

MINUTES OF THE 38TH GENERAL MEETING OF ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA HELD ON 27TH & 28TH DECEMBER, 2012 AT CHENNAI

PRESENT

1. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM	-	Chairman
2. Dr. S. Chinny Krishna	-	Vice Chairman
3. Dr. S.K. Khanduri, IGF (WL), MoEF	}	
4. Dr. Asgar Samoon, IAS	}	
5. Brig S.S. Chohan, Rep. of MCG	}	
6. Dr. Sunil Kumar	}	Members
Dy. Director In-charge,	}	
Central Research Institute (Homeopathy)	}	
Noida	}	
7. Ms. Amala Akkineni	}	
8. Ms. Jasjit Purewal	}	
9. Ms. Anjali Sharma	}	
10. Dr. Arun Varma	}	
11. Shri Anjani Kumar	}	Special Invitee
Director, (AW), MoEF	}	
12. Ms. S. Uma Rani	}	Secretary, AWBI
13. Shri S. Vinod Kumaar	}	Assistant Secretary, AWBI

The following Members of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) Shri Guljari Lal Soni, Dr. J.C. Kochar, Shri Doulat Jain requested for leave of absence and the same was granted. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS, Dr. Gautam Mukherjee, representing Municipal Commissioner, Kolkata and Ms. Norma Alvares informed that they will attend the seminar on 29th & 30th December, 2012 and it was noted.

Honb'le Chairman extended a warm and hearty welcome to all the Members of the Board to its 38th General Meeting.

The Chairman requested the Board Members to introduce themselves and the Members gave self introduction with details of their association with animal welfare activities.

Honb'le Chairman pointed out that during the Golden Jubilee year seminars should be organized to sensitize people, Government officials about our animal welfare initiatives and also to change mindset of people regarding misconceptions about several issues like that all stray dogs are rabid. Honb'le Chairman also pointed out that Board will be organising Golden Jubilee Celebrations in various metros to motivate civic society and Government officials to promote animal

welfare measures and to prevent unnecessary cruelty inflicted on animals. As per Article 51 A (g) of our Constitution It is every citizen's duty to take care of animals. The general misconception is that the Board is the authority for implementing/enforcing Animal Protection laws at grass root levels. The state authorities are responsible for the law enforcement. The Government officials are unaware of the animal welfare laws resulting in improper enforcement of the law. Honb'le Chairman noted that District SPCAs and State Animal Welfare Board are not constituted as per directions of the Supreme Court in many parts of the country.

Honorable Chairman also pointed out that there is huge increase in human as well as animal population in our country resulting in man and animal conflict. There is also increase in number of street dogs and monkeys. The AWBI is facilitating the implementation of the ABC programme on street dogs. The Board has been interacting with the Ministries to expand the scope of the ABC programme to make it more intensive and its help in control of rabies. The misconception that all street dogs are rabid and the tag attached to such misconceptions makes all street dogs vulnerable. People need to be sensitized about this and we have to strive to sterilize and vaccinate at least 70% of dogs against rabies to make the program effective.

Honorable Chairman also pointed out that the response from Animal Husbandry Department & Ministry of Health is not adequate. However, the Ministry of Health has promised to fund few pilot studies to control rabies.

Honorable Chairman also pointed out that few international organizations may also help us in control of rabies. These organizations may also help in conducting training programmes. We need to train dog catchers. We should also educate people about rabies. The Board is being assisted by three international NGOs viz. Vets Beyond Borders (VBB) of Australia, Humane Society International (HSI), America & Worldwide Veterinary Services (WVS) of U.K. for conducting training programmes for Vets, Para Vets, dog handlers and ABC Programme Managers. The Animal Husbandry Department, Government of Sikkim is doing mass sterilization of street dogs with VBB providing training to the stake holders. It is hoped that Sikkim may become the first rabies free state in India and this model should be replicated all over the country.

