

**Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of Full Commission of State Information Commission Punjab held on 10.09.2013 at 12.45 p.m. under the chairmanship of Sh. R.I.Singh, Chief Information Commissioner Punjab .**

**PRESENT:**

1. Smt. Jaspal Kaur, State Information Commissioner;
2. Sh.B.C.Thakur, State Information Commissioner;
3. Sh. Chander Parkash, State Information Commissioner;
4. Sh.Harinder Pal Singh Mann, State Information Commissioner;
5. Sh.Surinder Awasthi, State Information Commissioner;
6. Sh.Narinderjit Singh, State Information Commissioner.
7. Sh.Satinder Pal Singh, State Information Commissioner.
8. Sh. Parveen Kumar, State Information Commissioner;
9. Dr.Arinder Singh IAS, Secretary to the Commission.

**In attendance:**

1. Sh. K.R. Gupta, Deputy Registrar.
2. Smt. Taruna Kapoor, Programmer.

The agenda items were discussed and the following decisions were taken:-

**Agenda Item No.1.**

**Review of pendency of cases as on 31.08.2013.**

The Commission reviewed the present pendency of Second Appeal & Complaint Cases. It was noted that during August, 2013, a total number of 471 fresh cases were instituted and 625 cases were disposed of, leaving a balance of 1690 cases as on 31.08.2013. Most of the pending cases are less than three months old and this is a healthy sign.

**Agenda Item No.2 :**

**Annual Report of State Information Commission,  
Punjab for the year 2011.**

The Commission considered the Annual Report of State Information Commission, Punjab for the year 2011 and approved the same. It should now be got printed and thereafter sent to government for placing it before the Legislative Assembly.

**Agenda Item No.3 :**

**Diversion of appointment of outsourced Employees on  
direct basis in the Commission.**

The Commission considered the report of the sub-committee dated 7.8.13 Chaired by Ld. SIC Mrs. Jaspal Kaur for appointing the outsourced staff of the Commission on direct contract basis, eliminating private service provider. The matter was discussed at length and the Commission retreats its earlier recommendation for filling all posts on a regular basis on Punjab government scales. The present system of hiring staff through a private service provider is highly unsatisfactory, and adversely affects smooth working of the Commission. It is also not employee friendly, who are paid paltry salary. Recent welcome hike in DC rates for certain category of employees, however, has created anomalous situation where a section of employees drawing fixed salary have not received any increase in pay. On consideration of the entire issue, the Commission decided the following:

1. The matter needs to be taken up at the level of Chief Secretary, Punjab so that outsourced posts are converted into regular posts in Punjab government scales. The decision taken in the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Full Commission held on 18.04.2012 and as recommended vide Commission's letter No. 17/1/2011-SA-Admn-PSIC/1316, dated 07.05.2012, is pending since long for approval of the Government.

2. For the immediate, the present staff working in the Commission should be engaged on direct contract basis by the Commission, after obtaining formal approval of the Administrative Department.
3. The proposals already pending with the government regarding salary revision of the employees need to be pursued with AD /FD so that employees are paid at par with the staff of the Service Commission, till these posts are converted to regular government scale. The proposal sent by the Commission vide No.17/1/2011-SA-Admn (Salary)/ 1629, dated the 30.08.2013, which is pending with the AD be pursued for early approval of the government.
4. The office should draft service rules, on the lines of the rules adopted by the Power Regulatory Commission and place these before Commission for consideration. This exercise should be done within two months.

**Agenda Item No.4 :**

**Amendment in the Punjab State Information Commission (Destruction of Judicial Records) Office Order 2011.**

The Commission discussed the proposal for amendment of the Office Order 2011 to reduce the time period for which record of Appeals / Complaint cases should be preserved. At present, such record is maintained for a minimum period of five years. After due deliberation, the Commission approved to amend 'The Punjab State Information Commission (Destruction of Judicial Records) Office Order 2011' to the extent that wherever the words " five years" occurs in the said Order, these will be deleted and instead the words " three years " shall be inserted. With this amendment, record of case files of the Appeal and Complaint cases shall be preserved for a minimum period of three years. All other conditions mentioned in the 'Office Order', however, shall continue to be strictly adhered to, before undertaking destruction of record.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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