

MINUTES OF THE 39TH GENERAL MEETING OF ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA HELD ON 23.8.2013 AT CHENNAI

PRESENT

1. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM	-	Chairman
2. Dr. S. Chinny Krishna	-	Vice Chairman
3. Shri Hem Pande, IAS Additional Secretary, MoEF	}	
4. Dr. S.K. Khanduri, IFS Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife) Ministry of Environment & Forests	}	
5. Dr.M.Gunasekaran DAD & F, Govt. of India, Chennai Rep. of Animal Husbandry Commissioner	}	
6. Shri Guljarilal Soni	}	
7. Shri Doulat Jain	}	Members
8. Dr. Arun Varma	}	
9. Prof. (Dr) Prabhat Kumar Samanta Rep. of Kolkatta Municipal Corporation	}	
10. Dr. Sunil Kumar Dy. Director In-charge, Central Research Institute, Noida	}	
11. Ms. Amala Akkineni	}	
12. Ms. Norma Alvares	}	
13. Ms. Jasjit Purewal	}	
14. Smt. S. Uma Rani	}	Secretary, AWBI

The following Members of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) Dr. Asgar Hassan Samoon, IAS, Dr. J.C. Kochar and Ms. Anjali Sharma requested for leave of absence and the same was granted.

Hon'ble Chairman extended a warm and hearty welcome to all the Member of the Board to 39th General Meeting.

Before commencing the proceedings of the meeting, a minute's silence was observed in memory of the thousands of people and animals lost in the recent floods in Uttarakhand.

Hon'ble Chairman congratulated Shri Hem Pande, IAS on his promotion as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests and wished him many more promotions in his career. Hon'ble Chairman thanked Shri Hem Pande, IAS for helping

the Board for its smooth functioning and as an important link between the Ministry and the AWBI.

Hon'ble Chairman also congratulated Padmashree Ms. Norma Alvares, Board Member on her appointment as Chairperson of FIAPO (Federation of Indian Animals Protection Organisations) and Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS on his promotion as Secretary, Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of India and wished them all the very best in their career.

Hon'ble Chairman informed the Members about the release of Rs.8.00 lakhs and an additional sanction of Rs.2.50 lakhs to Uttarakhand State Animal Welfare Board as Natural Calamity Grant for the State of Uttarakhand. Hon'ble Chairman appreciated the commendable relief work done by Ms. Gauri Maulekhi of PFA Uttarakhand, Ms. Kamna Pandey from Lucknow, Remount Veterinary Corps, Uttarakhand State Animal Welfare Board and the Animal Husbandry Department of Uttarakhand State.

Hon'ble Chairman thanked Shri Guljari Lal Soni, Member AWBI for conducting an excellent Golden Jubilee Regional Seminar at Jaipur on 28th April 2013. He informed the Members that the Board is planning the third Golden Jubilee Regional Seminar at Guwahati in the last week of October 2013. Hon'ble Chairman also briefed about the new Animal Welfare initiatives working in close association with Humane Society International (HSI), FIAPO and PETA.

Hon'ble Chairman also briefed about the project of "Mission Rabies" wherein a state of the art huge truck with all facilities for ABC & Mass Anti Rabies Vaccination facilities have been imported by WVS of UK. Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman, AWBI is the President of the Mission Rabies which will start from Goa on 31.8.2013 and travel through 10 States of India. After one month it will reach at Guwahati on 28th of September the "World Rabies Day" and plans to vaccinate 50,000 dogs against Rabies during one month.

Hon'ble Chairman informed about the efforts made by the Board in collaboration with Humane Society International (India) for stopping the inhumane practice of keeping egg laying hens in battery cages in poultry farms. He appreciated and commended efforts of Mr. N.G. Jayasimha HSI (India) to achieve this success. Hon'ble Chairman also informed about the acceptance of Board's advisory by the Poultry industry to stop the cruel practice of forced molting in egg laying hens again with efforts of HSI, thus saving thousands of egg laying birds from the malpractice.