Honb'le Chairman noted that due to low productivity of milk, indigenous breeds of cows are being discarded by their owners and left on the roads. Utility of bullocks are reduced due to mechanization and the lack of available grazing facilities around cities and towns is also a problem. Even though there are around 4000 gaushalas in the country, the management of stray cattle is an area of concern considering the large number of stray cattle. The indigenous cattle of our country produces A2 type of milk which is most beneficial for human health and the exotic varieties of cows produce A1 type of milk which is less beneficial for human health. Scrub cattle are left by the farmers on the roads. The male calves in gaushalas make good bullocks if they are castrated. The Board should conduct more training programmes to educate the people and training programmes should also be conducted in gaushalas. These training

programmes need to be done at the gaushalas for making them aware of all the programmes needed for making gaushalas self sustaining of the gaushalas through generation of electricity, bio gas, organic manure, panchgavya medicines, etc.

Honb'le Chairman noted that Human greed, hatred and poverty continue to be the main reasons for animal cruelty. There is a need to inculcate humane education and how animal welfare can increase productivity through humane handling and animal welfare measures. The OIE and FAO want to promote farms where animals are housed in normal free range system as against factory farming. The HSI, has been collaborating with AWBI to bring about a change in the way hens are housed in factory farms in battery cages. Broilers are fed high protein diet resulting in physical abnormalities.

Honb'le Chairman emphasized the need to update the AWBI website and it should provide proper details about contact numbers, address of Co-opted Members & Honorary Animal Welfare Officers. The status of application forms of recognition and all grants seeking financial assistance should be updated regularly.

Honb'le Chairman informed that many court cases are being contested by the Board. The Board's views are to be presented properly. He also emphasized the need to appoint good lawyers for the Board's court cases and quick responses from the Board staff such as HEO and Secretary to empower our lawyers.

Honb'le Chairman pointed out that Board should initiate urgent action for pending Utilisation Certificates.

Honb'le Chairman emphasized the need to raise funds for Golden Jubilee Celebrations and requested the Members to put in their efforts for this.

Honb'le Chairman also pointed out that reminders should also be sent to Ministry for staff matter regarding the additional staff.

ITEM NO.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 37th General Meeting of the Board held on 10th and 11th September, 2012.

The Minutes of the 37th General Meeting of the Board held on 10th and 11th September were confirmed.

ITEM NO.2: Report on action taken on the 37TH General Meeting of the Board held on 10th and 11th September, 2012

The Board noted the action taken on the decisions of the 37th GM and gave the following directions:

Sub Item No. 3 & 6:

The Board directed that the details about pending Utilisation Certificates (State wise) shall be forwarded to Members, Chief Secretary of concerned State Governments, Co-opted Members and Animal Husbandry Department of the concerned states for further necessary action. The GSC shall also review the Utilisation Certificate pendency in the GSC meetings.

Members also noted that inspection should be made for those organizations whose Utilisation Certificate are pending and District Administration/State Animal Welfare Board be requested to inspect the AWO. Smt Amala Akkineni stated that Members can also prepare background of AWOs whose Utilisation Certificates are pending which will be very useful for inspection authority. Ms. Jasjit Peruwal pointed out that procedure followed in other Government Departments can also be found out.

The Board noted that 2 legal notices were sent to Shri Radha Govind Go Raksha Samiti, Tirupathi and no reply was received from them. The Board decided to blacklist Shri Radha Govind Go Raksha Samiti, Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh (AP053/2000) and initiate action for recovery of shelter house and ambulance grant through the District authorities. The recognition of this organization should also be cancelled. The Board also decided to blacklist those organizations who have not replied to the legal notices issued by the Board. The list of such organizations should be uploaded in our website as blacklisted/derecognized after this exercise is completed, which should be time bound and should finish by 31st March 2013.

Sub Item No. 9 & 17:

The Board decided that maximum thrust should be given for the Humane Education (HE) Training Programme during the Golden Jubilee Year and a Sub Committee is to be formed for Humane Education Programme. The Board unanimously elected Smt Amala Akkineni to constitute a team for Humane Education Programme. Master trainers should be trained and HAWO training programme should be conducted in Chennai and other cities. Effective speakers be identified for furthering the Humane Education Programme. Humane Education Sub Committee should decide about syllabus & materials of training programme. Ms. Gauri Malekhi, Shri Jayasimha should be a part of Humane Education Sub Committee.

