

**MINUTES OF THE 40TH GENERAL MEETING OF ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF
INDIA HELD ON 27.3.2014 AT CHENNAI**

PRESENT

1. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM	-	Chairman
2. Dr. S. Chinny Krishna	-	Vice Chairman
3. Shri Jai Raj, IFS Addl. PCCF, Uttarakhand	}	
4. Shri Sahdev Singh Under Secretary Representative of the Ministry of HRD	}	
5. Dr.M.Gunasekaran DAD & F, Govt. of India, Chennai Rep. of Animal Husbandry Commissioner	}	
6. Brig.(Retd.) S.S. Chohan, VSM Representative of Gurgaon Municipal Corporation	}	
7. Dr. Arun Sirkeck Representative of Shimla Municipal Corporation	}	
8. Shri A.J. Anandan, IPS (Retd)	}	
9. Shri Doulat Jain	}	Members
10. Dr. Sandeep K. Jain	}	
11. Shri N. Jayasimha	}	
12. Shri Anil Sancheti	}	
13. Shri Vinod Bam	}	
14. Shri Shivayya Swamy Kamthana	}	
15. Ms. Norma Alvares	}	
16. Ms. Anjali Sharma	}	
17. Ms. Sowmya Reddy	}	
18. Dr. (Mrs.) Vasanthamma	}	
19. Ms. Geethanjali, IFS Deputy Secretary (AW), MOEF	}	Special Invitee
20. Shri S. Vinod Kumaar	}	Assistant Secretary, AWBI

Shri.Khanduri, IFS, IGF(WL), MoEF gave leave of absence and it was noted.

Honb'le Chairman extended a warm and hearty welcome to all the Members of the Board to its 40th General Meeting.

Item No.1: Self introduction by Board Members

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

Item No.2: Welcome Address by Chairman AWBI, Brief Introduction of AWBI's Animal Welfare initiatives, National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) Pilot Project – Animal Component, challenges etc.,

Addressing the Members of the newly re-constituted Board the Chairman stated that all Members of the newly constituted Board have specially been chosen by the Government of India because of their commitment and contribution to the noble cause of animal welfare. He expected their full co-operation and help in taking forward this noble work. The Chairman emphasized the need of creating awareness in the society by Board members by becoming active participants in sending a message of kindness and compassion for animals and involving more and more young people in the animal welfare activities as the Board is facing lot of challenges in addressing abuse of animals and man-animal conflicts.

Hon'ble Chairman gave power point presentation about the role of Animal Welfare Board. Hon'ble Chairman emphasized that animal welfare is a "Seva" "Selfless service" to animals which needs lot of commitment from our side all the time. We have to work absolutely at the grass root level to sensitizing the public. The Board is an advisory Body to the Govt. of India and facilitates the working of NGOs/AWOs who are participating in animal welfare work. The Chairman briefed about the various functions being carried out by the Board by way of financial assistance to AWOs/SPCAs under various schemes of the Govt. of India like Regular Grant (Plan) based on the number of animals sheltered/treated by them, grant-in-aid for construction of Shelter House, Provision of Ambulance to Animals in distress, Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme for stray dogs, Relief to animals during natural calamities. The Board releases grant to Animal Welfare Organizations (AWOs) after ascertaining the projected requirement of AWOs through an inspection by the Animal Husbandry Department / Revenue Department (District Collector) / SAWB of the concerned State. The main reason of delay in release of grants to AWOs is the late receipt of inspection report from State Government Departments. It is indeed sad that despite supreme court directions, most State Governments have not constituted / activated SAWBs and District SPCAs which is why the inspections are being delayed and instances of animal abuse are not being addressed in the States.

Hon'ble Chairman briefed the Members about the street dog problems, Animal Birth Control programme implemented by the Board and initiatives taken by AWBI for Rabies control. He also explained various initiatives taken by AWBI for the welfare of Gaushalas.

Hon'ble Chairman briefed about the present staff strength and requirement of additional staff as per the recommendations of Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of Ministry of Finance to address the growing challenges / responsibilities of AWBI. At present each staff member is burdened with a large number of files.

