer initially involved with this responsibility along with JS (MoRe).

It was also observed that the Commission needs to have a dedicated PR unit to address the public interface especially the media.

Agenda Item 1: Meeting with Sri K T Ravindran, SPA

Commission was apprised of CIC's discussion with Shri K.T. Ravindran of the Delhi School of Planning & Architecture together with representatives of NBCC when Secretary and Joint Secretaries (TK & MoRe) were present. It was decided as follows:

1. The revised staff accommodation requirement as already approved by the Commission will be provided to Shri K.T. Ravindran by 12.07.2008 by Shri Tarun Kumar, J.S.
2. Because the space allotted to us for construction is likely to fall short with the increased staff requirement, the Commission will move to purchase our current premises in August Kranti Bhawan to supplement this accommodation. Secretary will move accordingly.
3. Prime Minister who has agreed to inaugurate our next Annual Convention in that building will lay the Foundation Stone for the new building in the SCOPE Auditorium.

JS (TK) apprised that SPG did not clear Commission's proposal for inauguration of Annual Convention by the PM in SCOPE Auditorium. Commission then directed JS (TK) and JS (MoRe) to examine organizing the function in the DRDO auditorium and report to the Commission in its next meeting.

Commission directed that a broad heading of various proposed sessions for the National Convention might be identified in view of the fact that the Commission has already decided theme of the proposed convention 2008. Commission desired further that the institutions undertaking various studies on RTI and FOI, viz. CGG, Hyderabad Yashada, Pune, IIPA, ISTM, New Delhi and such others may be invited to the commission with a view to request them to undertake the following exercise in view of the proposed convention 2008.

- Significant features of RTI/FOI in various countries with special reference to the SAARC countries.
- Two Years of evolution of RTI in India
- Regional Perspectives on RTI
- Local initiatives on RTI

RTI units of UNDP, World Bank and Transparency International may also be approached for asking for literature/research papers/studies conducted for preparing the material that may be distributed among the participants in the convention of 2008.

Agenda Item 2: Statement of receipt and disposal of the cases in the Month of June 2008.

Noted.

Agenda Item 3: Re-distribution of the Ministries/Departments amongst the Commissioners.

Commission desired that the pending cases of the Chief Information Commissioner might be redistributed among other Commissioners.

Commission directed that all the RTI appeal and complaints filed against various High Courts would be decided through Division Bench. of the Commission.

Commission desired that an effort be made to employ some of the retainers who may have retired from M/o Law & Justice and such other legal organisations at various positions in the Government. Legal Advisor Professor Nigam may also be consulted in this matter.