

**ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA
CHENNAI – 41**

Minutes of the 44th General Meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of India held on 18th January, 2018 at Chennai.

PRESENT

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Shri S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | - | Chairman |
| 2. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | } | |
| | } | |
| 3. Shri V.B.Dubey, Joint Secretary (Judl) M/o Home Affairs | } | |
| 4. Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia | } | |
| 5. Shri Girish J. Shah | } | |
| 6. Prof. R.S. Chauhan | } | |
| College of Veterinary & Animal Science, Uttarakhand | } | |
| 7. Dr. Vaidya Hitesh Jani | } | |
| Head & Chief Physician, Dept. Of Panchakarma, | } | |
| Jamnagar, Gujarat Ayurved University | } | |
| 8. Shri Sunil Mansinghka | } | Members |
| 9. Ms. Anjali Gopalan | } | |
| 10. Shri Rakesh Gupta | } | |
| 11. Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar | } | |
| 12. Shri Ramesh Kumar | - | Under Secretary (AW), MoEF&CC |
| 13. Shri M. Ravi Kumar, IFS | - | Secretary |
| 14. Shri S. Vinod Kumaar | - | Assistant Secretary |

Shri Sidhanta Das, DGF&SS, Shri. Ram Krishan Raghuvanshi, Shri Dhanpal Singh, Dr. Prakash Amte, Dr. Rajani Kaul, ICMR and IGF (WL) requested for leave of absence and the same was granted.

Item No.1: Introduction of newly nominated Members of AWBI.

Chairman AWBI welcomed the Board Members who were present and requested the Members for self introduction and it was done.

Item No.2: Welcome Address by Chairman, AWBI.

At the outset, Chairman welcomed the Honorable Members of the Board and stated that he feels privileged to chair this august Board, which comprises animal lovers and experts in their respective fields.

He stressed that one of the most important concerns before the Board is the depletion of Gochar / grazing lands, for want of which animals sufferings are maximum.

as neither they have fodder nor any other feed items easily available to them. Even Honorable Supreme Court has directed in a number of cases particularly in the case of the State of Jharkhand and Others-versus Pukar Jagran Manch & Others that Gochar lands should be protected preserved and be used only for the animals, but unfortunately not of such lands have either been encroached upon or diverted to other purposes. Therefore, he emphasized that we should collect data of Gochar land throughout the country, and should be issued advisory to the State Governments so that Gochar lands should be utilized only for feeding them or providing shelters to the animals/cattle.

The Chairman stated that at present the State Animal Welfare Boards and the district animal welfare boards either have not been set up or the existing outfits are non-functional. He emphasized that to implement the apex court directions of setting up three-tier systems across the country needs to be given top priority to make the Board effective up to the grass-root level.

The Chairman stated the problem of stray cattle has increased manifold irrespective the area is rural or urban. Therefore, priority should be given to provide such hapless animals with shelter and feed. If need be, a new scheme may be launched.

The Chairman further said that the funds / grants available to the Board are almost negligible and the Board would take up the matter of augmenting the funds substantially with the Ministry, so that not only on-going schemes / projects are properly implemented, but new schemes could also be launched.

The Chairman stated that the present Act and its Rules are antiquated, and needs to be thoroughly amended and updated as per the needs of the changing times.

The Chairman requested Board members to express their specific interests for accommodating them in the executive committee, sub-committees for better functioning for the Board.

Chairman referred to some other points received from Board members through email and during the informal meeting with the executive members on January 17, 2018, where the members had expressed concern on a number of issues, the emphasis was on the following issues:-

The non-functioning of the Board due to in-sufficient grants.

The undefined status and no provision for remuneration to the members, Vice Chairman, and Chairman, it may be adequately defined.

The filling of the vacant sanctioned posts, filling up of other posts as per requirements on temporary basis as per provision of the rules be expedited at the earliest.

To review the already issued HAWO (Honorary Animal Welfare Officer) cards for preventing their misuse and further making a transparent policy for issuing such cards.

Shifting of the Headquarters of the Board from Chennai to New Delhi / NCR.

Allowing private airlines to be used for travelling, where Air India (AI) does fly and also direct Air India flight not available.

Need for a transparent policy regarding ABC scheme in view of the mounting complaints.

The Chairman referring to the issues raised above hoped that the Board would deliberate on these important issues in this meeting only, and take a unanimous decision so that the issues could be taken up with the Ministry accordingly.

