

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA
Minutes of 14th Board of Governors Meeting held on 26th November, 2015.
Venue: Civil Services Officers Institute, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
Time: 11.00 A.M.

Participants:

Board of Governors:

- Shri Vijai Sharma, IAS (Retd.) CCIC., Central Information Commission, President, New Delhi
- Shri S S Channy, IAS (Retd.), SCIC, Punjab Information Commission
- Shri K.T. Chankapa, IAS (Retd.) SCIC., Sikkim Information Commission
- Shri Pinuel Basumatary, IAS (Retd.) SIC., Assam Information Commission
- Shri Shankar. R Patil, SIC., Karnataka Information Commission
- Shri Bukchem Phom SIC., Nagaland Information Commission

Also present:

- Shri Atanu Purkayastha, Secretary, Central Information Commission New Delhi.
- Shri A.Vijaya Prakash, Executive Secretary, NFICI., Hyderabad

The Executive Secretary, warmly welcomed the Hon'ble Board of Governors, & President NFICI Sri Vijai Sharma and other Participants to the 14th Board of Governors meeting.

The Executive Secretary informed that he has received a message from the Vice President NFICI Sri. S. Prabhakar Reddy, SCIC, AP Information Commission that he is unable to attend the meeting as he is not feeling well and expressed his regrets.

Sri Vijai Sharma, President NFICI welcomed the Board of Governors in attending the meeting by spending their valuable time. Then he took up the Agenda of the meeting. The Agenda items discussed with the members and the decisions taken there on are as follows

1. Autonomy to the Central & State Commissions :

Taken a decision to address letters to respective Governments.

2. Powers of contempt to the Commissioners : The issue is withdrawn as it requires amendment of the Act.

3. Voluntary disclosure of information by Public Authorities U/Sec. 4 :

Taken a decision to address letters to respective Governments to issue suitable instructions to public authorities to strictly implement Section 4 of the RTI Act.

4. Guidelines for effective functioning of 1st Appellate Authorities:

A decision taken to address the DoPT (GoI) for issuing suitable Guidelines in the matter.

5. Restrictions on seeking unlimited & huge information U/Sec. 6(1) of the RTI Act:

It is discussed in length that the act does not provide any provision in restricting the information seeker in seeking huge and unlimited information. Therefore it is suggested that the PIOs concerned to verify the pleas received U/s 6 (1) at the initial stage itself, and to assess the cost of information sought to be provided, and intimate the same to the applicants seeking such information, which may result only needy RTI applicants may come forward to collect the information.

6. Sanction of service pension to SICs: It is brought to the notice of the Chair, that only State Information Commissioners are being deprived of their service pension. Hence a decision is taken to address respective Governments to consider the issue of sanction of pension to State Information Commissioners too, on par with Chief Information Commissioners.

7. Protection of RTI Activists who are sincerely working in the public Interest: It was brought to the notice of the Chair that the GoI issued suitable guidelines vide letter No. F1/ 15/2010-1R dt. 25.8.2010 in the matter already. Hence a decision is taken to address letters to respective Governments to take follow-up action in the matter.

The Board of Governors also discussed the following issues with the permission of the Chair

1. **Warrant of Precedence:** The Board of Governors resolved to address the Authorities concerned for proper placing of Chief Information Commissioners / State Information Commissioners in the warrant of precedence.

2. **Construction of office buildings to the respective State Commissions :**

It is resolved to address respective Governments to allocate necessary funds for construction of own Office Buildings to the concerned State Information Commissions, duly allotting suitable land for the purpose.

3. **Providing beacon lights on the vehicles being used by the Central and State Commissioners :** keeping in view of Supreme Court decision in restricting the Red Beacon Lights on Govt. vehicles being used by VIPs., it is resolved to address a letter to Home Ministry concerned, to permit the Information Commissioners to use some alternate Lights on the vehicles being used by the Information Commissioners.

4. **Posting of Regular Staff in the Commissions :**

It is resolved to address respective Governments to post regular staff for effective functioning of the Commissions, instead of filling the posts on Contract & Out sourcing basis.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to one and all.

Vijai Sharma, CIC,
Central Information Commission &
President, NFICI.

//F.B.O.//



Executive Secretary