

Central Information Commission

Minutes of the weekly meeting held on 26/09/2006 in the Chamber of the Chief Information Commissioner

Present

- 1. Shri Wajahat Habibullah, CIC in Chair**
- 2. Smt. P. Balasubramanian, IC**
- 3. Dr. O.P. Kejariwal, IC**
- 4. Prof. M.M. Ansari, IC**

The Secretary, Joint Secretary, both Directors and Under Secretary were present.

The Commission began with the petition filed by DOPT for the full bench hearing in the case of Shri Pyare Lal Verma vs. DOPT. The Commission decided to give a full bench hearing to this case. A sufficient time will be given to all the stakeholders to bring their views before the Commission in this matter. Date of hearing will be decided by the Registry and communicated to all parties.

The Commission was apprised of the progress of the preparation for National Convention of One Year of RTI. It was decided that IC (PB) and CIC will receive the President when he will arrive on 13/10/2006. A Bouquet of flowers will be presented to the President by the Chief Information Commissioner. "Vote of Thanks" for the 13th celebration will be delivered by the Information Commissioner, Dr. O.P. Kejariwal. Similarly for 15th, the Information Commissioners Shri A.N. Tiwary and Prof. M.M. Ansari along with the Chief Information Commissioner will receive P.M. and will deliver a vote of thanks respectively. Since Sri Tiwari, IC is not present in the meeting his convenience/consent may be sought for (subsequently agreed that IC(T) will propose Vote of Thanks).

On 14th of October, a brief Introduction of the Speaker for key note address, Dr. P.C. Alexander may be read out either by the Secretary, CIC or by any other officer she designates.

Regarding the title of the collection of the papers on the various issues of RTI submitted by various authors, Commission was apprised that in Hindi it is "Soochna Ke swar" whereas in English CIC suggested the title "Information in Resonance". Both the titles were agreed to by the Commission. It was however emphasized by the Members that it must be ensured with the Director Printing that the booklet is ready before the Convention.

Director (NS) informed the Commission that the message from Smt. Sonia Gandhi which will be published in the Booklet has been received. The

Commission advised that it may be determined if messages of the President and the Prime Minister were being sent so that these may be incorporated in the Booklet.

It was reiterated that the Post Offices are acting as CAPIO for receiving an RTI application and forwarding it to the concerned Public Authorities. Once Rs.10/- has been paid by the appellant to the Post Office, the concerned Public Authority is obliged to respond to the appellant as per the provisions of the Act. Postal charges, if any, could not be debited to the application fee.

The Commission observed while analyzing the trend of the appeals/complaints received, that the work load among the Commissioners is not uniform. Hence, the Commissioners will consider the re-allocation of the Ministries for the even distribution of the work load.

The Commission emphasized that the Website of the Commission should place on it all the relevant information which may be required by the Public.