The Chairman expressed that with the unanimous support and zeal of the Honorable Members, he would be able to re-establish the role and mandate given to the Board to make it a countrywide movement for the uncared animals and cattle.

Item No.3: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 04.05.2017.

The Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 04.05.2017 were confirmed and approved.

Item No.4: Report on action taken on the minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 04.05.2017.

Regarding item no. (2), the Board directed that periodical reminders should be sent to get the details of the nodal officer of the SAWB for better co-ordination. The contact details of the nodal officers should be circulated to the Members for better co-ordination. Also workshops should be arranged to be conducted by the Board in the States to make the SAWBs and District SPCAs effective.

The Board decided to carry out inspection of poultry farms (reg. Item no. 6) of Panchkula, Ambala, Kurukshetra in Haryana, if they were not inspected earlier, by a representative who is an expert on the subject from Lala Lajpat Rai University, an

Expert from the Ministry of Environment & Forests on Flies and Prof. R. S. Chauhan, Member with the coordination of Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia, Member. The letters for inspection to be sent should also specify about the TA/DA entitlements of the inspecting persons and that TA/DA will be paid by AWBI if the officials were to not claim it from their department.

Provisions for the honorarium to the Chief Veterinary Officers / representatives of the District Welfare Committees and State Animal Welfare Boards have to be made / defined. The Board authorized Chairman, AWBI for deciding the provisions of the honorarium.

The Board requested the Ministry representative to follow up on the issue of notification of the PCA (Constitution of State Animal Welfare Board) Rules and inform the Board.

Regarding (item no.9) The Board decided that a draft letter addressed to the M/o Health, M/o Consumer Affairs and FSSAI regarding adulteration of milk is to be prepared and sent by Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia, Member, AWBI to the office for approval of Chairman before being sent to concerned.

The Board directed that any draft advisory is to be first vetted through the legal sub-committee before it is placed to the Board.

Ms Anjali Gopalan stated that the board should be provided with more teeth to deal with cruelty matters, it is decided to propose to the Ministry for asking compounding powers to Chairman, AWBI may be proposed to deal with the cruelty matters to have more deterrence.

On the matter regarding implementation of NRCP in Haryana the Board decided that the evaluation of the program is to be conducted by Prof. R. S. Chauhan, Ms. Anjali Gopalan and Dr. Rakesh Gupta along with AHD representative. The AWOs and the State Animal Husbandry Department shall be requested to furnish all required documents and records and provide assistance to the team for conducting the inspection.

The Board also decided to conduct an evaluation of the ABC program implemented in Dehradun and that the evaluation is to be conducted by Prof. R.S. Chauhan along with representative from State Animal Welfare Board / Animal Husbandry Department. A letter is to be sent to the Dehradun Nagar Nigam (Shri Vivekanandan) to keep all the records ready and provide the necessary cooperation for conducting the evaluation. It was also decided that funds not be released till the evaluation is done and the report is submitted within one/two months.

On the matter regarding review of recognised AWOs for filtering deserving / active AWOs from defunct organisations, the Board decided that reminders should be sent for conducting the inspections and state wise list of AWOs is to be given to

Members of Board as decided below for providing inputs and co-ordination on this matter for inspection of AWOs:

Shri Rajeev Gupta -	Uttar Pradesh
Shri Rakesh Gupta -	Haryana and Rajasthan
Ms. Anjali Gopalan -	Delhi
Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia -	Punjab and Chandigarh
Prof.R.S. Chauhan & Shri Dharpal -	Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir
Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar & Shri Ramkrishna Raghuvanshi -	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand
Shri Sunil Mansinghka & Shri Prakash Amte -	Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal & North Eastern States
Shri Hitesh Jani -	Gujarat
Shri Girish J. Shah -	Maharashtra except Vidharbha region, all Southern States and UTs. List of all States to be given to him.

However to change the allocation or to complete the action quickly, the Board authorized the Chairman to carry out the inspection by Co-opted members or other animal welfare organizations / HAWOs etc.

Reg. Item no.16, the Board directed that letters are to be sent to AWOs within a week from whom Utilisation Certificates are pending for recovering the amount. Thereafter reminders should be sent periodically and even after that recovery is not effected than action for recovering the amount as arrear of land revenue through District Collector should be started and simultaneously defaulting AWO should be black listed.

It is observed by the Members that the Board office has taken very delayed action on few of the agenda items of AGM held on 04.05.2017 and it is decided that the board office need to take action within 07 days of the approval of minutes of Board meeting, failing of which the Board will take serious note of it and the responsibility for the same will be fixed.