Hon'ble Chairman also informed about the letter written to Veterinary Council of India (VCI) about humane castration of male calves who in turn has sent an advisory to all State Animal Husbandry Depts. to adopt the humane component of the castration of Bulls / Male Calves to stop production of low worth animals in Gaushalas and villages.

Hon'ble Chairman informed that the Board is continuing training programme for Vets, Para Vets, Dog catchers at Jaipur, Ooty and Gangtok with the help of VBB, WVS,

Dog Trust and HSI. He also informed that International NGO Vets Beyond Borders has trained 300 Vets at Jaipur in Spay / Neuter Surgeries.

Hon'ble Chairman informed that Animal Husbandry Department has intensively carried out ABC programme for street dogs in Sikkim which is a good example for other States to follow up the same. As a result, there has been no Rabies case in the State of Sikkim during last 2 years.

Hon'ble Chairman emphasized the need to address the growing issues of man-dog and man-monkey conflict and cruelties to stray dogs and even pet dogs in a humane manner. Hon'ble Chairman briefed about the visits and meetings conducted by the Vice-Chairman and Ms. Jasjit Purewal followed by the High Court intervention to address the dog menace in Srinagar.

Hon'ble Chairman complimented Ms. Norma Alvares and Ms. Anjali Sharma Board Members for their contribution in legal cases of the Board.

Hon'ble Chairman pointed out that the CSR Companies Bill 2012 has been passed by the Parliament which provides 2% contribution of Corporate income for CSR in disciplines including Education, Child & Women Welfare but Animal Welfare has not been included in it. Animal Welfare should also be included under CSR help. He requested the Ministry to take up this issue with Hon'ble Minister for writing to Ministry of Corporate Affairs to do the needful.

Hon'ble Chairman informed that Chennai Corporation has included pet shops under the trades of manufacturing and sale of food, articles for pet animals in the existing list of the Chennai Corporation. Hon'ble Chairman appreciated the efforts done by Dr. S.Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman in this regard and opined that this model be implemented across the country by intimating this provision to all civic bodies.

Hon'ble Chairman pointed out that the Board has not been able to fully utilize the grants for the financial year 2012-13 due to delay in receipt of inspection reports from designated inspection authorities viz. Animal Husbandry Department, Forests Department and Revenue Department of the concerned States. Unless the inspection report is received from the designated inspection authorities, we cannot process releasing the grant to AWOs. He emphasized the need for evolving better system for inspection of AWOs to avoid delay in consideration of proposals and utilization of grants in time.

Hon'ble Chairman drew the attention of the Board members to a separate note mentioning the notable achievements / initiatives of AWBI during the last few years for information of the Board Members.

ITEM NO.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 38th General Meeting of the Board held on 27th and 28th December, 2012.

The Minutes of the 38th General Meeting of the Board held on 27th and 28th December, 2012 were confirmed.

ITEM NO. 2: Report on action taken on the 38th General Meeting of the Board held on 27th and 28th December, 2012.

The decision and action taken of the 38th General Meeting of the Board held on 27th and 28th December, 2012 were reviewed and noted with the following directions/suggestions:

The Board decided to go ahead with blacklisting of Shri Radha Govind Go Raksha Samiti, Tirupati (AP053/2000) after getting opinion from the Legal Advisor.

The SOP on ABC on Laparoscopic CNVR methods is to be forwarded to the Ministry for their consideration as fast track techniques for ABC/AR programme.

The Board requested Vice-Chairman to circulate the pamphlets to Members for their comments for renewal and reprinting of publications.

The Board directed to provide the State-wise, Scheme-wise list of UC pendency with name, address, telephone number, mobile number of office bearers to the Chairman, Board Members and Co-opted Members of the Board for expediting their submission by AWOs / NGOs.

Shri Guljari Lal Soni has informed that the Rajasthan Goseva Ayog has got Rs.145 Crores for Gaushalas in Rajasthan.

Hon'ble Chairman has informed that since the SAWBs are presently not functioning properly, there is no possibility of transferring funds to AWOs / NGOs through SAWBs as was suggested by the Finance Dept. of the Ministry. The present system should continue as it is functioning very well.