He emphasized the need to include animal welfare in the Corporate social responsibility for getting funding from corporate World and the need to send a letter to the Ministry for taking up the issue with the Government of India.

Item No.3: Address by Vice-Chairman AWBI – functioning of Grants and Performing Animals Sub-Committees.

The Vice-Chairman, Dr. S. Chinny Krishna briefed about the functioning of Grants Sub-Committee and Performing Animals Sub-Committee. He informed that all grants are sanctioned and released after receipt of inspection report and/or verification of number of animals sheltered/treated by the AWOs duly verified by the Animal Husbandry Department. He also briefed about the schemes, eligibility for consideration of grant under each scheme.

The Vice-Chairman informed the Members that at present PASC meetings are conducted on every Wednesday and approximately 50 applications are considered in each meeting in a transparent method. All decisions of the PASC are published on AWBI website after approval of the Chairman of the Board. He emphasized that till date no pressure from the Ministry has been received or no complaints are received on screening and issue of certificates for the films by the PASC.

Item No.4: Address by Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The Deputy Secretary (AW) MOEF, Ms. Geethanjali on behalf of Joint Secretary MOEF has addressed the Members. The Deputy Secretary has informed that the Ministry has sent D.O.s to State Governments about establishment of effective State Animal Welfare Boards and District SPCAs as per the Supreme Court directions. The Board has to initiate steps to get contribution from public and State Government for animal welfare activities.

During the discussion the Members opined that if the SAWBs are in place and proposals for inspection are sent through the SAWBs, then we can speed up the processing of proposals for consideration of grant under the schemes.

Hon'ble Chairman suggested that a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) could be filed in the Supreme Court regarding non-functional SAWBs and SPCAs in the States inspite of Supreme Court orders. Because of non-functional of SAWBs the inspection reports are delayed and accordingly the grants to AWOs are delayed. The Ministry is requested to write to the State Government to activate the SAWBs and SPCAS with a copy to the Members of the Board from the concerned State so that the matter can be followed up by them.

The Members opined that a State Nodal Officer exclusively for animal welfare activities with one assistant is required for SAWBs. All information about the AWOs and decisions of the Board are to be conveyed to the SAWBs through the Nodal Officer so that they could help in progressing the inspection of AWOs as also the UCs.

It was also suggested that a meeting under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of E & F with the representatives of State Governments should be arranged to sort out the problems of effective working of SAWBs and activating District SPCAs.

The Board decided to conduct a National Seminar in Delhi for sensitizing the public in general about their responsibility to treat animals with kindness and compassion.

Item No.5: Briefing on Board's Staff, their functioning and Budget allocation and latest position on utilization of financial grants for financial year 2013-14 by Assistant Secretary, AWBI.

The Assistant Secretary briefed the Members and the Board noted the matter.

Item No.6: Ratification of Grants Sub-Committee Minutes of 12.12.13 and 22.1.14

The Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee Committee Meetings of the Board held on 12.12.13 and 22.1.14 were confirmed and ratified by the Board.

Item No.7: Ratification of opening a separate bank account for National Rabies Control Programme Account and meeting out the expenses related to the NRCP out of the funds received from NCDC (Ministry of Health)

The matter regarding opening a separate bank account for National Rabies Control Programme Account and meeting out the expenses related to the NRCP out of the funds received from the NCDC were confirmed and ratified.

Item No.8: Presentation by Shri Jai Raj, IFS, APCCF, Uttarakhand, Member, AWBI

Shri Jai Raj IFS , Addl. PCCF, Uttarakhand addressed the issues of animal cruelty and gave a presentation on the matter. He emphasized the need of an excellent net working among the Members, Co-opted Member of the Board, State Animal Welfare Board, SPCAs, AWOs, Animal Lovers, CPCB/PCBs and other stake holders for effective working in the field of animal welfare. He suggested that the AWBI Website is to be made more interactive so that the public can report on major cruelty issues from all over the country.

