

**Record of the discussions held on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 in the Chambers of SCICs chamber.**

*Commissioners and Officers present:*

1. SCIC
2. SIC-JSV
3. SIC- DTR
4. SIC- MRP
5. SIC- TRN
6. SIC-SDS
7. Secretary
8. SO-1
9. SO-2
10. Accts Supt.
11. ASO

**1. Pendency of cases:**

The Commission noted that 13,397 petitions are pending, as on 31-8-2012, and suggested to the Secretary to write to DPAR(Janaspandana) and remind the department about opening of offices at Gulbarga and Belgaum.

SIC - DTR stated that in the Annual Report 2011-12, the closing balance as on 31st March, 2012 was shown as 8261 petitions (APL and COM put together), now a total of 12485, is shown as opening balance at the beginning of 1st April, 2012, and sought clarification about this difference.

The Secretary explained to the Commission that the difference of 4224 cases were those applications that were received before 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012 and considered as petitions by issuing unique petition numbers. These petitions were not taken into consideration, because date of hearing had not been indicated. Hence, only those cases which were taken up for hearing or hearing date indicated, as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012, were listed for preparation of the Annual Report since this is a periodical report.

SIC-JSV suggested that all relevant details related to pendency, must be presented before the Commission while reviewing the monthly pendency, so that there are no inconsistencies in the information furnished at any point of time.

## **2. TA/DA to outsource employees:**

The Secretary explained to the Commission that the Government has turned down the proposal of paying Travel Allowance and Dearness Allowance to the outsourced staff of KIC accompanying the SICs on tours. Instead it has accorded permission to pay incidental charges.

The SIC-JSV mentioned that some of the employees, outsourced by KENOICS and serving in the Revenue Department of the Secretariat were being paid more than the labour rates and suggested that the Secretary may write to the Government seeking permission and approval to pay the outsourced staff in KIC similarly.

## **3. Mobile charges to Section Officers and Accts Supt.**

The Secretary explained to the Commission that all the drivers, PA to SIC-JSV, PS to Secy. are officially receiving nominal pre-paid mobile charges of Rs. 220/- per month. He proposed that this facility should be extended to the Section Officers and Accts Supt. as well.

The Commission agreed to the proposal.

## **4. Consumer Courts admitting cases relating to matters under RTI Act.**

The Secretary submitted to the Commission, a copy of the order of the State Consumer Forum where in it had stayed the order of the Mysore District Consumer Court in which the Commission's PIO was levied penalty by the District Consumer Forum. He also brought to the notice of the Commission an order passed by the National Consumer Forum pertaining to RTI Act.

The Commission instructed the Secretary to send a copy of the National Forum's order, to the State Consumer Forum, in consultation with the law Officer of the Commission.

## **5. Annual Report 2011-12**

The SCIC, enquiring about the progress made with regard to the Annual Report, suggested that SIC-JSV and Secretary, KIC could vet the Kannada version.

SIC- JSV suggested that for the year 2012-13 onwards, the Input forms of the Annual Report should contain two more tables exclusively to monitor Date of Publication and Date of Updating of information



published under section 4(1)(a) and 4(1)(b) by the Public Authorities on their websites.

The suggestion was accepted and it was decided to communicate the formats now itself so that the public authorities will have the opportunity to publish/update the information if not already done.

**6. Representation of Karnataka Right to Information Federation on some of KIC issues.**

The Secretary brought to the notice of the Commission a petition dated: 6-9-2012 submitted by the **Karnataka Right to Information Federation** a voluntary organisation on some matters.

**7. Other subjects:**

**a. Destruction of old Records:**

The Secretary submitted to the Commission that the Record Section is facing shortage of space due to preservation of old records of the Commission.

The Commission suggested that the Secretary may adopt the procedure followed by other Tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, Karnataka Administrative Tribunal and Karnataka Appellate Tribunal regarding preservation and destruction of records.

**b. Writing to the Government about creating two Regional Commissions for KIC.**

SCIC suggested that the Secretary may send proposals to the Government for establishing at least two benches of Commissions, well in time, so that the Government could keep this in mind while appointing new Commissioners.

SIC-JSV and SIC-SDS suggested to the Secretary to submit the proposal along with details of the number of pending cases pertaining to the two Revenue Divisions of Belgaum and Gulbarga.

It was decided that the Secretary may send proposals accordingly.



**STATE CHIEF INFORMATION COMMISSIONER**