

**MINUTES OF THE 120th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF AWBI
HELD ON 13.2.2018 AT AWBI HEADQUARTERS IN NIAW CAMPUS,
BALLABHGARH, FARIDABAD.**

PRESENT

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| 1. Shri S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | - Chairman |
| 2. Shri Girish J. Shah | - Member |
| 3. Shri Sunil Mansinghka | - Member |
| 4. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | - Member |
| 5. Shri Ramkrishan Raghuvanshi | - Member |
| 6. Shri M. Ravikumar, IFS | - Secretary |
| 7. Shri S. Vinod Kumar | - Assistant Secretary |

Item No.1: Revision and simplification of Application for grant-in-aid under Plan Scheme (Recognition and Regular Grant), Central Sector Schemes (Shelter House, ABC, Ambulance Services and Natural Calamity Scheme) - approval thereof.

The Executive Committee (EC) considered the revised application forms for Recognition and CSS Schemes and modified by GSC and approved the same for further necessary action. Since the Regular Grant Scheme is discontinued from the financial year 2018-19, the application form is not considered for revision.

It was also decided that the application for Recognition and grants under all Schemes are to be obtained through online from AWOs from 2018-19 onwards for further processing and consideration. The Registration with the NITI Aayog NGO Portal by the AWOs are mandatory for Recognition and Financial Assistance from the Board. The AWOs are required to update their data/information with self attested documents and is compulsory for continuation of their recognition with the Board.

The Application form for Provision of Ambulance Services is to be prepared separately for Animal Help Line and Ambulance Vehicle/Tractor Trolley for AWOs.

The application received for financial assistance for recurring expenditure schemes is to be considered in the same year and not to be carried forward to the next financial year.

Item No.2: Making all grants and other application online.

The Executive Committee decided that the revised application for Recognition and all Schemes are to be obtained through online from the financial year 2018-19 onwards for further processing and consideration. The Registration with the NITI Aayog NGO Portal by the AWOs are mandatory for Recognition and Financial Assistance from the Board. The AWOs are required to update their data/information with self attested documents and is compulsory for continuation of their recognition with the Board.

The Application form for Provision of Ambulance Services is to be prepared separately for Animal Help Line and Ambulance Vehicle/Tractor Trolley for AWOs.

Item No.3: Consideration of Budgetary provisions of the Board i.e. allocation of budget, availability and status of release so far.

The EC considered the Budget allocation for the year 2017-18 and current status of the utilization and funds available for expenditure in this financial year. It was also decided that the funds available under the schemes should be utilised in this financial year.

It was observed that the budget for the shifting of AWBI headquarters from Chennai to NIAW Campus, Ballabgarh comes to Rs.1.99 crores is to be considered and received from the Ministry during this financial year. The request for this amount has been sent to the Ministry last week. A reminder is to be sent to the Ministry for early sanction and release of Rs.1.99 crores immediately otherwise it will hamper the shifting of records and materials and availability of infrastructure at NIAW for smooth functioning of AWBI headquarters.

Item No.4: Modalities regarding launching of three new schemes of AWBI.

The Executive Committee approved the recommendation of GSC for formation of three new schemes of AWBI viz. (i) Scheme for maintenance of dry/diseased/old/stray Gowansh (ii) Scheme for rescue of cattle from illegal transportation/slaughter and Natural Calamities (iii) Scheme for Development of Gocharan land for providing fodder and shelter to animals. The EC directed to request the Ministry for allocation of Rs. 10.00 crores for each of the above three schemes and Rs. 20.00 crores for the existing ongoing schemes viz. Provision of Shelter House, Provision of Ambulance/Tractor Trolley and ABC Scheme for the financial year 2018-19. The financial assistance under Regular Grant will be discontinued from the financial year 2018-19. It was also decided that as it is the mandate of the local bodies/ Panchayats to make shelter house for such stray animals and if the capacity of the existing shelter house is inadequate then necessary steps should be taken by the local bodies / Panchayats for providing more shelter houses to keep such stray animals so that the stray animals are not subjected to any cruelty or suffering.

The financial assistance under the Scheme for Development of Gocharan land will be considered at the places where 100 acre of land (or) more and more land is available. This scheme will consist of development of land for production of feed and fodder, construction of shelter and project of biogas plant on such land and manufacturing of Panchgavya. The State Animal Welfare Board, Recognised AWOs and Local Bodies like Panchayat, Municipalities, Municipal Corporations are eligible for this grant. A detailed project with guidelines for these schemes are to be prepared and submitted to the Ministry with the approval of the Board.

The EC approved the recommendation of GSC that the out of the Rs.20.00 crores budget to be sought, the allocation for the existing Schemes will be as under:

- i) Provision of Shelter House - Rs.10.00 crores
- ii) Provision of Ambulance Scheme - Rs.5.00 crores for Animal Help line with Ambulance vehicle
Rs.1.00 crores for Tractor Trolley
- iii) Animal Birth Control (ABC) scheme- Rs.3.00 crores
- iv) Awards / Humane Education - Rs.1.00 crore

The EC directed that the Board should write to all the State Governments about the Animal Help Line Scheme. Shri Girish J. Shah, Hon'ble Member has opined that the Gujarat State Government be requested to provide the Video Presentation on Animal Help Line which is being implemented in Gujarat so that the same can be sent to the other State Government for their information and implementation.