Shri Jai Raj IFS suggested that a communication from the Secretary, MOEF should go to the Chief Secretaries of all States informing about the name of the Members of the

recently reconstituted Board of the concerned States/Zones with the request to issue further instructions to District Collectors and Police Department for providing active co-operation to the Members of the Board.

Item No.9: Presentation by Shri N. Jayasimha, Member, AWBI on his offer of taking responsibilities for promoting some of the Animal Welfare initiatives.

Shri N. Jayasimha has offered his assistance to the Board in the matter relating to RTI, Parliament Questions, to develop Citizen Charter regarding animal welfare as required by Administration Reforms Committee, to get advertisement for AWBI publications, online programmes, animal law training programmes etc. Hon'ble Chairman appreciated him and accepted his offer.

Item No.10: Formation of Executive Committee of Animal Welfare Board of India

As per Rule 15 & 16 of the Animal Welfare Board of India (Administration) Rules, 1962 the Board has constituted the Executive Committee as follows:

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Surjit Singh, Joint Secretary (AW), MOEF
- iv) Brig. (Rtd.) S.S. Chohan
- v) Shri Doulat Jain
- vi) Shri N. Jayasimha
- vii) Ms. Anjali Sharma

Item No.11: Constitution of various Sub-Committees of the Board:

1. Sub-Committee on Performing Animals

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Doulat Jain
- iv) Regional Officer, CBFC, Chennai
- v) Dr. Mohammed Salim Aslam
- vi) Secretary, AWBI
- vii) Assistant Secretary, AWBI
- viii) HEO, AWBI

2. Grants Sub-Committee

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman

- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Doulat Jain
- iv) Under Secretary (AWD) MOEF
- v) Secretary, AWBI
- vi) Assistant Secretary, AWBI
- vii) Sr. Grants Co-ordinators of the concerned units

3. Legal Sub-Committee

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Ms. Anjali Sharma
- iv) Ms. Norma Alvares
- v) Shri Sahdev Singh, Under Secretary, Ministry of HRD
- vi) Shri Doulat Jain
- vii) Shri N. Jayasimha

4. Humane Education Sub-Committee

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Jai Raj, IFS, APCCF, Uttarakhand
- iv) Shri Sahdev Singh, Under Secretary, Ministry of HRD
- v) Shri Doulat Jain
- vi) Shri N. Jayasimha
- vii) Shri Sandeep Jain
- viii) Shri A.J. Anandan, IPS (Rtd)
- ix) Shri Shivayya Swamy Kamthana
- x) Ms. Amala Akkineni

5. Editorial Sub-Committee

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri N. Jayasimha
- iv) Ms. Norma Alvares
- v) Dr. Sandeep K. Jain
- vi) Brig. S.S. Chohan
- vii) Shri Anil Sancheti
- viii) Shri Vinod Bam

6. ABC/AR Sub-Committee

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman

- iii) Ms. Anjali Sharma
- iv) Ms. Norma Alvares
- v) Dr. Sandeep K. Jain
- vi) Dr. (Mrs.) Vasanthamma
- vii) Dr. Arun Sirkeck
- viii) Ms. Gauri Maulekhi

7. Gaushala Sub-Committee

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Jai Raj IFS
- iv) Brig. (Rtd.) S.S. Chohan
- v) Shri Anil Sancheti
- vi) Shri Vinod Bam
- vii) Shri Shivayya Swamy Kamthana

8. Sub-Committee on Fund Raising and awareness

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Doulat Jain
- iv) Dr. Sandeep K. Jain
- v) Shri N.G. Jayasimha
- vi) Shri Anil Sancheti
- vii) Shri Vinod Bam
- viii) Ms. Sowmya Reddy

9. Regional Sub-Committees

a) Eastern Regional Sub-Committee (West Bengal, NE States)

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Brig. (Rtd.) S.S. Chohan
- iv) Ms. Anjali Sharma
- v) Shri Rajdeep Dutta Roy, Kolkatta
- vi) Shri Debashree Roy, Kolkatta

b) Western Regional Sub-Committee (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Goa)

