

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA

Minutes of 4th Meeting of General Body held on 19th April, 2014.

Venue: Civil Services Officers Institute, K.G. Marg, New Delhi.

Time : 12.00 Noon.

Participants:

Members:

- Shri R.I.Singh, IAS (Rtd.), SCIC., Punjab Information Commission
- Shri N. Gulati, SCIC., Haryana Information Commission
- Shri K.S.Sripathi, IAS (Rtd.),SCIC., Tamilnadu Information Commission.
- Shri Abraham Techhi, SIC., rep. of SCIC Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission.
- Shri Pramod Kumar Mohanty, SIC., representing SCIC., Odisha Information Commission
- Shri Prabodh Ranjan Dash, representing SCIC., Jharkhand Information Commission

Special Invitees:

- Shri Matheim Linggi, SIC., Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission

Board of Governors:

- Shri Jannat Husain, IAS (Rtd.) SCIC., Andhra Pradesh Information Commission (Vice Presedent)
- Shri Sujit Kumar Sarkar, IPS (Rtd.),SCIC., West Bengal Information Commission.
- Shri R. Jaya Mohan Pillai, IAS (Rtd.),SCIC., Bihar Information Commission.

Also present:

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

The Meeting commenced with the warm welcome by Shri Jannat Husain, IAS (Rtd.) SCIC., Andhra Pradesh Information Commission and Vice-President, NFICI.

Shri Jannat Husain, Vice President, NFICI who presided over the meeting informed that many of the Members could not attend the meeting due to Good Friday falling on previous day and Easter festival on Sunday. Then he took up the Agenda of the General Body Meeting and asked the Executive Secretary to read out the Action Taken Report of 3rd General Body Meeting held at Raipur on 6th April 2013 and the 10th Board of Governors Meeting held at New Delhi on 4th September 2013 for its confirmation by the Board.

Agenda Item No.2

Action Taken Report on minutes of the meeting of the 3rd General Body / 10th Board of Governors Meeting readover by the Executive Secretary.

a) Releasing of News Letter (Online quarterly addition)

As promised the editorial board constituted by the Hon'ble SCICs viz.

1. Shri Ratnakar Gaikwad, SCIC, Maharashtra
2. Shri K.S. Sripathi, SCIC, Tamilnadu
3. Shri R.I. Singh, SCIC, Punjab
4. Shri Lalhuma, SCIC, Nagaland &
5. Shri Napalchyal, SCIC, Uttarakhand.. have sincerely put their efforts and brought out the News Letter (Online quarterly edition). The 1st edition (July-August-September,2013) was released by Sri Satyananda Mishra, the then CIC, Central Information Commission/President NFICI on 04-09-2013 in DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi. Subsequently the 2nd edition (October-November-December,2013) and the 3rd edition (Janauary-February-March,2014) were also released which can be viewed on "www.nfici.org".

b) Creation of NFICI Website

As promised the website for NFICI is created by YASHADA, Pune, the same was launched by Sri Satyananda Mishra, then CIC, Central Information Commission / President NFICI on 04-09-2013 in DRDO Bhavan New Delhi, the same can be viewed on "www.nfici.org"

c) Creation of e-mail ID for NFICI

An e-mail ID info.nfici@gmail.com is created for correspondence.

d) Printing of RTI Act in Braille

The RTI Act 2005 has been got printed in Braille which also cover important G.Os and Circulars issued by Govt. of India / Govt. of Andhra Pradesh on RTI Act and rules adopted thereon. A sample copy of the RTI Act in Braille got printed was placed before the Hon'ble Members for their suggestions if any to carry forward.

The Vice President requested the member Commissions to forward the rules being adopted by them under the Act along with important G.Os and Circulars issued by their respective Governments so that the same may be got printed for supply.

The Executive Secretary informed that some problem arose with regard to cost price of printing of RTI Act Books in Braille which need be resolved. On the request of the Executive Secretary the General body appointed two member committee headed by Sri. K.S. Sripathi, SCIC, Tamilnadu & Shri Jannat Hussain, SCIC, Andhra Pradesh to resolve the issue and to see that the required number of RTI Act Books in Braille be got printed for supply among the respective State Commissions.

e) Awareness generation on RTI among the general public

A decision was taken for awareness generation on RTI among the general public especially among the rural poor through media and short telefilms in local languages of the respective states.