The Board discussed the matter regarding relaxation in submission of documents like Memorandum of Association, Registration Certificate/Trust Deed along with Regular Grant application every year if there is no complaint or adverse remarks received against the organization. We need to simplify the documentation by the AWOs who are applying for Regular Grant every year. A Committee composed as under will be constituted to study the matter keeping in view the requirements of audit and financial rules:

Presiding officer	–	Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice Chairman
Members	-	Mrs. S. Uma Rani, Secretary

- Mr. S. Vinod Kumar, Asst. Secretary

ITEM NO. 3: Ratification of the Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee Meetings of the Board held on 6-2-2013, 1-3-2013, 18-3-2013 and 19-7-2013.

While ratifying the minutes of GSC, the Board members discussed the matter regarding pending of grant-in-aid to the AWOs whose representatives are also Board Members for want of prior approval of the Ministry for release of grant in-aid approved by the Board. The Additional Secretary has agreed that there is no need to send the proposals for prior approval of the Ministry for release of grant approved to the AWOs whose representatives are Board Members as was the earlier practice. Hence, it was decided that all pending grants to the Member's organizations are to be released as per the recommendations of the Grants Sub-Committee.

The Board discussed the matter regarding delay in receipt of inspection reports from the State Government Departments and it was decided to revise the inspection policy to enable the Board to utilize the funds in time. The Board directed that a Committee is to be formed for consideration of revision of inspection policy by nominating a panel for inspection and to send their recommendations to the Ministry for consideration and approval. The same committee as constituted for considering the requirements of documents from AWOs / NGOs for Regular Grant will also provide its recommendations for inspection policy.

It was also decided that in future the AWOs are to be informed about the inspection report from Govt. Departments and a copy of letter for inspection will also be provided to AWOs for their information and follow up with the inspection agency.

The Board decided that a proposal for merging of all schemes (Plan & CSS) is to be submitted to the Ministry for consideration and approval so that the Board can utilize / adjust the budget amount under any scheme on the basis of actual requirement from the AWOs / NGOs.

The Board decided that grant in-aid under all the schemes will be released to AWOs by ECS (Electronic Clearing System) w.e.f.1.10.2013 and no Demand Draft will be sent for release of grant. A circular letter in this regard is to be sent to all recognized AWOs and to be published in our publications and put on Website also.

The Board considered the Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee Meetings of the Board held on 6.2.2013, 1.3.2013, 18.3.2013 and 19.7.2013 and ratified the same.

ITEM NO. 4: Consideration of matter relating to latest status report of Utilization Certificate under Regular Grant and Central Sector Schemes.

The Board Members discussed the matter regarding pending utilization certificates and blacklisting of defaulter organizations. The Board decided that the organizations who have taken grant from the Board and not submitted utilization certificate for a considerable time despite of reminders/show cause notices should be

blacklisted. The details of these AWOs to be sent to the State Government authorities for recovery of grant amount or ensure utilization of grant amount and inform the Board about their activities or further action. The list of default AWOs to be published in Website and other publication and send the list to the Ministry also to address the issue with the State Government Departments.

It was decided that Scheme-wise, State-wise details of AWOs whose utilization certificates are pending is to be prepared along with name, address, telephone numbers, Mobile numbers of Office bearers of AWOs and send to Chairman and Members / Co-opted Members for information and follow up to obtain the pending UCs. It was also decided that the list of pending UCs are to be placed before the Grants Sub-Committee for review and directions.

The Board discussed about the writing off of old Utilization Certificates pending from AWOs for a long time. The Board directed to find out the procedures to write off the old pending UCs from financial /audit authorities.

ITEM NO.5: Consideration of the matter relating to ratification of grant-in-aid sanctioned/ released under Regular Grant and CSS Schemes to AWOs during the year 2012-2013.

The Board considered the matter and ratified the sanction/release of grant-in-aid under Regular Grant and CSS Scheme to AWOs during the year 2012-13.

