

MINUTES OF 10TH MEETING OF THE FULL COMMISSION HELD ON 4.11.2011 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HON'BLE STATE CHIEF INFORMATION COMMISSIONER, PUNJAB.

Following Information Commissioners were present:-

1. Sh. R.I.Singh, State Chief Information Commissioner, Punjab.
2. Sh. Kulbir Singh, State Information Commissioner, Punjab.
3. Sh. P.P.S.Gill, State Information Commissioner, Punjab.
4. Ms.Ravi Singh, State Information Commissioner, Punjab.
5. Ms.Jaspal Kaur, State Information Commissioner, Punjab.

In attendance:-

1. Sh. Ravinder Kumar Arora, Manager Finance and Administration.
2. Sh. K.R.Gupta, Deputy Registrar.

ITEM NO.1: To review the progress of Court Work.

The court work was reviewed from 01.01.2011 to 30.09.2011. Out of total institution of 3807 cases the disposal of cases pertaining to 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarters was 3701. The pendency of the cases is 1030.

Five Information Commissioners have superannuated in the recent past. All efforts need to be made to ensure that pendency of cases does not escalate.

ITEM NO.2: Increase in the salary of outsourced/contractual employees of the Commission against the sanctioned posts / pay scales.

The Full Commission considered the matter at length and felt that the Commission's staff is very poorly paid. The Government wages have increased following pay Commission's recommendations and D.A. but the wages of outsourced staff are static. It was, therefore, decided that the officials outsourced through private service provider viz a viz who are neither in receipt of salary on D.C. rates nor retired from the Government service, their pay may be enhanced 35% on the analogy of 5th pay Commission and

keeping in view the enhancement of D.C. rates from the present pay. The matter be referred to the Government for necessary approval.

In regard to the retired employees who are appointed on contract basis, It was decided by the Full Commission that their salary be fixed on the principles of last pay drawn at the time of retirement from the Government Service minus pension .The matter be referred to the Government for approving the same.

Further, it was reiterated that the status regarding proposal to enhance 5% pay annually of posts sanctioned in the regular pay scales, may be confirmed from the Government, besides sanctioning regular posts for the Commission against the sanctioned strength in the time scales.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3 : Action on the suggestion on the application cum complaint letter No.80/2010, dated 1.4.2010 from Jagat Singh, Indian Postal Service (Retd)of Hoshiarpur-complaints & suggestions in respect of the State Information Commission,Punjab.

An application cum complaint letter No.80/2010, dated 1.4.2010 from Jagat Singh,Indian Postal Service (Retd)H.No.B3/MCH/235, Sanatan Dharam Sanskrit College,Near Bhahadurpur Chaowk, Hoshiarpur forwarded by the office of the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab vide their No.7/2/2011-Misc-2G-PRB/2901,dated 5.5.2011 to the Principal Secretary,Department of Information Technology,SCIO No.193-195,Sector 34-A,Chandigarh was received by the by the Commission through the Punjab Government, Department of Information and Technology (AR Branch) vide No.2/77/2011-AR/502, dated 9.6.2011, the following suggestions were discussed :-

- i) **The State Commission, Punjab is not acknowledging the receipt of second appeals and complaints on the date of receipt in the Commission, as being done in the office of the Central Information Commission, Delhi.**
- ii) **While issuing notice of hearing to the parties to cases, the State Commission does not indicate the number of letter, name of CIC/SIC with his telephone number, mobile number if provided by the Punjab Government.**

The issue at serial No.1 was considered by the Full Commission which refers to the acknowledging the receipt of second appeals and complaints on the date of receipt in the Commission, as being done in the office of the Central Information, Delhi.As per prevalent practice in the Commission if any appeal/complaint is delivered at the reception counter,it is acknowledged instantly by the receptionist.However, the letter /documents received in the Commission by registered post/courier are acknowledged by the Deputy Registrar in case of deficiency in documents and by the Ld. State Informationer is by fixing date of hearing . It was decided that this practice is most feasible and it should be continued in future also.

In regard to issue at serial No. 2 regarding issuing notice of hearing to the parties to cases, the State Commission does not indicate the number of letter, name of CIC/SIC with his telephone number, mobile number if provided by the Punjab Government. It was decided that these suggestions be agreed to and may be incorporated in the notice of hearing.

ITEM NO. 4 Complaint from Sh. Rohit Sabharwal, President, Council of RTI Activists (Regd)- a Peon Sh. Harpal Singh of Ludhiana Improvement Trust posed as Clerk at the time of R.T.I. hearings in the Punjab State Information Commission.

The Complaint of Sh. Rohit Sabharwal, President Council of RTI Activists (Regd), Kundan Bhawan,126,Model Gram,Ludhiana, against a Peon namely Sh. Harpal Singh of Ludhiana Improvement Trust who posed as Clerk at the time of R.T.I. hearings from time to time in the Punjab State Information Commission, was considered in the meeting of the Full Commission. It was decided that the appointing authority of Sh. Harpal Singh, Peon of Ludhiana Improvement Trust, be asked to take appropriate action against the said Peon for imposter as Clerk.

The matter ended with a vote of thanks.

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