

**Proceedings of the Commission's Meeting held on 17/12/2012 at 3.30 pm.**

Commissioners and Officers present:

1. SCIC
2. SIC-DTR
3. SIC-MRP
4. SIC-TRN
5. SIC-SDS
6. Secretary, KIC
7. Law Officer, KIC
8. Under Secretary I/c., KIC
9. PS to Secretary, KIC
10. Accounts Superintendent, KIC
11. Programmer, KIC
12. ASO, KIC.

**1. Pendency of cases:**

The Commission expressed its concern about the decreasing rate of disposals when SIC-DTR stated that the total disposals hovered around an average of merely 1000 cases per month.

SIC-MRP felt that the numbers would increase if the figures indicated under the column "Orders to be Up-loaded" came down.

SIC-TRN stated that lesser disposals was due to the Petitioners expressing dissatisfaction about the information provided to them by the Respondents and seeking adjournments.

The SCIC directed the Secretary to provide a reconciled, Court Hall-wise statement showing the break-up of the total number of cases *heard and pending* before the Commission.

**2. Approval for proposed draft Cadre and Recruitment Rules:**

The SCIC suggested that the proposal needs to be re-checked by the Law Officer particularly with regard to the educational qualifications for Judgment Writers as may have been provided in the C & R rules of the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal, Karnataka Appellate Tribunal, etc. He suggested that the draft proposal could be finalised after discussion with him by the Law Officer.

SICs, SDS and TRN enquired with the Secretary about the chances of enhancing the salary of the outsourced staff.

The Secretary brought to the notice of the SICs that the Finance Department, Government of Karnataka, was approached for sanction of additional grants in budget for enhancement of salaries which has not been accepted.

**3. Permission to call for short term tenders from Courier Service Agencies:**

The Secretary brought to the notice of the Commission about the various complaints of *non-deliverance* of *Summons* and *Orders* of the Commission to the Parties. Hence he has sought permission to engage private Courier Service Agencies, in lieu of Speed Post of Indian Posts and Telegraph Services, by floating short term tenders.

The Commission agreed to the proposal and suggested to float a regular tender through e-tendering process.

**4. Including IPO Numbers along with PTN Numbers and distinct Court Hall Numbers (at the time of date allotment) while sending SMSs to applicants:**

The Secretary explained to Commission that this would be very helpful to the Petitioner who have filed many appeals and complaints. He also added that NIC may have to do a formal appraisal since the *sms service* was provided free of cost by them.

The Commission agreed to the proposal leaving it to the Secretary to discuss with NIC for acceptance or if need be a meeting of the representatives of NIC may be convened for discussion with the Commission.

**5. Issues regarding PIO section:**

SIC-MRP pointed out that the daily Cause lists of the Commission are showing *KIC or Chief Information Commissioner* as a Respondent instead of the PIO of the Commission. He further stated that the PIO of the Commission has no exemption under the Act and like any other respondent *he/she* has to be present in the respective Court Hall in cases where PIO, KIC is a party.

SIC-DTR added that the RTI Applications filed with the PIO, KIC, should be handled more seriously and emphasised that any casual approach

would cause embarrassment to the presiding officer of the Court Hall as penalty will have to be imposed on the PIO of the Commission also.

The SCIC directed the Secretary to issue Notice to the former PIOs, viz., T. Ashoka and Narayana Swami, to prepare and hand over the lists of all pending cases and papers, received by them during their tenure in KIC, to the present PIO. Secretary also should review on every Saturday or the next working day if that day is a holiday, the receipt and disposal of applications and appeals received by the PIO and First Appellate Authority of the Commission.

**6. Other Issues:**

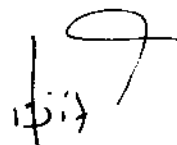
SCIC mentioned the issue regarding frequent adjournment of some cases due to unavoidable circumstances and felt the need to evolve a system for clearing such adjourned cases either by holding a sitting on Saturdays or hearing such cases in the afternoon.

SIC-DTR suggested that the Commission could hear all such cases, pending beyond 9 months, exclusively on Saturdays.

The SCIC felt that since Saturdays are being utilised for dictating orders, etc., each Commissioner may devise his own method of ensuring that some cases do not get repeatedly adjourned due to the Presiding Officer being on leave, etc.

The SCIC stressed the need to closely monitor the up-dating of the information published by the Commission under sections 4(1)(a) and 4(1)(b) of the RTI Act.

7. The Law Officer once again mentioned about some amendments that could be proposed to the Act. It was decided that this could be considered at the appropriate time.



**State Chief Information Commissioner**