The Board directed that in future no ABC grant is to be considered for Kolkatta Municipal Corporation under ABC Scheme. However, sanctioned and pending payments can be released after obtaining required documents.

ITEM NO.6: Consideration of the matter relating to the issue of letters to State Government for grants application point raised by Smt. Amala Akkineni.

The Board discussed the matter regarding submission of Regular Grant application through the SAWB/AHD by the AWOs and decided that if there is no huge variation in number of animals sheltered by the AWOs compared to the previous year, then the application directly received from the AWOs along with Animal Verification Certificate verified by Animal Husbandry Department be considered for grant under Regular Grant.

ITEM NO.7: Consideration of the matter relating to feeding of dogs on the beaches of Goa and consideration of the matter of the initiative of several Civic bodies to create Dog Ponds for street dogs to address Street Dog Nuisance.

Ms. Norma Alvares briefed the Members and the Board has taken note of the matter.

ITEM NO.8: Ratification of grant given for conducting of Training for Trainers at Hyderabad under Humane Education Programme.

Ms. Amala Akkineni briefed about the Training programme conducted under Humane Education Programme. She informed that Mr. Sriram Vepuri has trained 29 people and got an affidavit signed by them that they will conduct atleast one training programme in every month. She has also informed that Mr. N.G. Jayasimha will conduct training programme on Animal Laws after intimation to the Board. She has requested the Board to give wide publicity in all publications and Website of AWBI, once the date is finalized for training programme.

ITEM NO.9: Consideration of the matter relating to details of donations received and expenditure incurred for Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

The Board considered the matter and ratified the same. The Members suggested that the sponsorship given by Turf Clubs is to be shown in AWBI website and its publications to encourage others.

ITEM NO.10: Consideration of the matter relating to Ratification of circular resolution regarding the utilization on unspent grant in aid as on 31-3-13 in the subsequent year(s).

Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Additional Secretary has informed that revalidation is not applicable under Non-Plan scheme and unspent balance if any is to be refunded to the Ministry.

The Board considered the matter and ratified the circular resolution.

ITEM No.11: Consideration of the matter relating to removal of Elephants and other animals from Circuses.

Dr. Manilal Valliyate, Co-opted Member, AWBI and Director of Veterinary Affairs, PETA – India gave a Power Point Presentation regarding the investigation/inspection of 16 circuses conducted by a team authorized by AWBI. The Board directed to submit a complete report on the project with recommendations for provision for rehabilitation of circus animals for further consideration of AWBI and MOEF. In view of the report, the Board decided to stop immediate performance of all the injured and aged animals in the

circuses mentioned in the report and seize them after making arrangement for rehabilitation with some of the AWOs and Zoos. The Board directed to issue legal notices to all circuses for using sick, injured and unregistered animals in their circuses as Performing Animals. The report of PETA is to be provided to Central Zoo Authority (CZA) for further action.

The Board decided to stop registration of elephants for performance under Performing Animals Rules in view of huge cruelties and abuse suffered by them. The Board also decided that a proposal for inclusion of Elephants in the list of banned animals under The Performing Animals (Registration) Rules 2001 be sent to the Ministry for consideration and there should be no performing animals in circuses.

ITEM NO.12: Consideration of the matter relating to activation of State Animal Welfare Boards and SPCA.

Smt. Amala Akkineni has informed that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has provided office space for State Animal Welfare Board, A.P. She emphasized the need for sensitizing the State Government Officials about the working of SAWBs. The reputed AWOs in the States to be requested to follow up with the Government Officials to strengthen the working of SAWBs in their concerned States.

Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Additional Secretary informed that he has written letters to the State Governments for formulation of SAWBs. He has suggested that examples of AWBI achievement and successful stories should be circulated to other States for encouraging them for action.

ITEM NO.13: Considering the proposed Golden Jubilee Seminars at Delhi and North East.

Hon'ble Chairman informed the Board that the next Golden Jubilee Regional Seminar at Guwahati will be conducted tentatively on 25.10.2013.

ITEM NO.14: Consideration of the matter relating to the publication of Golden Jubilee Souvenir of the Board- Briefing by Ms. Jasjit Purewal and its proposed release.