Item No.5: Ratification of Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of the Board held on 15.12.2017.

The minutes of the Grants-sub-committee meeting held on 15.12.2017 were kept pending for want of certain clarifications by the office. Those details should be put up before the next Grant Sub Committee meeting.

Item No.6: Consideration of matter regarding Budget sanctioned and received from the Ministry for the year 2017-18 and Grant-in-aid sanctioned/released/pending for release to AWOs under the schemes of AWBI.

The Board noted that the Budget provided for the schemes are very meagre and decided to request the Ministry to enhance the Budget to Rs. 50 Crore to carry out 3

new schemes and other current schemes. Out of which 10 crore to be allocated exclusively for maintaining dry / diseased / old / stray Gowansh and carrying out manufacturing of at least one product / medicine based on Panchagavya, 10 crore for dealing with natural calamity scheme to provide immediate relief and animals which are handed over by the Courts / District Administration to the AWOs for their maintenance, 10 crore for the development of Gocharan land for providing fodder and shelter to animals and other animal welfare activities like setting up of Bio Gas plant on such land and balance 20 crores to be spent on the ongoing schemes of the Board. It was also decided that the applications for all the schemes to be simplified and to be made online. Office will put up the simplified and online forms within a week before the Chairman for approval. Chairman was authorised by the Board to finalize the above in consultation with the members of the Grant Sub Committee members.

Regarding new launching of new schemes and for making provisions for the funds office may send the proposal to the Ministry for its approval within 7 days.

Item No.7: Consideration of appointment of District Co-ordinator in each District as facilitator to assist the Board for inspections by Govt. Officials, collection of UCs, submission of grant applications, registration with NITI Aayog by AWOs etc.

It is decided that one person to be appointed as District Co-ordinator of AWBI in each District which will coordinate with District SPCAs and act as a facilitator to assist the Board and facilitate the animal husbandry officials for inspection of AWOs, collection of UCs, submission of grant applications, registration of AWOs with NITI Aayog, etc. Board authorized Chairman to appoint such coordinator with the consultation of the members of the Grant Sub Committee.

Item No.8: Confirmation of agenda item circulated to Members of the Board regarding requirement of registration of animal welfare organisation in Niti Aayog Portal for consideration of Recognition and Financial Assistance to AWOs.

The AWOs who have not yet registered with Niti Aayog should be informed again to register with Niti Aayog and furnish the Unique ID number assigned to them by the NGO Darpan portal. Letters should be sent in both Hindi and English for easy understanding. Concerned should be informed that no grant or any type of assistance will be granted to any AWO who have not registered with Niti Aayog. It was decided that concerned officials of the Board as well as members of the Board within their jurisdiction will guide the AWO for registering them with the NITI Aayog.

Item No.9: Revising of Application for grant-in-aid under Plan Scheme (Regular Grant), Central Sector Schemes and Recognition.

The Board authorized the Chairman to form a committee for revising the application forms through Grants Sub Committee. All application forms have to be made

online at the earliest. It was agreed that the application form is to be simplified for all the schemes of AWBI.

The Board decided that organisations who apply for recognition need to be registered under the relevant Act like Societies Registration Act, Indian Trust Deed Act etc. and also with Niti Aayog. The current requirement of verification of AWO by local body, sarpanch etc should be decided by the Grants Sub Committee at the time of simplification of the applications forms whether such verification is required.

Item No.10: Consideration of revising the criteria for sanction of Regular Grant to AWOs.

It was decided that release of initial grant of Rs.10,000/- is to be stopped and only Recognition should be given to new AWOs. The process of application for recognition should be made online. The criteria of sanctioning of Regular Grant to AWOs needs to be revise and Board decided that the Grants Sub Committee to finalize the criteria for sanction of regular grant.

Item No.11: Consideration of uniform design for construction of shelter house under the Shelter House Scheme.

The Board discussed the matter and it was agreed that the and design proposed by Shri Girish J. Shah, Member was appreciated by the Board and further decided that different designing based on the sheltering capacity of the animals be made and finalize by the Grants Sub Committee. It was also decided that the designs finalized by the Sub Committee will not be binding on the AWOs to adopt but only act as a facilitator for construction of cost effective shelters.

Item No.12: Consideration of enhancement of maximum permissible grant under the Schemes viz. Shelter House, Provision of Ambulance and ABC Programme.

