

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STAFF MEETING HELD ON 21-03-2009 IN THE COURT HALL NO. 1 OF KARNATAKA
INFORMATION COMMISSION:

PRESENT Sri/Smt.:

1. K. K. Misra, SCIC
2. K. A. Thippeswamy, SIC
3. Dr. H. N. Krishna, SIC
4. J. S. Virupakshaiah, SIC
5. B. A. Nagesh, Secretary
6. Venkataramana Hebbar, SO
7. K. Srinivas, PS to Secretary
8. A.Saroja, AO
9. K. S. Santosh, Assistant
10. R. Sectharama Raju, JW
11. Geetha K., JW
12. Duggappa, JW
13. Sathyanarayana, Assistant
14. Vishwanath, Assistant
15. Krishnoji Rao, Assistant

Subject No. 1: Holding of Workshops:

- 1.1 It was explained that Commission has decided to hold some workshops for finalizing the templates for suo-moto declarations / citizen's charters for different offices. For example, templates could be got prepared for offices in 3 or 4 major departments including Revenue, Urban Development, Women and Child Development Department etc.
- 1.2 It was suggested and agreed that a round-table may be conducted at Bangalore on 25th of April to which the policy makers and some stake holders could be invited. The invitees could include Lokayukta, Chief Secretary, Secretaries of the concerned Departments, DG ATI etc.
- 1.3 Mr. Venkatsubbaiah informed that ATI is already preparing manuals for offices of the Revenue Department and it should be possible to cull out the Citizens' Charter from these manuals. It was therefore suggested that the first template for Citizens' Charter could be for Deputy Commissioner's office would be presented to the round table for inviting suggestions.

Subject No. 2: Printing of the Annual Reports of the Commission:

- 2.1 Sri Bhuvanesh, Joint Director, Government Press presented a copy of the English Version of Annual Report 2006-07. He also produced the draft cover page of the Kannada version.
- 2.2 Commission noted that in the English version the word 'Karnataka' in Karnataka Information Commission has been put within inverted commas. This was not necessary.
- 2.3 Commission desired that the entire draft, including any additional pages to be included, must be got approved by the Commission before final printing.
- 2.4 Sri Bhuvanesh promises to give the first proof of Kannada version on Monday, 23-3-09. Commission desired that the charts in the Annual Report should be in color in the Kannada version.
- 2.5 Commission placed on record the good work done by the Government Press and the Translation Department in bringing out the Annual Report.

Subject no. 3: Commission's Website:

- 3.1 The Home page of the website has been designed By CGG. This has to be inserted. Further, number of updated documents are also to be hosted like 4(1)(b) notification, important decisions etc.
- 3.2 Commission decided that only such documents, which have been thoroughly checked for their accuracy, should be placed on the website.

Subject no. 4: Information affecting life and liberty:

- 4.1 Commission noted that Sri M. N. Vijaykumar has filed several applications seeking information within 48 hrs., under proviso to section 7(1) of the Act.
- 4.2 Members were of the view that every applications seeking information within 48 hrs under this provision must substantiate how his / her life or liberty is affected. In the absence of such explanation, the application may be treated as an ordinary application in normal case.



Subject no. 5: Disposal of applications:

5.1 Commission noted that in C. C. C. No. 528 of 2008 (Civil), Karnataka High Court in its judgment dated 27-01-2009 has held that "In our considered view, provisions of S.20 can be exercised by the Commission also to enforce its orders." Members were of the view that in normal course, Commission should not pass any directions except within the powers conferred under the Act e.g. provide the required information, pay the penalty etc.

5.2 Where the information has been provided but the Petitioner is absent and the case is disposed off, if the Petitioner later on files a petition stating that information provided is incomplete, the petition has to be considered as an execution petition / complaint and heard by the same Commissioner.

5.3 Similarly, in cases where the Petitioner was present but the Commission has closed the case on the basis of directions issued by the Commission or undertaking given by the Respondent that information will be provided and Petitioner files a petition stating that the undertaking / direction has not been complied with, such petition also has to be treated as an execution petition / complaint and heard by the same Commissioner.

5.4 In such cases depending upon the orders passed by the concerned Commissioner, either plain summons may issue or an interim order with a show cause notice may issue asking the respondent to show cause why penalty should not be levied upon him.

Subject no. 6: Remuneration to M/s. S. R. Services:

6.1 Commission decided that it should consult DPAR regarding their (DPAR's) current agreement and the amount payable under it to M/s. S. R. Secretary Services. It was also learnt that DPAR has floated a fresh tender. Commission has also prepared its own tender document.

6.2 SCIC stated that he has seen and corrected the Tender Document. The corrected document could now be released inviting offers from recognized service providers.

Subject no. 7: Annual Reports of the Commission for 2007-08:

7.1 Commission directed that work on the written material for the report for 2007-08 should start.

7.2 SCIC stated that the data which has already been received should be put in the proper format and soft copies provided to all the Commissioner's for their contributions within one week.

Subject no. 8: Data regarding disposal of cases:

8.1 Commission noted that according to the Judgment Section, 1255 cases were heard during Feb. 09 and 596 were disposed off, whereas according to Judicial Section 1355 cases were heard and 732 were disposed off. Secretary, KIC was requested to ascertain the reasons for this discrepancy and correct it.

Subject no. 9: Adjournment of cases posted on Polling day:

9.1 The cases posted for 23rd of April 2009 shall be adjourned to 6th of June. Fresh summons will have to be issued both the parties, in respect of adjourned cases as well as fresh cases.


(J. S. VIRUPAKSHIAH)
STATE INFORMATION
COMMISSIONER


(Dr. H. N. KRISHNA)
STATE INFORMATION
COMMISSIONER


(K. A. THIPPESWAMY)
STATE INFORMATION
COMMISSIONER


(K. K. MISRA)
STATE CHIEF INFORMATION
COMMISSIONER

To: All concerned :