The Board decided that maximum utilization of donations collected for Golden Jubilee Celebration funds must be used for promoting Humane Education Programmes.

Sub Item No. 13:

The Board decided that to get financial assistance from Board, an undertaking be got from organizations that they shall accept stray cattle and shall not refuse taking male calves and also should take animals confiscated from illegal slaughter houses up

to their holding capacity. An AWO should not have more than 10% of milking cows. Sale of milk producing animals for a token amount for rehabilitation shall be allowed. This shall be updated in our website. The guidelines for conducting inspection shall be updated in website and also to be incorporated in the letters sent for inspection.

The Board decided that an affidavit is to be obtained from AWOs that they will not refuse to take rescued animals up to their holding capacity. The Board decided that letter shall be sent from AWBI office to the State Governments regarding the transportation of bullocks (castrated male calves) given for rehabilitation from gaushalas. Draft for this shall be provided by Brig.(Retd) Chohan.

Sub Item No. 15:

The Board directed to issue letters to all State Governments State Animal Welfare Board (SAWB) every quarter to ensure that the SAWBs are established and made effective. The Board has also requested Ministry to conduct meeting with all SAWBs. The Board should also call/email SAWB, Chief Secretary & Animal Husbandry Department informing them that AWOs will suffer financial support if SAWBs are not activated in their respective States.

Sub Item No. 16:

The Board requested Ms. Amala Akkineni to find out the existing publications which need to be reprinted at the earliest. Other Members shall also give their inputs on this.

Sub Item No. 22:

The Board shall write to the Ministry of External Affairs to curb the practice of foreign tourists leaving their companion dogs in our country when they leave.

The Board directed that implementation of TANUVAS Report by the Board is to be provided to the Ministry and random inspection of organizations can be carried out by Board, if required.

Sub Item-Additional Item No.1

The Board requested Mr. Jayasimha, Sub Committee Member to forward the draft Rules for Camels and Elephants transportation.

ITEM NO.3: Ratification on the Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of the Board held on 6th December, 2012.

The Board ratified the Minutes of Grants Sub Committee Meeting held on 06.12.12 with the following decision:

The Board resolved that the inspection reports forwarded by the offices in the State Governments at the level of Deputy Director in the Animal Husbandry, Divisional Forest Officer of the Forest Department and District Collector shall be accepted by the Board. It is not mandatory to get the inspection report from the Head of the Department since these officers are also at senior level and are responsible officers in the concerned State Government Departments. The Inspection Reports thus received in respect of the proposals shall be processed by Board as decided above.

ITEM NO.4: Ratification of for the purchase of Tractor Trolley submitted by the Vridha Evan Viklang Kalyan Seva Samiithi, Uttar Pradesh for Rs.4,50,000/- (Rs.3.50 lakhs for purchase of Tractor Trolley and Rs.1.00 lakh) for Modification.

The Board approved/ratified the same.

ITEM NO.5: Consideration of matter relating to latest status report of utilization certificates under Regular Grant and CSS.

Same decision as in sub-item 3&6 of Item 2 above.

ITEM NO.6: Consideration of the matter relating to ratification of grant-in-aid sanctioned/released under Plan Grant and 4 CSS Schemes to AWOs during the year 2012-2013.

The Board approved/ratified the same. The Ministry representative informed that the physical and financial achievement of targets for this year in respect of AWBI is low. The Board decided that office will send reminders to the State Government Departments for expediting the inspection reports and the list of the proposals for which IR is awaited shall be informed to Hon'ble Chairman for enabling chairman to write to the concerned head of the department to hasten up the inspection and receipt of IR.