Shri Girish J. Shah brought to the notice of the Board that an ambulance service is introduced in Gujarat which costs around Rs.40 lakhs each. Some members were of the view that shelter grant also needs to be increased and should be given based on the sheltering capacity of the animals by the AWOs. Board decided that Ambulance be enhanced upto Rs.10 lakhs including 25% share of the AWO. The said grant will be sanctioned only after verifying the financial capacity of the AWO to meet the running expenses of the Ambulance. Similarly in rural areas at present Tractor with Trolley is provided in this category for enhancing the grant in this category and enhancement of maximum permissible grant under the shelter house grant and ABC grant, the Board authorized the Grant Sub Committee to finalize the grant amounts for these schemes in the next GSC meeting so that Ministry's approval be taken at the earliest.

Item No.13: Consideration for formation of Disaster Management System for rescue and treatment of animals in distress during natural calamities.

The Board decided that the EC may take a decision on the matter in its next meeting so that required feed and treatment on emergency basis during natural calamity be provided to the affected animals immediately without waiting to receive formal proposal.

Item No.14: Brief on matter relating to important pending court cases by Secretary, AWBI

The Board took note of the matter of pending legal cases. Chairman suggested to the Members to recommend Advocates who can offer their services free of cost (pro bono) for legal advice and for appearing in court cases for AWBI. It was decided that there are number of court cases in various courts throughout the country and there is an urgent need to have a proper watch and to protect the animals from cruelty and for proper implementation of PCA act and rules made there under. A legal advisor and legal assistant be appointed at AWBI to coordinate and keep records of the legal cases. One advocate in all states and UTs be authorized to take care of the cases in their respective states and UTs. One person at each district be identified for taking care of the legal cases and court matters there. It was also decided that for engaging these people, it was decided that it will be tried to the maximum that these advocates are on volunteer basis having good reputation and images.

Board authorized the Legal Sub Committee to finalize the terms and conditions and quantum of remuneration to be paid to them in the next meeting of the Legal Sub Committee.

Shri Girish Shah brought to the notice of the Board about Ms.Gauri Maulekhi submitting the opinion as AWBI representative in court case in Delhi High Court on the use of oral contraceptives for female monkeys. It was decided to send a letter to Ms. Gauri Maulekhi for asking the details which was submitted to the court. The Board also decided to authorize Ms. Manisha Karia, Advocate to appear in the case as AWBI representative and also to request the court to withdraw the statement of Ms. Gauri Maulekhi recorded as the statement of the Board in the case documents.

Ms. Anjali Gopalan brought to the notice of the Board about the draft Pet Shop Rules and the advisory regarding captive elephants pending with the Ministry. The Board directed that the draft Pet shop Rules be sent to Ms. Manisha, Advocate for providing further inputs needed to the Ministry. The Board also requested the Ministry representative Shri Ramesh Kumar, Under Secretary to take suitable follow up action in the matter and inform the Board accordingly.

Item No.15: Discussion on availability of total State-wise Gochar Land and its Legal provisions in concerned States.

Chairman stated that as per the Hon'ble Supreme directions in number of cases particularly in Civil Appeal No.436 of 2011 in the case Jharkhand & Ors V/s. Pukar Jagaran Manch & Ors. and in the case of Jagpal Singh & Ors. V/s. State of Punjab & Ors. it was directed that Gochar land must be used only for the gocharan and welfare of animals purpose only and not for any other purpose. He requested all hte board members that they should collect data of the Gochar land available in the states and its present status regarding its use and also solicited suggestions regarding effective use of Gochar Land for the welfare of animals. It was also decided that complete data of the Gochar Land along with its legal provision village wise of the all States be procured so that a uniform policy be formed based on the data for sending it to the State Governments as an advisory to implement the Hon'ble Supreme Courts directions. Consequently the Board authorized the Chairman to form a Gochar Sub Committee for formulating a policy for effective and proper utility of Gochar land for the welfare of animals.

Item No.16: Discussion on matter regarding terms and conditions for appointment of Honorary Animal Welfare Officers, duties / responsibilities assigned to them, rationalization of issue of HAWO ID Cards and avoidance of misuse of HAWO ID Cards.

