

CENTRAL INFORMATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the weekly meeting of the Central Information Commission held on 14/02/07

Present:

1. Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner
2. Smt. Padma Balasubramanian, Information Commissioner
3. Prof. M.M. Ansari, Information Commissioner

Secretary, both the Joint Secretaries and Under Secretary also attended the meeting.

1. Organizing special drive to dispose of cases received in the Commission prior to December, 06.

Regarding this point the Commission felt that the ICs are at different stages of disposal of cases and a collective special drive to dispose off cases received in the Commission prior to December, 06 may not be feasible. However, each Information Commissioner can organize a special drive to dispose of such cases.

The issue of speedier disposal of cases was discussed and a few measures were suggested, such as:-

- (i) Developing a standard format for the issue of Show Cause notice to CPIOs in cases where both the CPIO and Appellate Authority have not replied to the RTI request. JS(S) was asked to develop the format and put up at the next weekly meeting of the Commission.
- (ii) The Commission also desired that while there has been considerable improvement in the processing of dak received in the Commission, the position is not satisfactory and the Secretariat of the Commission should work towards reducing this time lag to 48 hours. Secretary of the Commission informed the Commission that this will be possible once scanning and computerization of dak is introduced.
- (iii) Another option considered was to make the Registrar of the Commission a Court as in the High Court and Supreme Court. JS(S) was asked to get the required format from the High Court and Supreme Court and put up a proposal in this matter.
- (iv) Another option considered was to appoint appraisers with a legal background for each CIC/IC. In this regard, CIC has sought a meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India.

2. Allocating regions to Commissioner for functioning as "Circuit Commissioners".

The Commission welcomed this suggestions as a means of facilitating Appellants and Respondents by hearing cases in-situ. The Commission felt that if any of the Information Commissioners goes on a Circuit Tour to conduct hearings, there can be an informal arrangement among the Commissioners for handling cases relating to other Commissioners.

3. Framing rules regarding summoning of respondents in the Commission.

The Commission felt that the existing rules are adequate with regard to provision relating to summoning of Respondents to the Commission.

4. Progress regarding August Kranti Bhawan

The Secretary informed the Commission that CCW, AIR has not lived up to its commitment of holding a meeting on 12/02/07. The officers of the Commission went to August Kranti Bhawan as scheduled at 5.30 p.m but no one turned up from CCW, AIR and not was the Pert Chart prepared or given to the officers of the Commission. The Commission took a serious view of the matter and directed the Secretary to hold a meeting with CCW, AIR as schedule on 19/02/07 and to report the progress to the Commission on 20/02/07. If no progress is made the Commission will review its decision regarding allocating the work to CCW, AIR. The Commission also directed the Secretary, CIC to contact IC(K) and ask him to pursue the matter with the officials of CCW, AIR.

5. Progress regarding designing of CIC building and Cabling of the Club building office.

The Secretary briefed the Commission regarding the progress of cabling in the Club Building Office. CIC spoke with Dr. Gairola, DG, NIC to speed up cabling of the Club Building Office. Dr. Gairola assured CIC that he would take up the matter with Mr. Paul.

The Commission desired that as soon as possible the Tuesday meetings should be held in the Club Building.

Regarding designing of the Commissions building JS(N) informed the Commission that an E.mail and a hard copy of letter of request has gone to SPA.

6. Submission of Shri V.V. Desai, Institute of Management and Growth Economics, Nagpur on the implementation of the RTI Act - 2005

The Commission directed the Secretary to send the suggestions received from Shri V.V. Desai to DOPT for further necessary action.

7. Deciding the norms for Annual Confidential Report of the Officer/Staff posted at CIC.

Regarding the ACR's the Commission decided that the entries to the personal staff of the CIC/ICs would be given only by the concerned Information Commissioner.

Regarding ACR's of all other officers and all regular officials of the Commission, the Secretary was directed to find out the procedures followed in UPSC and NHRC and to develop a pattern along with similar lines for approval of CIC.

8. The Commission took note of the fact that AS(G) handed over charge as Addl. Secretary-cum-Registrar of the Commission on 12/02/07. The Commission placed on record their appreciation of Sh. Gera's role in setting up Secretariat procedures.