

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STAFF MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY THE 7TH FEBRUARY 2009 AT 3.30 PM IN THE COURT HALL OF SCIC, KARNATAKA INFORMATION COMMISSION

Following were present: Sri/Smt.:

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| 1. K. K. Misra, SCIC | 10. A.V.Sathyanaarayana, Assistant |
| 2. K. A. Thippeswamy, SIC | 11. D.G.Vishwanath, Assistant |
| 3. Dr. H. N. Krishna, SIC | 12. B.T.Thimmegowda, Judg. Writer. |
| 4. R. Mohana, PS to SCIC | 13. R.Sectharam Raju, Judg. Writer |
| 5. K. V. Hebbar, Section Officer | 14. K.Shubamangala, Judg. Writer, |
| 6. K. Srinivas, ASO, | 15. H.Thanuja, Judg. Writer |
| 7. K.Guruprasad, Senior Assistant | 16. S.R.Sayinath Prakash, Judg. Writer |
| 8. A.Saroja, Audit Officer | 17. Krishnoji Rao, Typist, |
| 9. K.S.Santhosh, Accounts Assistant | 18. V. Ranganath, Computer Operator. |

1. **Progress and disposal of appeals:** Commission noted with concern that pendency has gone up to 5000 petitions. However, now between the four Commissioners, number of fresh cases posted for hearing are about 800 per month which number matches the inflow. From May 2009 onwards the Commissioners would be hearing 12 new cases per day, in which case the number of fresh cases posted for hearing will be 960. This should ensure that the period within which a case is taken for first hearing does not increase beyond the present period of 4 months.
2. **Uploading of cause lists:** Commission was informed that the orders of the Commission up to 20th of January 2009 have been uploaded. Sri Ranganath is directed to verify and confirm this to the Commission.
3. **Home page of KIC website:** Sri Srinivas was requested to review the position and ensure that this is installed before the end of February 09.
4. **Annual Report:** Sri Srinivas informed that the translation of the English version of the Report for 2006-07 to Kannada is with the Translation Department. He said that they would begin this work after on-coming Lok Sabha elections in April 09. Commission expressed its anxiety and decided to take up this issue with the Chief Secretary. Commission also felt that any further delay in placing the report before the Legislature may result in an enquiry by the Committee on papers laid on the table of the House.
5. **Draft report:** Secretary, KIC is requested to prepare the write up for Annual Report 2007-08 and put it before SCIC for approval. Sri Srinivas informed that data is yet to be received from 12 Departments. It was decided that this subject should also be taken up for discussion in the proposed meeting to be held with the Chief Secretary.
6. **Purchase of office equipment:** It was noted that Commission's two photocopying machines have not been working properly. Commission decided that 5 new heavy-duty photocopying machines may be purchased. One new machine each should be given to all the Commissioners and one machine should be installed in R I & R Section. A request may be made to DPAR that a heavy-duty photocopying machine belonging to 3rd Finance Commission may also be allotted to us.
7. In fact we should request that the all the available equipment with 3rd Finance Commission should be allotted to us. Secretary, KIC shall send a letter to this effect to Secretary, DPAR. Dr. H. N. Krishna agreed to follow it up with Secretary, DPAR.
8. Commission decided to purchase 5 more Lap Tops, 1 for each of eight Judgement Writers 3 Lap Tops are already available).
9. Commission deferred the decision for purchase of printers because it may be getting some more printers from 3rd Finance Commission.
10. **Meeting with Chief Secretary:** File KIC 16 L ADM / 2008 was taken for discussion. Secretary, KIC was requested to prepare self contained notes which should be sent to Chief Secretary. Further, Chief Secretary should be requested to post one good Under Secretary to the

Commission immediately. SIC (KAT) expressed his displeasure at the manner in which this file has been handled.

11. **Creation of post of law officer:** A proposal should be sent immediately.

12. **Filling the vacancies of retiring officials:** Two officials of the Commission, Sri Viswanath and Sri Duggappa would be retiring on 7.2.2009 and 16.3.2009 respectively since their period of reappointment would be over. SIC (KAT) has desired that Sri Duggappa may be continued as one of his judgment writers on outsource basis. Due to exigencies of office work, it was decided to continue Sri Viswanath as Judgement Writer against the same post till Sri Duggappa retires on 16.3.2009.

13. **Request for grant of Rs. 5 lakhs for conducting programmes on Right to Information Act:** Commission was informed that a request for sanction of Rs. 5 lakhs has been received from a NGO. Commission noted that the Central grant for conducting such programmes is yet to be received. Further the total one time grant to the Commission is Rs. Five lakhs only, which the Commission may like to use for conducting such programmes itself through ATI etc. However, a final decision in this regard may be taken only after the grant is received.

14. **Orders for enhancement of salary and payment of arrears to SCIC and SICs:** Consequent to the recommendation of 6th Pay Commission, the salaries of the Information Commissioners and Chief Information Commissioner are to be increased and they have to paid arrears. State Information Commissioner Sri K.A. Thippeswamy informed that as per oral clarification from the AG's Office, he does not fix the salary and remuneration of the State Information Commissioners / State Chief Information Commissioner. This has to be done by the Commission independently because it is an Autonomous Body.

15. However, the salary should be fixed correctly and the due and drawn statement should be checked and rechecked. SICs expressed their displeasure over the delay in the sanction and the payment and requested that this should be got done in next two / three days. As decided by Government of India, only 40 % of the arrears (up to September 08) will be payable during 2008-09 and 60 % will be payable during 2009-10. Payment will also be subject to TDS.

16. **Sanction of 10 % special / deputation allowance to the employee working in KIC:** This subject is to be included as one of the subjects to be discussed in the proposed meeting with the Chief Secretary.

17. **Increase in the consolidated remuneration to 'D' group employees:** The Service Provider i.e. M/s S. R. Securities has stated he may not be in a position to supply the man-power at 4050/- per month and that the outsourced employees of D group have sought an increase in their remuneration. He further informed that the Government of Karnataka in DPAR has increased the consolidated remuneration to D group outsourced employees in Ministers' establishments etc. to 4800 (consolidated). The outsourced employees have also made a representation to the Commission in this regard. Commission considered their request and decided that their consolidated remuneration may be increased to Rs. 4800/- for D group employees with effect from 1.2.2009.

18. Commission clarified that total cost to the Commission per employee (including employers EPF, ESI contribution etc.) shall not exceed Rs. 4800 per employee per month.

(Dr H. N. KRISHA)

State Information
Commissioner

(K. A. THIPPESWAMY)

State Information
Commissioner

(K. K. MISRA)

State Chief Information
Commissioner

To: All concerned)