

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd SEPTEMBER, 2014 AT 1630 HRS

Present :

Shri Vijai Sharma, Information Commissioner (in chair)
Shri Basant Seth, Information Commissioner
Smt. Manjula Prasher, Information Commissioner
Shri M.A. Khan Yusufi, Information Commissioner
Prof. M.S. Acharyulu, Information Commissioner
Secretary to the Commission, assisted by Additional Secretary, and other officers assisting the Commission.

Agenda No. 1: Construction of CIC office building

The Commission was apprised, as per agenda notes dated 19.09.2014 circulated for the meeting, about the status of the project, the recommendations made by the SFC, the approvals accorded to the SFC recommendations by the competent authority, and the observations of DOPT about the need for making progress to avoid curtailment of the allocated plan funds due to non-utilisation and also to prevent adverse impact on the project's viability arising from delays. The Commission directed the Secretary to expedite the MoU with the NBCC as per the recommendations by the SFC so that the plan funds are utilized in time.

Action : JS (MoRe)

Agenda No. 2: Any other item

The following issues were also discussed with the permission of the Chair.

1 The Commission, taking into account the practice of holding annual conferences in and around October, discussed the prospects for holding a meet for exchanging views on the implementation of RTI Act. It was decided that a one day session be organized in the third week of October in the RVNL conference room. The past and present Central Information Commissioners and the Board of the National Federation of Information Commissions would participate. This will be in the nature of a brainstorming meet to address subjects pertinent to the RTI Act's functioning and implementation.

Action : JS (MoRe)

2. The Commission was informed that DOPT has approved the proposal for consultancy of three months to Shri A N Tiwari, former Chief Information Commissioner & Prof. M M Ansari, former Central Information Commissioner for preparing a report on the modalities for auditing the pro-active disclosures made by the public authorities as suggested by the Commission earlier.

Action : JS (Admn)

3. The problems faced due to video conferencing breakdowns during hearings were discussed. The Commission felt that the NIC be advised to coordinate with the State authorities for ensuring smooth functioning of the video conferencing facilities.

Action : JS (MoRe)/NIC

4. DOPT's letter dated 9th September, 2014 regarding implementation of Adhaar enabled Bio-metric Attendance system for the staff and officers was discussed, and it was decided to implement the Bio-metric Attendance System in the Commission.

Action : JS (Admn)/ JS (MoRe)

5. The decision dated 17.09.2014 of the Madras High Court was discussed, according to which, a person seeking information under the RTI Act, must show that the information sought is either for his personal interest or for a public interest. The Commission observed that such a decision would have far reaching implications, keeping in view the express statutory provisions on the subject, in the light of which the Secretary, DOPT be apprised of the matter for appropriate action.

Action: JS(Law)/Registrar

(S.P.Beck)

Joint Secretary (Admn.)

To

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

Copy also to :

1. Registrar, CIC
2. JS(MoRe)
3. Shri D.C.Singh, DR
4. Shri T.K.Mohapatra, DR
5. Shri Raghubir Singh, Consultant

6. Shri V.K.Sharma, Consultant
7. Shri R.L.Gupta, Consultant
8. Shri Vijay Bhalla, Consultant
9. Shri K.L.Das, Consultant
10. Shri Babu Lal, Consultant
11. Shri Malik, Scientist E, NIC with a request to upload the Minutes of the meeting on the website of the Commission.

(S.P.Beck)
Joint Secretary (Admn)