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman

- iii) Ms. Norma Alvares
- iv) Shri Doulat Jain
- v) Shri Kumar Pal
- vi) Shri Abodh Aras, Mumbai
- vii) Shri S.N. Kapur, Nagpur
- viii) Ms. Ambika Hiranandani, Pune / Mumbai

**c) Northern Regional Sub-Committee
(Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, J & K, Himachal Pradesh,
Delhi, Haryana)**

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Jai Raj, IFS
- iv) Brig (Retd.) S.S. Chohan
- v) Ms. Anjali Sharma
- vi) Dr. Arun Sirkeck
- vii) Dr. Sandeep K. Jain
- viii) Ms. Gauri Maulekhi, Uttarakhand
- ix) Ms. Payal Sodhi, Chandigarh

**d) Central Regional Sub-Committee
(Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa)**

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Sahdev Singh, Under Secretary, MoHRD
- iv) Shri Anil Sancheti
- v) Shri Vinod Bam
- vi) Shri S.N. Kapur

**e) Southern Regional Sub-Committee
(Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala)**

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri A.J. Anandan, IPS (Retd)
- iv) Shri Doulat Jain
- v) Shri N. Jayasimha
- vi) Dr. Gunasekharan, Rep. of AHC
- vii) Shri Shivayya Swamy Kamthana
- viii) Ms. Sowmya Reddy
- ix) Prof. Dr. Ramakumar, Kerala

10. Sub-Committee on Transportation and Farm Animals

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Ms. Norma Alvares
- iv) Ms. Anajali Sharma
- v) Shri N. Jayasimha
- vi) Ms. Shweta Sood
- vii) Ms. Kushboo Gupta

The Board also authorized Chairman, AWBI to nominate Co-opted Members.

Item No.12: Discussion on proposed increase in the ABC/AR Rates for sterilization/immunization stray dogs.

The Board discussed that the rates for ABC need to be raised since the ABC programme will come to a standstill because of low rate of Rs.445/- per dog fixed by the Ministry in 2003. The General Meeting of the Board recommended for Rs.800/- per dog and decided to write to the Ministry for approval.

Item No.13: Ratification of proceedings/decision taken for removing Shri. S.S.R.K. Guru Prasad as Secretary of Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Kakinada.

The Board discussed the matter and ratified the decision.

Item No.14: Consideration of request from Municipal Corporation of Delhi for carryout of ABC Program.

The Board discussed the matter and decided that AWBI can give only 50% of the current approved rate of Rs.445/- per dog. If the rate is more than the approved rate, the balance is to be paid by the Municipal Corporation (North Delhi MC). It was decided that the other two MCs in Delhi shall carryout the ABC programme on their own as they have adequate resources for the same.

Item No.15: Consideration of the matter relating to the distressed animals of Moon light Circus.

The Board discussed the matter and decided to suspend the registration of Moonlight Circus with immediate effect and direct the circus to come for a hearing within 10 days on receipt of notice. The copy of letter to Moonlight Circus conveying the decision of the Board is to be given to all District Authorities and request them to ensure that animals are not used for performance in the circus till a final decision is taken in the matter.

Item No.16: Discussion on printing and publication of AWBI Souvenir

The Board discussed the matter and decided to request the Ministry to accord their approval and also decided to do the printing of souvenir through open tender. The articles and information in the Souvenir is to be reviewed and updated if necessary.

Item No.17: Consideration of matter relating to killing of male calves by Dairy establishment in Rishikesh

The Board discussed the matter and directed to write to the State Government to register the Dairy farms as per PCA Registration of Cattle Premises Rules 1978 and advise them to castrate the male calves in Gaushalas in a humane manner.

Additional Item No. 1: Release of grant to AWOs represented by Member of the Board after approval of the Ministry.

