

## Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 07

Present: -

A. Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner

B. Smt. Padma Balasubramanian, Information Commissioner

C. Dr. O.P. Kejariwal, Information Commissioner

D. Secretary, JS (TK), DS (PP), US (G) and US (DCS) assisted the Commission.

1. The Commission took a decision that for legal matters, Legal Retainer should be engaged by the Commission. No Legal Consultant should be engaged.

2. The Commission took a decision that the posts of Court Master, OSD (Protocol), Data Entry Operators, Stenographers, P.A's, P.S's and Librarian should be decaderized and recruitment rules prepared for the same. The recruitment rules framed by CAT and other similar organizations can be obtained and followed as far as possible while framing the rules for the Central Information Commission.

3. For the caderized posts, DoPT should be requested to fill them as early as possible so that the Commission can minimize the hiring of Consultants.

#### 4. **Creation of the RTI Cell**

The Commission reiterated the need to set up an RTI Cell within the Commission since the number of RTI applications to the PIO of the Commission are increasing rapidly. JS(S) was requested already to put up a proposal.

5. It was decided by the Commission that henceforth Prof. K.K. Nigam should be invited to the Commission meetings. He should brief the Commission regarding the status of Court cases. The Commission also desired that some clerical staff be provided to Prof. Nigam.

6. The Commission noted that cases against the decisions of the Commission have been filed in a number of High Courts in various states. It was decided to hire an Additional Solicitor General of that state on behalf of the Commission.

7. The Commission took a decision that due to increased workload typists may be hired on a day to day basis.

8. The Commission took a decision that after obtaining orders passed by Central Election Commission, similar orders be passed for the CIC/ICs of the Central Information Commission regarding traveling by Executive Class during LTC and also regarding other post retirement benefits.

9. An e.mail was received from Shri Lokesh Batra making the following proposals:-

- 1) the citizens' observations on the Recommendations of Conference of 'Information Commissioners' held on 17 Oct 2007, should also be placed on CIC website along with the relevant recommendation.
- 2) You will appreciate that the PIO Regional Passport Ghaziabad, statement: "I like to inform you that Section-4 of the RTI Act is not done at the level of each Passport office by the Ministry as whole", quoted in my earlier mail of 18 Oct 2007 (case no. CIC/OK/A/2007/00632, first heard by Central IC on 03 Sep 2007 and is still under follow up), has much wider ramifications as far as implementation of Section-4 is concerned.

This was placed before the Commission.