The Board shall write to the Ministry in March 2013 requesting to arrange to release the first installment of Non Plan grant for 2013-14 by 1st or 2nd April 2013 to enable the Board to pay the salaries for the month of March 2013.

ITEM NO.7: Consideration of Budget for maintenance of Board's Library.

The details about books for library must be sent to Hon'ble chairman and approval to be obtained for procurement of the new ones. The library indexation will also need to be done immediately by the Editor of the Board.

ITEM NO.8: Consideration of Re-printing of Board's old publications

The Board requested Ms. Amala Akkineni to find out the existing publications which need to be reprinted at the earliest. Other Members shall also give their suggestions.

ITEM No.9: Consideration of Training Centers for conducting of HAWOs Training Programme(North India and South India)–issue of I D Cards.

Same decision as in sub-item 9&17 of Item 2 above.

ITEM NO.10: Consideration of DTP operator in Board Headquarters

The Board decided to wait for the approval of the Ministry for the Work Study recommendations made by the Ministry of Finance to our Ministry.

ITEM NO.11: Separate Audit Report on the Accounts of AWBI for the year 2011-12 received and circulated to the Members for adoption for information.

The Board noted with appreciation that there was no adverse observations in the Audit Report for the year 2011-12 and appreciated the fact. The Board also adopted the Audit Report and Audited Accounts.

ITEM NO.12: Golden Jubilee Celebrations – Discussion.

The Board decided to consider organizing seminars in Thiruvananthapuram, Kolkata, Guwahati & Jaipur. Dr.Arun Varma shall provide inputs for the seminar to be organized at Guwahati. Dr.Ramakumar, Co-opted Member shall be requested for the inputs regarding the seminar at Thiruvananthapuram. Ms.Jasjit Purewal, Member shall be requested to provide inputs for the Children's film festival in Mumbai.

For the National Seminar the Board noted that the dates are yet to be confirmed by the Hon'ble President's Office. Ms.Jasjit Purewal informed that the AWBI souvenir is being prepared and that Air India has agreed to carry the Souvenir as an inflight magazine. The Board decided to invite tenders from firms in Delhi by publishing advertisement in the newspapers and requested Ms.Jasjit Purewal to furnish the finalized specifications of the printing job for the advertisement.

ITEM NO.13: Consideration of Golden Jubilee Celebration in Northern Region at Jaipur, Rajasthan in March, 2013 and Mumbai

The Board agreed in principle to conduct the seminar in Jaipur and authorized Chairman to discuss with Shri Guljari Lal Soni, Member (who could not attend the Meeting due to illness) to finalise about this seminar.

ITEM NO.14: Consideration of the matter regarding the meeting in connection with transportation of Wild Animals and Birds by Rail.

The Board considered the matter and decided that for domestic animals AWBI will issue directions as to who will sign the Certificate for the transportation in terms of Rule 96 of Transport of Animals Rules. For the wild animals it should be done by the Wildlife Department only.

ITEM NO.15: Consideration of matter regarding draft bill on poultry farming and egg laying Hen Rules

The Board noted the fact that there is provision in the PCA Act, 1960 to make Rules for the prevention of cruelty to Egg laying Hens and resolved that the Draft Prevention of Cruelty (Egg laying Hens) Rules shall be recommended to the Ministry for further necessary action.

ITEM NO.16: Consideration of matter regarding petitions filed by the Employees of the Kanpur Gaushala Society, Kanpur regarding minimum salary and E.P.F.

The Board had decided that if the concerned Organisation or Establishment is covered under PF Rules then they have to comply with it to provide Provident Fund benefits to their employees.

ITEM NO.17: Consideration of matter related to technique used for sterilization of male dogs (MIVOT) received from Municipal Corporation of Amritsar Punjab.

The Board discussed this issue and requested Smt. Amala Akkineni, Member to provide a draft letter to Chairman for sending reply to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.

Additional item No.1- Consideration of matter related to approval of budget for purchase of mobile cabinet system for keeping official records

The Board approved in principle and directed that such matters shall be decided by the office with the approval of Chairman, AWBI.

The Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.