

**Minutes of the weekly meeting of the Central Information Commission
held on 24/04/07**

Present:

1. Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner
2. Smt. Padma Balasubramanian, Information Commissioner
3. Dr. O.P. Kejariwal, Information Commissioner
4. Prof. M.M. Ansari, Information Commissioner
5. Shri A.N. Tiwari, Information Commissioner

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

2. The Commission approved the minutes of the meeting held on 10/4/07.
- 3. Approval of Draft Agreement with SPA for designing the CIC Building at R.K. Puram and approval for getting soil testing, profile and measurement of Land through SPA.**

- a) The Commission took the decision that in para 2.0 of the proposed agreement with SPA, a time frame for the designing may be included.
- b) In para 3.0 a saving/enabling clause may be added.
- c) The new building should be centrally air-conditioned.

4. Progress Report regarding August Kranti Bhawan

- a) The Commission decided that it was very important to have back up facilities in case of power failures. The other offices in August Kranti Bhawan can be contacted to have common generator facilities in case individual facilities are not possible. The office should also consider purchasing invertors for running Air-Conditioners during power failure, if required.
- b) The date of shifting to August Kranti Bhawan should be told to the Commissioners well in time so that the date of hearings can be fixed accordingly.
- c) Those Information Commissioners who wish to get their own furniture transferred are free to do so and the rest will be transferred by the office. IC's were requested to communicate their preference to the HOD.
- d) The Commission also directed that the Telephones, Rax and intercom should be installed prior to the shifting so that by the time Commissioners shift they are in working order.
- e) The Commissioners may inform office regarding the decor of their rooms so that this can be done on time.

f) CIC informed the Commission that he was unable to contact an Architect for the interior decoration of August Kranti Bhawan. It was suggested that an Architect from some other Governmental organizations may be contacted for this.

5. Discussion on contents of the project being outsourced preparation for submission to the Planning Commission for the 11th Five Year Plan

a) The Commission desired to see the profiles of the proposed Consultants suggested by Deputy Advisor, Planning Commission and as well as some samples of the projects they have made earlier, especially relating to Non-Animal Husbandry areas.

b) Regarding Project B “Setting up of a National-Wide Call Centre, it was decided that during the visit of Mr. Nilekani, CEO and MD, Infosys, he had offered the services of Infosys for any aspect of RTI. Infosys may be contacted to find out if they would be willing to help the CIC in making the software for a Call Centre. Their response may be placed before the Commission in its weekly meeting.

c) Regarding Project C “Setting up of the Institute of Transparency and Governance”, it was decided that since the project has already been sent to the Government, IC(T) may give directions to the Secretary in this matter in case the project needs any modifications.

d) Regarding Project D “Setting up of Video Conferencing Studio”, it was decided that this should be deleted as a Project. An estimate may be got prepared by NIC and DoPT may be asked to provide the necessary funds.

e) Regarding Electronic Projects it was decided that the National Electronic Mission may be approached for sanctioning the funds. In this regard a meeting can be convened under the Chairmanship of Chief Information Commissioner to which Mr. Mathur, Secretary, I.T and Mr. Gairola, DG, NIC may be invited.

6. Legal opinion regarding a govt. servant’s right as a citizen under the RTI Act

This agenda item was noted by the Commission.

7. Extracts of notes recorded by Director, JS(AT & A) of DoPT clarifying that powers of a Deptt. of the Central Govt. have been delegated to the Chief Information Commissioner (reference file no. 2/32/2006-Admn-CIC) for information.

This agenda item was noted by the Commission.

8. Availability of the Services of helicopter for traveling to remote & inaccessible areas of North-Eastern States on official duties-for information

This agenda item was noted by the Commission.

9. Progress of Annual Report of the Commission for the Year 2006-07

The Commission noted the progress made so far for the preparation of the Annual Report 2006-07.

10. Rule 5(1) was discussed in the Commission. JS(S) was asked to give legal opinion by the next weekly meeting whether oral evidence was a mandatory requirement under RTI or not.

11. It was pointed out that sometimes the language used by the Appellants and Respondents is not temperate. Such matters should be brought to the notice of the CIC/IC concerned in the note sheet.

12. The note circulated by US(PP) in compliance of para 5(b) of the meeting held on 10/4/07, the Commission decided that the pending cases would be disposed of at the earliest in the form of a special drive.