The Board decided to review all existing HAWO ID cards issued till date by the Board. In future, all applications for HAWO cards must be sponsored by the District SPCA / SAWB / Member of the Board. Processing of HAWO cards has to be made online at the earliest. The Board must collect Application fee of Rs.100/- only from those applicants to whom ID Cards are issued by Board and no application fees to be collected for rejected applications. The validity of ID Cards will be for only one year. All the above details about HAWO ID Cards must be updated in website. While printing HAWO ID card, it should be clearly mentioned on the card that the card holder will not collect any money from anyone in any circumstances and shall not take the law into their hands. It was also decided that in future, applications received for Colony ID Cards / HAWO ID Cards need not be placed in PASC Meeting and the approval will be taken from Chairman.

It was also decided that ID Cards printed for Members, Co-opted Members, Colony ID Cards, HAWOs should be made in different colours. It was further decided that process for making the system online and requisite formalities for printing of cards should be finalized within 7 days so that card holders get the cards in time.

Additional Agenda Points

Additional Agenda Item No.1: Consideration of report received from the Commissioner, Animal Husbandry Department, Palwal, Haryana in respect of the allegations of misutilization grant-in-aid released to People for Animals, Haryana under Shelter House Scheme.

The Board directed the office to send the documents related to this to the Legal sub-committee who will provide their advice within 15 days for taking further course of action.

Additional Agenda Item No.2: Consideration of amendments to the Animal Welfare Board of India (Administration) Rules, 1962.

Dr. Hitesh Jani raised this issue. After due deliberations on the matter the Board decided that amendments to the Animal Welfare Board of India (Administration) Rules, 1962 as per the present requirement. Accordingly Board authorized the Chairman to complete this task by constituting a committee having experts and retired persons in the said committee. The task should be finished within two months.

Additional Agenda Item No.3: Consideration of Status to Members of the Board.

Shri Sunil Mansinghka, Shri Girish J. Shah and other members raised the matter that the status of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members of the Board is not defined in the existing rules and the name of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members of the Board does not figure in the order of precedence. They stated that even names of other Boards and Corporate Bodies, and Commissions and even names of Members of such Commissions and Khadi Udyog Commission etc. appears in the order of precedence list. After great deliberation it was decided that the Ministry may be requested to consider the status of to define the status of Members, Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Board as they have to travel frequently to implement the mandate of PCA Act throughout the country. As per Hon'ble Supreme Court directions they have to activate and make functional the State Animal Welfare Boards and District SPCAs which are even not constituted in some States and in some States Chairman of the Goseva Aayogs like Haryana, Rajasthan and Chairman of SAWBs like Gujarat and Haryana are of Minister rank and in that case the status of Chairman, AWBI is not defined, it will be very difficult to preside / coordinate such meetings. It is pertinent to mention here that 6 Members of Parliament (4 from Lok Sabha and 2 from Rajya Sabha) are the Board members. In view of this it will be most desirable that the status of Board Members should be at least at par with Additional Secretary / Secretary level of the Govt. of India, Vice Chairman at par with Cabinet Secretary of Govt. of India and Chairman should in the rank of Minister or at least of Minister of State level. Board decided that Ministry may be requested to take up the matter with concerned / Ministry of Home Affairs for granting them the above / suitable status. Further if need be, provision may also be made by amending the Administration Rules of AWBI.

Additional Agenda Item No.4: Consideration for re-constitution of Executive Committee and other Sub-Committees of the Board.

Members raised the issue of re-constitution of Executive Committee and other Sub Committees of the Board. It was stated that the Chairman of the Board is already authorised to constitute / reconstitute the Executive Committee and other Sub committees of Board, however, the Chairman requested all the members to suggest

their area of interest so that at the time of reconstitution of such committees that aspect could be taken into account.

Additional Agenda Item No.5: Consideration of matter regarding establishment and ensuring three tier system of management, AWBI at National Level, State Animal Welfare Board at State Level and SPCAs at District Level for effective functioning for the cause of animal welfare.

The State Governments are to be asked to ensure that State Animal Welfare Board and District SPCAs are constituted and are provided with requisite budgetary support and manpower and assigned responsibilities to make them effective. All State Governments must be addressed to provide the details of District SPCAs established as per SPCA Rules, 2001 and the current status of those that have been established. Also decided to conduct national level meeting with representation from all states to discuss and insist on the formation of SAWBs and SPCAs. The Under Secretary of Ministry also requested to take steps to notify State Animal Welfare Board Rules, 2017 to facilitate the States in formation of SAWBs. It was also decided to conduct workshops in the States to make the SAWBs and District SPCAs effective.

Additional Agenda Item No.6 & 7: Consideration of filling up the vacancy against the sanctioned posts in AWBI and engagement of additional manpower as per the requirements.