The Board considered the matter and approved the same.

ITEM NO.15: Considering the minutes of the meeting of all Turf Clubs on 14th July 2013 at BTC addressed by Chairman AWBI to address Equine Welfare issues – copy of minutes attached.

Hon'ble Chairman briefed the Members and the Board noted the matter.

ITEM NO.16: Briefing on AWBI efforts to facilitate ABC / AR Programme at Srinagar and related High Court case in Srinagar by Vice-Chairman and Ms. Jasjit Purewal.

Hon'ble Vice-Chairman and Ms. Jasjit Purewal briefed the Members and the Board noted the matter. The Board appreciated the efforts done by Vice-Chairman and Ms. Jasjit Purewal for successful implementation of ABC/AR programme in Srinagar.

ITEM NO.17: Training Programmes to HAWOs / Vets / Para Vets / Dog Catchers being conducted at NIAW, Ooty, Gangtok and Jaipur.

Hon'ble Chairman briefed the Members and the Board noted the matter.

ITEM NO.18: Facilitating the implementation of Humane castration of scrub male Bull calves in Gaushalas to address production of low worth animals.

Hon'ble Chairman informed the Board that Brig. S.S.Chohan has conducted large scale castration of male calves in his Goshala and has issue on bond 400 pairs of bullocks to farmers for agriculture purposes.

The Board discussed and noted the matter that humane castration of male calves be adopted by all Goshalas to prevent production of low worth animals. A letter in this regard be sent from Board to all recognized Gaushalas and State Govts.

ITEM NO.19: Discuss Transportation of Animals in specified vehicles as suggested by Haryana State Govt. for implementation by all State Governments and UTs.

The Board directed to write to all State Governments with copy of order issued by Government of Haryana to adopt the same in the respective States.

ITEM NO. 20: Brief on ongoing important legal court cases.

The Members suggested that a small booklet of success stories in legal cases, achievements with pictures and visuals apart from petitions is to be prepared by the Board for wide circulation to all AWOs / NGOs.

ITEM NO. 21: Brief on AWBI Staff matter – Secretary, AWBI

Hon'ble Chairman briefed about the unauthorized absence and lack of performance in duty and baseless allegation of harassment made by one of the staff members. The Board directed the Secretary, AWBI to take stern action in this matter.

ITEM NO. 22: Proposed concept of YAK welfare – briefing by Dr. Arun Varma.

Dr. Arun Varma briefed about the Yak welfare and Yak Community in Arunachal Pradesh. Hon'ble Chairman suggested that a booklet on Yak welfare be prepared by Dr. Arun Varma for publication by the Board.

The Board considered the matter and requested Dr. Arun Varma to incorporate this subject in the Golden Jubilee Regional Seminar to be held in October 2013 at Guwahati.

Additional Item No.1: Consideration of matter relating to activation of Uttarakhand State Animal Welfare Board and District SPCAs in Uttarakhand by financial grants.

The Board discussed the matter and regretted to consider the same as this matter is in the domain of respective State Govt.

Additional Item No. 2: Consideration of grant-in-aid for construction of Shelter House for Animals to JBF (India) Trust, New Delhi (ND044/2007) under Shelter House Scheme

The Board considered the matter and directed to place the proposal of JBF (India) Trust, New Delhi in the next Grants Sub-Committee for consideration of grant under Shelter House Scheme for construction of Shelters to cater ABC programme for dogs (may be 50% of shelter house grant).

Additional Item No. 3: Consideration of matter relating to drought relief grant to Karuna Society, P.O.Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh

The Board considered the matter and approved for sanction of grant of Rs.20,000/- subject to receipt of required documents under Natural Calamity Relief Scheme.

Additional Item No. 4: Consideration of Grant in-aid under Humane Education programme.

The Board considered the proposal submitted by CPR Environmental Education Center, Chennai and approved for sanction of Rs.5.00 lakhs to CPR Environmental Education Center, Chennai on the same lines of Karuna International, Chennai.

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

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