

Minutes of the Meeting dated 11.03.2014

Present:

Smt Sushma Singh, Chief Information Commissioner
Shri Rajiv Mathur, Information Commissioner
Shri Vijai Sharma, Information Commissioner
Shri Basant Seth, Information Commissioner
Shri Yashovardhan Azad, Information Commissioner
Shri Sharat Sabharwal, Information Commissioner
Shri M A Khan Yusufi, Information Commissioner
Prof M.S. Acharyulu, Information Commissioner

Secretary, Additional Secretary and other officers assisted the Commission.

Agenda 1 – Compliance of Section 4 circular of DoPT including constitution of task force, reply of Commission thereof (proposed).

The Commission was apprised that in response to DoPT circular dated 15.04.2013 which was discussed earlier in the Commission's meeting on 24.09.2013 and thereafter the proposal was examined by the Secretariat and a response was sent to DoPT for creation of a monitoring mechanism for section 4 on 19.12.2013. In the meanwhile, DoPT has sought the comments of the Commission on a very extensive proposal for setting up of Ad-hoc task force vide its letter dated 10.12.2013. The matter by then had been referred to the Legal Cell and a draft response was prepared by JS(Law) and the DoPT proposal was examined administratively as per the agenda note circulated for the meeting.

The Commission considered the issue in its entirety and directed that a comprehensive response on legal and administrative aspects be prepared by JS(Law) and should be vetted by legal experts available in the Commission and then sent to DoPT.

[Action – JS(Law)/Registrar]

Agenda 2 – Construction of CIC Building – Status Report.

A detailed status report on the CIC Headquarter Building was presented before the Commission. The Commission was apprised that subsequent to the SFC, the Secretariat has negotiated fresh agreements with NBCC & SPA on the lines of the earlier agreements. The draft agreements were sent to DoPT in November 2013. Thereafter, the DoPT has raised queries regarding the draft agreements; the latest such query being asked on 19.02.2014. A response is being sent to DoPT. The DoPT has been apprised that there is urgent need to sanction initial payment of Rs. 40 Lakhs to SPA to expedite the design process and submit the same for taking statutory approvals.

The Commission took note on the delay caused after the SFC on account of raising of various queries and its resolution by the Secretariat of the Commission and stated that the process be expedited.

[Action – Secretary, CIC]

Supplementary Agenda:–

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 04.02.2014, which had been circulated were taken note of and it was suggested that while registering fresh cases, if the information seeker is seeking information, then it ought to be treated as a second appeal, irrespective of what has been stated in his documents. In case, the information seeker is specifically filing a complaint and not asking for information, then it be dealt with as a fresh Complaint u/s 18 of the RTI Act. The Commission suggested that suitable changes be incorporated in the minutes of the meeting held on 04.02.2014.

[Action – Registrar/JS(Coord.)]

2. The Commission took note of the pendency of cases reflected on the website and the actual pendency. The Secretary, CIC apprised that the Secretariat and the Registry are seized of the matter and she has already held two meetings with all the Deputy Registrars & Designated Officers of the benches to resolve this issue. The CIC directed that the Commission may be apprised of the position after reviewing the pendency on the basis of physical verification of the cases in one month's time.

[Action – Secretary/Registrar]

**(Tarun Kumar)
Joint Secretary(Admn.)**

To

1. PPS to Chief Information Commissioner
2. PPS to Information Commissioner (RM)
3. PPS to Information Commissioner (VS)
4. PPS to Information Commissioner(BS)
5. PPS to Information Commissioner (YA)
6. PPS to Information Commissioner (SH)
7. PPS to Information Commissioner (MP)
8. PPS to Information Commissioner (KY)
9. PPS to Information Commissioner (SA)
10. PS to Secretary/PS to Additional Secretary.

Copy to:

1. JS(More)/Scientist 'D', NIC
2. Shri D.C. Singh, DR to CIC
3. Shri Raghbir Singh, DR to IC (RM)
4. Shri V.K. Sharma, DR to IC (VS)
5. Shri R.L. Gupta, DR to IC (BS)
6. Shri K.V. Mathew, DR to IC (YA)
7. Shri Vijay Bhalla, DR to IC (SH)
8. Shri T.K. Mohapatra, DR to IC (MP)
9. Shri A.K. Sharma, Deputy Registrar, IC(SA).
10. Shri K.L. Das, Deputy Registrar, Central Registry.
11. Shri Baljit Singh, Deputy Registrar, Central Registry