The Executive Secretary informed that the matter is at initial stage only. In order to sort out the problems if any in commencing the project, the General Body requested the two member committee appointed (to streamline the printing of RTI Act in Braille) to look into this matter also to sort out the problems if any in commencing the project.

f) Other Decisions

The executive secretary informed that the other decisions taken such as payment of honorarium to the Executive Secretary and appointment of one Data Entry Operator & One Office Subordinate on outsourcing basis on usual terms & conditions have been complied. Regarding purchase of furniture to NFICI, due to shifting of Commission's building to new premises the same could not be purchased.

Agenda Item No.3

Approval of Audit Report for the year for the financial year 2012-13 & 2013-14.

The Board approved the Auditor's Report of NFICI produced for the financial year 2012-13.

The Executive Secretary informed that the Auditor's report for the financial year 2013-14 is under finalization. Hence he has submitted a copy of provisional Audit report for kind perusal of Hon'ble members.

Agenda Item No.4

NFICI Web Site:

The members appreciated the efforts of Yashada, Pune in maintaining the NFICI website with up to date information.

Agenda Item No.5

News Letter (Quarterly Online Report)

The members appreciated the efforts put by the Editorial Board in releasing the News Letter (Quarterly online Report) timely, which contains useful information.

The Vice President requested the member Commissions to send Articles, Success Stories to publish in the News letter by Yashada and also invited their views and suggestions to improve the News Letter.

The Vice President also suggested Yashada to publish the details of earlier Board of Governors in the ensuing Quarterly News Letter and informed the Executive Secretary to furnish the details thereof to the Editorial Board.

Agenda Item No.6

Enrollment of Membership by left over State Information Commissions. The Executive Secretary put forth that the following information Commissions are yet to take membership in NFICI.

1. Gujarat
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Tripura and
4. Madhya Pradesh

The General Body suggested that as per earlier decision taken the President should take initiative to address respective Governments in the matter.

Agenda Item No.7

Other issues with the permission of the Chair

Sri. R.I.Singh, the Punjab State Chief Information Commissioner suggested to implead NFICI as a party to the proceedings in a RTI case pending before the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi.

Briefing about the case the CIC informed that a case against the PIO, Punjab was filed in NCDRC New Delhi under Consumer Protection Act for not providing information within (30)days as required U/s 7(1) of the RTI Act, making him liable for punishment under Consumer Protection Act taking into criteria of Rs.10/- paid towards application fee for seeking information.

The General Body discussed in length and come to a conclusion that there are penal provisions under the RTI Act under Sec. 20 and Awarding compensation u/s 19(8) (vi) (b) of the Act. It is further discussed that the Sec. 22 of the RTI Act got over riding effect, and Sec. 23 contemplates Bar of jurisdiction of the Courts. It is felt essential that if the Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, entertains the plea against the PIO under the consumer protection Act & passes any order it will be double jeopardy.

The General Body finally taken a decision to implead NFICI as party to the proceedings in all such matters pending before the NCDRC, New Delhi and defend the matters with reference to the provisions of the RTI Act. The General Body requested the Chief Information Commissioner Punjab to see that complete information on the case with connected papers be provided to the Executive Secretary, NFICI. The General Body also authorised the Executive Secretary to implead in the case filed against the PIO Punjab & likewise cases if any pending before the NCDRC by engaging an eminent lawyer to defend the matter.

Item No. 8

Election of New Board of Governors.

The General Body elected the following State Information Commissions represented by their CICs as 5th Board of Governors to the NFICI.

1. Central Information Commission, New Delhi.
2. Andhra Pradesh,
3. Haryana,
4. Arunachal Pradesh,
5. Maharashtra,
6. Bihar
7. Manipur
8. Odisha

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Sri Jannat Husain, SCIC, Andhra Pradesh Information Commission while greeting the New Board of Governors elected to the NFICI.

Sd/-
Jannat Husain,
SCIC., A.P. Information Commission &
Vice President NFICI.

// F. B.O //


Executive Secretary