The representative of Ministry is one of the Members of the Grants Sub-Committee who scrutinize and recommend the grant to AWOs. It was decided that the Ministry representative attending the Grants Sub-Committee may especially scrutinize the Member organization's file in the Grants Sub-Committee itself and give his recommendations instead of sending the proposal to the Ministry. This is to be conveyed to the Ministry for its approval.

Additional Item No. 2: Implementation of National Rabies Control Programme Pilot Project in Haryana (Animal Component) and appointment of Project Co-ordinator and Assistant.

The Board discussed the matter and approved for appointment of a qualified senior Veterinarian as Project Coordinator and Assistant on contract basis to implement the Pilot Project in Haryana. A sub-committee of District Collector, Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry and representative of Local Body is to be constituted in each Districts for monitoring of the project.

Additional Item No.3: Considering the matter regarding conducting of Seminars in Srinagar and Gurgaon on Animal Birth Control Programme.

The Board considered the matter and approved for conducting of seminars at Srinagar and Gurgaon.

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

On circulation of the Minutes of the 40th GM of AWBI by email on 7-4-2014, the Deputy Secretary (AW), MoEF has communicated her reservations for inclusion in the Minutes in the following points:-

Agenda Item No.4.- Address by DS(AW):

DS(AW) had emphasized that we should take a stock of the performance of the Board in all the ongoing animal welfare schemes in the previous years by going through the annual reports and other relevant materials available with the Board. The grants seem to have been distributed in a skewed manner, not to all the States - probably due to the non-receipt of inspection reports. Our mandate is for the whole of India and not for any specific region. We should try to activate the State Animal Welfare Boards and get the proposals through them with their recommendation and inspection report. She had told that we should draw the roadmap for future keeping in view of the learning from the earlier performance.

She had also told during the meeting that the problem of stray dogs would lead to more and more human dog conflict in the coming years. To avoid this situation and in the interest of welfare of dogs, we should try to do the ABC programme in a better way. We should try to rope in the Municipalities and local bodies and try to implement the program. We should also focus on the National Capital and motivate the Municipal Corporations.

Additional agenda item No.1- Release of grant to AWOs represented by Member of the Board, after approval of the Ministry.

DS(AW) had explained to the Board that the proposals which furnished to the Ministry were incomplete in many respect because of which the proposals could not be approved. She also informed the Board that it is not possible for the Ministry's representative to be present in all the meetings, and hence it is necessary that such proposals be furnished to the Ministry. Shri Sahadev Singh, Representative of Human Resource Development had also pointed out that it is altogether a different issue -Ministry's representative being in the sub-committee and the proposals coming to the Ministry for approval by the Competent Authority.

DS(AW) had also explained to the Board that there seems to be some inherent flaw in the way that the proposals are processed at AWBI and told that there is a need to take a holistic view and see how the proposals are processed at AWBI.

Additional Item No.4: Animal Welfare in School Syllabus

Shri Sahdev Singh, Under Secretary, Dept. of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD and Member, AWBI initiated the matter regarding Animal Welfare in School Syllabus in the Board Meeting. The matter regarding inclusion of Animal Welfare in the Curriculum (as a supplement of Social Science) at school (Primary, Middle, Higher Secondary and Senior Secondary) and Higher Educational Institutions (Colleges, Universities, Animal Husbandry Education Institutions) through NCERT/UGC and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.

A Resolution dated 17-4-2014 in this regard was circulated to the Members of the Board and as per the approval of the Members, it is included in the Minutes as Additional Item No.4.

Comments received from Dr.Sandeep Jain, Member, AWBI in the matter regarding renewal of Awards and nomination of Co-opted Members

In the meeting during Presentation of Mr Jairaj, Member, it was proposed that to encourage the Animal Welfare Persons some Awards must be instituted. Undersigned pointed out that JEEV DAYA AWARD & PRANI MITRA AWARDS were given before 2001 & the practice needs to be revived.

Secondly during Formation of regional sub Committees, Hon. Chairman has mentioned that Members Belonging to a region will included in the committee of his Region , but it has not been done.

It is also felt that before Co-opting Members from a state, member/s of that state must be taken into confidence.