



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA
Minutes of 22nd Board of Governors Meeting held on 24th Aug, 2020 at 1600 hrs
Through Video Conferencing

Chief Guest: Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State

Participants:

Board of Governors:

- Shri Bimal Julka, (President), CCIC, Central Information Commission, New Delhi
- Shri Basudeb Banerjee, SCIC West Bengal State Information Commission
- Shri P.B.O. Warjri, SCIC Meghalaya State Information Commission
- Shri Narinder Chauhan, SCIC, Himachal Pradesh State Information Commission

Also Present:

- Dr. Joram Begi, SCIC, Arunachal Pradesh State Information Commission
- Shri D.P. Thaker, SCIC, Gujarat State Information Commission
- Dr. Ajit Prasad Rout, SCIC & SICs Assam State Information Commission
- Shri Yash Pal Singal, SCIC & SICs Haryana State Information Commission
- Shri Sunil Kumar Misra, SCIC & SICs Odisha State Information Commission
- Sh. Oinam Sunil Singh, SCIC, Manipur State Information Commission
- Shri P. Ramesh Kumar, SCIC & SICs Andhra Pradesh State Information Commission
- Shri Ashutosh Sharma, SCIC (In charge) & SICs Rajasthan State Information Commission
- Shri Somanathan Pillai, SIC, Kerala State Information Commission
- Shri J.P. Mamgain, SIC, Uttarakhand State Information Commission
- State Information Commissioner, Tamilnadu State Information Commission
- State Information Commissioners, Nagaland State Information Commission

Special Invitees:

- Information Commissioners, Central Information Commission, New Delhi.
- Dr. Satbir Bedi, Secretary, Central Information Commission, New Delhi.
- Smt. Meena Balimane Sharma, Addl. Secretary, New Delhi.
- Joint Secretaries & Director, Central Information Commission, New Delhi
- Legal Consultants & Legal Retainer, Central Information Commission, New Delhi.

NFICI's officers:

- Shri Anil Kumar Gehlot, Joint Secretary, CIC & Honorary Secretary, NFICI, New Delhi
- Shri Sushil Kumar, Deputy Secretary, CIC & Executive Secretary, NFICI, New Delhi.

Dr. Satbir Bedi, Secretary, Central Information Commission, New Delhi welcomed the Chief Guest Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State and introduced all the participants present there.

The meeting commenced with the warm welcome of Hon'ble Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh by Shri Bimal Julka, Chief Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission, New Delhi and President, NFICI. Shri Bimal Julka, Chief Information Commissioners, CIC, threw light on the major activities undertaken by the Central Information Commission during lockdown period in view of COVID19 pandemic. It was informed that the Commission had effectively continued its interactive and outreach activities during the lockdown period and afterwards. These included video conference with civil society representatives and video conferencing with members of National Federation of Information Commissions in India (NFICI) besides consultations with the former CICs. Hearings were conducted through audio / video conference and the parties were advised to refrain from physical presence to maintain social distance in compliance with the Government guidelines. It was also brought out that sanitization and intensive cleaning of office building was carried out at periodic intervals as a precautionary measure.

Shri Bimal Julka, Chief Information Commissioner, CIC then requested Hon'ble Minister of State, Dr. Jitendra Singh to address the participants.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, MOS appreciated the functioning of the Commission that remained unaffected by the Covid-19 pandemic and complimented the Commission for its disposal of petitions from March 2020 to July 2020. He applauded the efforts of the CIC and its functionaries in proactively initiating the procedure for entertaining, hearing and disposal of appeals/complaints from the newly created UT of J&K through virtual means. He stated that in the present government, the entire information of various government Departments / Ministries is already in the public domain and that the government is conscious of obviating the necessity of filing the RTIs in respect of the information pertaining to its policy and programs. He however cautioned against duplication/ misguided RTIs in order to reduce the pendency and the workload of the Commission and to enhance efficiency. He emphasized that the government is fully committed to ensuring transparency in its performance in various spheres. (The text of the press release issued by PIB is attached).

Shri D.P. Sinha, Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission presented a vote of thanks.

Agenda:

- 1) **Confirmation of Minutes of last Meeting:** The Minutes of last Board of Governors and Special General Body Meeting held on 29th April, 2020 through Video Conferencing were confirmed.
- 2) **In the absence/demitting of office by the CIC, New Delhi and President, NFICI:** It was decided by the members of the federation that the powers of President, NFICI will be exercised by the Vice-President, NFICI in the absence or demitting of office by the Chief Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission, New Delhi and President, NFICI as decided in the meeting held on 29.09.2018 at Jaipur. It was also decided that this clause may be added in the Bye-Laws of Federation as a permanent measure.
- 3) **Election of Board of Governors:** The members of the Federation were apprised that the present Board of Governors tenure was completed on 20.05.2020 except Kerala SCIC and Nagaland SCIC, whose tenure is upto 14-06-2021 and 13-12-2021 as per BoG Meeting dated 14-06-2019&14-12-2019 respectively. The election of the respective Board of Governors was held and the following zone wise SCICs are elected as members for Board of Governors beginning from 25-08-2020 for two years.
 - 1) **SCIC Haryana** in place of SCIC Himachal Pradesh from Zone: 2
 - 2) **SCIC Chhattisgarh** in place of SCIC West Bengal from Zone: 7
 - 3) **SCIC Mizoram** in place of SCIC Meghalaya from Zone: 6
 - 4) **SCIC Gujarat** in place of SCIC Goa from Zone: 4
 - 5) **SCIC Jharkhand** in place of SCIC Bihar from Zone: 5
- 4) **Status of Appeal, Annual Accounts & ITR e-filing:** Members were apprised that the Income Tax Appeal filed before the Appellate Tribunal, Hyderabad has been adjourned to 10th Feb, 2021. It was unanimously agreed that the case may be transferred from Hyderabad to Delhi for better monitoring.

Members were also apprised that ITR e-filing for the year 2018-2019 has been filed by our Chartered Accountant, M/s. Batra Deepak & Associates.



The revised annual accounts for the year 2018-2019 i.e. Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments were placed before the members of the Federation for approval. However Shri Sunil Kumar Mishra, SCIC, Odisha State Information Commission observed certain errors in the annual accounts of NFICI for the year 2018-19 and suggested that these needs to be re-examined by the Chartered Accountant.

It was further informed to the members that the annual accounts for year 2019-20 Audit and ITR filing are under progress as the last date of ITR filing is extended upto Nov-2020.

- 5) **Important decisions & initiatives by State Commissions:** It was decided in last Meeting dated 29-04-2020 that in view of closure of offices due to COVID-19, two months time may be given to all the SICs to submit their important decision & initiatives in summarized manner of the prescribed proforma. In this regard the letter dated 19-05-2020 had been sent by e-mail to the all State Commissions. **Only Nagaland SIC has sent an Initiative on 5th June, 2020 by e-mail so far.** It was agreed upon that in the wake of COVID19, some more time i.e 2 months may be given to all SICs to submit their entries.
- 6) **Status of outstanding Annual membership:** Respective Members were requested to deposit their outstanding annual membership fee till F.Y. 2020-21 and intimate on the requisite proforma to update the records.
- 7) **Status of 2nd Grant & outstanding Utilization Certificate and supporting vouchers from 1st Grant:** Respective State Information Commissions were advised to submit their outstanding Utilization Certificates and Vouchers against 1st Grant as well as 2nd Grants.
- 8) **Consideration of increase in Remuneration of Data Entry Operator:** Members of the Federation were informed that only one Data Entry operator is looking after the work of the Federation since 02.04.2018 at a consolidated fixed remuneration of Rs. 19,500/- per month and no increase has been given to him since then. It was decided that a sum of Rs. 4,000/- per month (Four Thousand Rupees) be increased in the existing remuneration, raising his remuneration from Rs. 19,500/- to Rs. 23,500/-.

9) **Status of NFICI's current Account and FDs:** The Members of the Federation were apprised that the Federation's current account balance in the State Bank of India Bhikaji Cama Place is Rs. 26,19,571/- and have 15 FD's amounting to Rs. 1,54,91,392/- as on date 27/07/2020.

The President, NFICI concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks to all participants.



(Bimal Julka)

President, NFICI

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No.1/12/2010/CIC/Meeting

Dated: 24-08-2020

Press Release dated 24.08.2020

The Central Information Commission (CIC), New Delhi organized meeting with all the State Information Commission, members of the National Federation of the Information Commission in India (NFICI) through Video Conferencing on 24.08.2020 at 4.00 P.M. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State was the Chief Guest. 20 State Information Commissions were present.

The meeting commenced with the warm welcome of Dr. Jitendra Singh by Secretary, Central Information Commission, New Delhi and introduced all participants present there.

Sh. Bimal Julka, Chief Information Commission, Central Information Commission, New Delhi, while welcoming Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State, apprised him with the working of the Commission especially activities undertaken during lockdown period in view of COVID19 and proactive action taken by the Central Information Commission. Hearings of cases were held through audio/video conference and parties were refrained from physical presence. The government guidelines issued from time to time in view of COVID 19 were strictly complied with.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State appreciated the steps undertaken by the Central Information Commission during this hard time of COVID19 pandemic. Hon'ble Minister also appreciated the Commission to arrange the meeting to interact with State Information Commissions, members of the NFICI in a such crucial time. The disposal rate of cases was never went down during lockdown period compared to previous year. MOS has also made a mention that the Commission has started hearing of cases w.e.f. 15.05.2020 in respect of U.T of J& K and Ladakh. Dr. Jitendra Singh, MOS stressed upon the need of

putting maximum information in the public domain so as to minimize the number of RTI applications.

Sh. D.P. Sinha, Information Commissioner, Central Information Commission, New Delhi thanked Dr. Jitendra Singh for his valuable time and addressing the participants.
