

MINUTES OF 13st MEETING OF THE FULL COMMISSION OF THE STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION, PUNJAB HELD ON 27.07.2012 AT 3.00 P.M. UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SHRI R.I.SINGH, CHIEF INFORMATION COMMISSIONER, PUNJAB.

PRESENT:

1. Mrs.Jaspal Kaur, State Information Commissioner;
2. Sh. Ravinder Singh Nagi, State Information Commissioner;
3. Sh.Narinderjit Singh, State Information Commissioner;
4. Sh. Chander Parkash, State Information Commissioner;
5. Sh. Surinder Awasthi, State Information Commissioner;
6. Sh. Harinderpal Singh Mann, State Information Commissioner;
7. Sh. S.P.Singh, State Information Commissioner;
8. Sh. Parveen Kumar, State Information Commissioner;
9. Dr. Arvinder Singh IAS, Secretary to the Commission.

IN ATTEDANCE

1. Sh. R.K.Arora, Manager Finance & Administration;
2. Sh. K.R.Gupta, Deputy Registrar

Leave of absence was granted to Sh. B.C.Thakur, SIC.

Item No. 1 - Review of Court Work.

The position regarding the pendency and disposal of court work from 01.01.2012 to 30.06.2012 was reviewed. As on 30.6.12, only 1531 cases were pending for disposal with the Commission.

Item No. 2 State Information Commission Punjab (Management) Regulations 2012.

The Commission hereby repeals with immediate effect the existing State Information Commission, Punjab (Management Regulations), 2012.

Further, on consideration of the proposal, the Commission approved the following three draft Office Orders and directed that henceforth these shall be followed in letter and spirit. The three draft Office Orders are:-

1. Registration, Abetment or Return of Appeal/Complaint and Related Matters.
2. Working Hours, sittings and vacations etc.
3. Composition of Registry of the Commission and Related Matters.

Item No.3 The Punjab State Information Commission (Destruction of Judicial Records) Office Order 2011.

The minutes dated 26.07.2012 of Sub-Committee constituted by the Commission to overview destruction of record was placed before the Commission.

The Commission noted that record of appeal / complaint cases has not been destroyed since inception of the Commission. Consequently, old files have piled up without any record room or a regular Record Keeper. The available space with the Commission is extremely limited. It was also noted that the Central Information Commission and some of the State Information Commissions regularly undertake the exercise to destroy old records.

On consideration of the matter, the Commission decided that it would be desirable not to further delay destruction of record, which has fallen due for destruction. The Commission, therefore, directed that periodic exercise to weed out / destroy old records should be under taken, in accordance with the Destruction of Judicial Records Office Order, 2011.

To overcome the shortage of staff to undertake this exercise, the Commission resolved that the required manpower may be hired on a purely temporary basis for short periods through the service provider, with the approval of CIC.

Item NO.4- Voluntary disclosure of Property Returns.

The Commission noted the contents of the agenda note.

Item No5.- 7th Convention of Central Information Commission to be held on 12th & 13th Oct. 2012 at New Delhi.

The contents of the letters received from the Central Information Commission were brought to the notice of the Full Commission for appropriate action.

Item No.6- Details of expenditure and Grant received during the financial year 2011-12

The Commission noted the details of grant/s received and expenditure incurred by the Commission.

Item No.7- Banking Facilities- opening of Smart Banking Current account and Total Freedom Salary accounts.

The Commission perused the agenda item along with the explanatory notes placed before it and decided that a total freedom salary account with the Punjab National Bank Sector 16 Branch, Chandigarh could be opened once the office of the Commission shifts to the new building under construction in the Red Cross Building, Sector 16, Chandigarh. Until then, the present arrangements may continue. It was further decided that in the meantime, clarification regarding the tax

liability on interest accrued on amount lying in Smart Banking Current Account be ascertained from the Income Tax Department.

Any other Item:

After conclusion of the regular agenda items, the following items were discussed / decided:-

- A) The State Information Commissioners intending to avail ex-India leave / earned leave may send their leave application/s sufficiently in advance, preferably at least 15 days before the due date. It was further desired that while applying for casual leave, it is desirable that the concerned Commissioners indicate the number of days of leave due, leave already availed of and the balance leave to credit.
- B) The website of the Commission needs to be made more user-friendly. It was decided that a sub-committee of the Commission be constituted by CIC to oversee this exercise and to ensure that the website of the Commission is upgraded and updated regularly.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.