Some members raised the issue that there are number of vacant sanctioned posts for want of which work of the Board is suffering and therefore these posts needs to be filled up at the earliest for the smooth functioning of the Board. Further there is need of creation of new Temporary / Adhoc post as per the increasing workload such as simplification of all types of forms including of grant, PASC, launching of new schemes, HAWO and to bring out Annual Report and timely and effective publications of AWBI, making all applications online and for timely updating the AWBI's website etc. It was decided by the Board that Chairman being competent authority as per the Administration Rules may take immediate steps to fill up these posts.

Some members raised the point that in past some officials has been regularized against the sanctioned posts without having the requisite qualification which is a very serious matter and there are also some audit objections pending against these irregularities. Regarding regularization of officials against the sanctioned posts it was decided that all these cases should be reviewed and the Board authorized the Chairman to review all these cases and if needed by constituting a Sub Committee having experts / retired officials within two months.

Additional Agenda Item No.8: Shifting of AWBI Headquarters from Chennai to New Delhi / NIAW / Gurugram.

Some members raised the issue that as per the Administration Rules of AWBI the Headquarters of the Board should be at Delhi. Chairman informed the Board that the matter is under active consideration of the Ministry and they have sought

requirement of space etc. from AWBI and accordingly the decision is expected from the Ministry shortly.

Additional Agenda Item No.9: Revision of criteria for sanction of Regular Grant.

The following criteria considered by the board to add/amend the existing criteria for sanction of regular grants for both large and small animals:-

- The quantum of grant amount on the basis of number of animals may be increased by 50%.
- It was suggested in the GSC that there is no need for Initial Grant / Recognition grant of Rs.10,000/- for recognition of AWOs.
- The number of Male Calves may not be doubled for the purpose of calculation of grant amount as there was query about this matter from the Ministry.
- Approved Grant amount more than Rs. 1.00 Lac may be released in two equal instalments to all AWOs on availability of funds under the Scheme.
- Separate Rescued Cattle Grant may be discontinued as separate new scheme for rescued animals has been proposed.

Additional Agenda Item No.10: Consideration of matters suggested by Shri Girish Shah, Member, AWBI.

Shri Girish Shah, Member, AWBI has raised these points and the following decision taken-

- It was decided that HC and delegation should visit each state to meet Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and officials of AH Department to motivate them to form State Animal Welfare Boards, District SPCA's and activate them.
- Police of all states to be updated with latest laws about animal protection and welfare.
- Animal husbandry department officials needs to be educated about welfare of animals by organizing one week training.
- Pending Legal cases to be attended state wise by appointing legal counsels state wise.
- Animal citizen, Jiv Sarthi, News Letter and Annual Report of the Board to be published timely and regularly.

Granting Awards to outstanding AWOs and Individual Animal Lovers

Shri Sunil Mansinghka and Shri Girish J. Shah raised the issue that AWOs and Individuals who are contributing in the field of Animal Welfare outstandingly, should be rewarded suitably every year by the Board. It was agreed that the Board should grant

such awards every year to encourage such individuals and organizations. It was further decided that the EC may devise a scheme regarding above within two months.

Communication with Press – code of conduct

Shri Sunil Mansinghka stated that it is brought to the notice that Members / Officials of the Board are communicating with Press which has affected on the functioning / reputation of the Board. After deliberation it was decided that no staff / member will communicate with the PRESS without approval of the Chairman. Only the Chairman will be the official spokesperson of the AWBI.

Relaxation in travelling of the Board members by Private Airlines

Most of the Member raised their grievances that in some routes Air India flights are not available and at some places there is no direct flight and not suitable and non economical and desired that they should be allowed to travel by private airlines with the conditions that :-

1. No flight is available.
2. No direct flight / non suitable
3. Non economical

It was decided that the matter may be taken with the ministry for seeking relaxation in such cases.

Additional Item No.11: Presentation on “Welfare of Working Equines in India” by Chief Executive Officer, The Brooke India.

The Brooke India is an Animal Welfare Charity dedicated for the welfare of working equines (horses, donkeys and mules). Maj. Gen. M.L. Sharma (Retd.), Chief Executive Officer, The Brooke India gave a presentation on the challenges of working equines in brick kilns etc.. to the Board. He requested that the draft advisory prepared for the welfare measures of the working equines be considered by the Board for issuing.

It is decided to issue the advisory after taking the expert consent.

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