

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA
Minutes of 12th Board of Governors Meeting held on 13th December, 2014
Venue: AP. Bhavan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi.

Participants

Members :

- Shri K.S. Sripathi, IAS (Rtd), SCIC., Tamilnadu Information Commission.

Board of Governors:

- Shri Jannat Husain, IAS (Rtd.) SCIC., Andhra Pradesh Information Commission, Vice President & President (I/c).
- Shri Y.D. Thongchi, SCIC, Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission.

Also Present:

- Shri A. Vijaya Prakash, Executive Secretary, NFICI., Hyderabad.

The Executive Secretary warmly welcomed the Hon'ble Board of Governors & Hon'ble Members to the 12th Board of Governors Meeting, the Hon'ble President Sri Jannat Hussain while Presiding over the meeting informed that all the Board of Governors invited to the meeting, but due to one reason or the other, the Board of Governors representing Viz.1) Central Information Commission 2) Haryana 3) Maharashtra 4) Bihar 5) Manipur 6) Odisha could not be attended to the meeting, accept Sri Y.D. Thongchi. CIC Arunachal Pradesh. Sri Jannat Husain took-up the agenda and asked the Executive Secretary to read out the action taken report of the previous meeting.

Sri A V Prakash, Executive Secretary readout the Action taken report of last General Body and Board of Governors meeting held on 19.04.2014 and decisions taken thereon which reads as follows.

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1) Printing of RTI Act in Braille:

The RTI Act in Braille (English version) got printed, covering important G.Os and Circulars of APSIC and produced a sample copy before the Hon'ble Members in the last General Body Meeting.

A dispute arose with regard to payment has been resolved amicably and the printer came forward to get print the books as per the Quotation earlier approved in the Board of Governors meeting held at New Delhi on 19.04.2014.

In the last meeting, the Member Commissions were requested to send important G.Os and Circulars issued by their respective State Governments to get print the same along with the RTI Act (in Braille), but the same are awaited (except from the State Information Commission, Karnataka). The Hon'ble Commissions are once again requested to provide the requisite information to go ahead with the work.

2) Awareness Generation on RTI Act among the General Public:

A decision has been taken for awareness generation on RTI Act among the general public through media and short films. The same could not be materialized for one reason or the other. However, a short film in Hindi has been developed and displayed on the NFICI website by YASHADA, Pune. The Executive Secretary proposed that The YASHADA, Pune may be requested to put their efforts to prepare short films in Hindi and in English and display on 'You Tube' and also on TV Channels by preparing a project report showing the probable expenditure to the committee headed by the CIC., Andhra Pradesh and the CIC., Tamil Nadu, which has been accepted .

Regarding Advertisements in media, The members opined that since it is a costly affair the Hon' ble Members took a decision to drop the issue.

3) Filing of impleading petition before the NCDRC, New Delhi by the NFICI:

As per the decision taken in the last General Body Meeting held on 19-04-2014, the NFICI engaged a Supreme Court Lawyer viz., Smt.A. Subhashini and got filed impleading petitions in the following five cases pending before the NCDRC., New Delhi

Sl. No.	Filed in case (R.P) No.	Impleading Petition No.	Date of filing	Case pertains to the State of
1.	2028/2012	15020/2014	31.07.2014	Uttar Pradesh
2.	3146/2012	15021/2014	31.07.2014	Punjab
3.	275/2012	15023/2014	31.07.2014	Andhra Pradesh
4.	362/2013	15022/2014	31.07.2014	Haryana
5.	66/2014	15024/2014	31.07.2014	Orissa

After several adjournments final arguments were held during November, 2014 and the cases were reserved for orders.

Decisions :

1. Discussing on the printing & supply RTI Act in Braille the Hon'ble SCIC Sri K.S.Sripathi suggested that instead of supplying one copy it will be appropriate to supply 10 (ten) copies of RTI Act in Braille to each State Commission, which may useful for the concerned Commissions to supply copies of the same among the deserving Blind Educational Institutions, so as to bring awareness on the Act among the Blind students.

The same has been accepted by the Board.

2. To train up newly appointed Commissioners under RTI Act by utilising the services of senior Retired Commissioners to have a grip over the Act in dealing and disposing the cases successfully by them.
3. To take out short films on RTI for display in Cinema Halls & on TV channels through respective I&PR Departments for bringing awareness among the public.

The modalities on the above items have to be worked.

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4. Extending financial assistance to the committee constituted for developing detailed guidelines and methodology for implementing section 4 of the RTI Act by various Public Authorities.

The Central information Commission constituted a Committee with the approval of the DoPT for a period of three months to work in line with DoPT Guidelines No.1/6/2011-IR dated: 15.04.2013. The committee will interalia, prepare guidelines for Public Authorities to the frame work for third party audit. The Committee has now started functioning and it is felt some Research Assistants required to be engaged urgently to collect data and interact with other key Public Authorities to help prepare the report. The Secretary, Central Information Commission, New Delhi accordingly requested for financial assistance of Rs. Five lakhs for the Project taken up.

As one of the key mandates of the NFICI is to assist and carry out studies on the implementation of the RTI Act, a decision was taken to release an amount of Rs. 4.00 lakhs for the purpose in two spells.

Sd/-
(Jannat Husain)
President(I/c),NFICI.

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Executive Secretary