

Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 21/08/2007

The following were present:-

Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner
B. Smt. Padma Balasubramanian, Information Commissioner
C. Shri A. N. Tiwari, Information Commissioner
D. Prof. M. M. Ansari, Information Commissioner
E. Dr. O.P. Kejariwal, Information Commissioner
F. Secretary, JS(S), Under Secretary (DCS),
Under Secretary (G Subramanian) assisted the Commission.

1. Compliance of the minutes of the meeting dated 7.8.07

2. a) The Commission approved the formats suggested by JS(S) regarding Show cause notice – under Section 20(1) of the RTI Act, 2005, Summons to Appear in Person, Summons to Witness and Notice of Hearing. These would be now applied uniformly in the Commission.

b) Regarding Item no. 5(a) “Effective implementation of the CIC Regulations”, JS(S) was asked to comply and put up a note for the next meeting.

c) Regarding Item no. 5(b), the Commission directed the Secretary to take periodical review meeting to see how the regulations were functioning in the Commission.

The Commission noted compliance of all other items.

3. a) The Commission desired that Prof. Nigam should be consulted for interpretation of Section 8(1)(j) and a note be put up to the Commission for the next meeting. JS(S) may take action in this regard.

4. Regarding the Interactive Session planned for 17th October, 07, the following decisions were taken:-

i) The title of the programme may be changed to “Conference of Information Commissioners”. It is a Conference specifically for experience sharing among Information Commissioners.

ii) The programme was approved as proposed except that for the first session along with “Enforcement of Section 4 of the Act”, “Creation of E-Districts” should also be added.

- iii) The Commission decided that for each Session a Rapporteur should be nominated so that by the same evening the entire recommendations of the Conference are available to the participants.
- iv) Regarding the modalities of the Convention, the Commission decided that it would take a decision at a later date.

4. Supplementary agenda circulated on 14.8.07 (New Projects for 11th Five Year Plan)

- a) The supplementary agenda circulated on 14/8/07 regarding the new projects for the 11th Five Year Plan, the Secretary informed the Commission that in compliance with the decision of the Commission to see if the cost of the recurring expenditure for the Call Centre could be reduced, the Secretary had another meeting with the TCIL and officers of the Commission. TCIL informed the meeting that if a single shift is operated by the Commission, the cost can be reduced from 40-50%.
 - b) The Commission decided that while the present project as formulated can be sent for approval to DoPT, in the meanwhile IC(K) may put up an alternative proposal to see how costs can be reduced.
 - c) Regarding Centre for Accountability and Transparency Studies, Secretary informed the Commission that the Advisor in the Planning Commission Dr. Nagesh Singh had suggested alternative analysis studies before putting up the proposal for setting up a separate new Centre for Accountability and Transparency. Keeping this in view the Commission discussed various alternatives and decided that it may be better to set up a Research Wing within the Central Information Commission which will be dedicated to do research on RTI and to fulfill the needs of the Commission in this regard. Secretary should put up a revised proposal for approval of the Central Information Commission.
5. The Commission decided that the Media Manager may be invited to the meeting of the Commission on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month.