Item No.5: Suggestions and modalities and process regarding appointment of District Coordinators for Animal Welfare.

The EC approved the recommendation of GSC for one person to be appointed as AWBI District Co-ordinator on Honorary basis in each District who will coordinate with District SPCAs and act as a facilitator to assist the Board and facilitate the animal husbandry officials for inspection of AWOs, collector of UCs, submission of grant applications, registration of AWOs with NITI Aayog etc.

The EC decided that the persons doing animal welfare activities on honorary basis preferably Advocates be given priority for appointment as District Coordinator. The tenure for District Coordinator will be two years from the date of appointment as Co-ordinator. The District co-ordinators having legal background and Advocate will be preferred.

The EC authorised Chairman to appoint such Honorary Coordinators. The Chairman requested the EC Members to suggest and recommend the names from their concerned State. The Board will conduct awareness/training programme for the Co-ordinators appointed by the Board.

Item No.6: Approval of design of HAWOs Card and modalities and process for stopping the misuse of the previous cards.

The EC considered the matter and decided to cancel all the HAWO Identity Cards issued by the Board till date. The new ID card for HAWOs will be issued after awareness / training to the individuals selected as HAWO. The design and colour of ID Card is to be finalised and the following conditions are to be printed in the card.

The HAWO

- shall not take law in to his/her own hands
- shall not collect money from anyone in any circumstance for any purpose
- shall not use the AWBI logo or Govt. Of India emblem on visiting card/letter heads etc.
- any violation of this, the ID card will be cancelled without any notice

The Board will conduct awareness/training programme to the HAWOs selected for issue of ID Cards at NIAW, Ballabgarh or any authorised centre by the Board and the list of HAWOs will be published in the AWBI website.

The cancellation of HAWO ID card is to be informed to all HAWOs with a direction to surrender the ID card already issued to them and they may apply for issue of new card if they require the same along with the details of the activities carried out by them during the period.

The EC has also directed that ID Cards for Members, Co-opted Members, HAWO, District Coordinator, Colony Care Taker, Employees of AWBI is to be printed in different colours and design. It was also decided that the ID cards of Members and co-opted Member and authorised sub-committee members are to be embossed with watermark to avoid duplication of cards.

Item No.7: To brief regarding making of SAWBs and District SPCAs more effective and functional.

The EC discussed the matter and decided that the Hon'ble Chairman and delegation should visit each State to meet Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Officials of Animal Husbandry Department to motivate them to form State Animal Welfare Boards, District SPCAs and activate them. The Animal Husbandry Department officials needs to be educated about welfare of animals by organizing one week training programme in each State.

Item No.8: Regarding Constitution of Sub-Committees.

The EC authorised the Hon'ble Chairman to reconstitute the EC and other Sub-Committees. The Chairman requested the Members of the Board to suggest names to be nominated in the various Sub-Committees like Performing Animals Sub-Committee, Legal Sub-Committee, Fund Raising Sub-Committee, Awards Sub-Committee, Editorial Sub-Committee, Gochar Land Sub-Committee, Sub-Committee for reviewing the staff Regularized by the Board, Amendment of the Administration Rules Sub-Committee etc.

Item No.9: Modalities and suggestions regarding engagement of Advocates at State and District level.

The EC decided that one Advocate at State Capital in all States and UTs to be authorised 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. It was also decided that for engaging these people, priority will be given to those Advocates who are offering their services on free of cost (pro bono) and voluntary basis having good reputation. In case of non-availability of advocates on pro-bono basis then, advocate will be empanelled by inviting the applications through website.

The EC decided that no authorisation is to be given to AWOs/NGOs to appear in the Court on behalf of AWBI. If any such authorisation is given earlier, it is

to be withdrawn and informed to the concerned person. The list of authorisation issued and withdrawn is to be sent to the Chairman for information.

Item No.10: Granting Awards to AWOs and individuals for their outstanding performance.

The EC decided to grant awards to AWOs and individuals for their outstanding performance in the field of Animal Welfare. The Hon'ble Chairman requested the Members to suggest the name of awards and its criteria and other terms and conditions for deciding on grant of awards.

Item No.11: Setting up of Office of Animal Welfare Board of India from Chennai to NIAW, Ballabgarh.

The EC has noted the matter and directed to follow up the Ministry for sanction/release of additional funds of Rs.1.99 crores as proposed for the expenses towards shifting of office from Chennai and establishment of new office at NIAW Campus, Ballabgarh.

The Board resolved and approved for opening Bank Accounts in SBI Seekri branch and for transferring the existing Accounts in SBI Valmiki Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 41 and SBI, R.A.Puram, Chennai-28. Since we are in the end of Financial Year, the transfer may be made after financial year is over as it will affect the receipt of grant-in-aid from the Ministry. The Executive Committee further approved for opening any new account in any nationalised Bank for transferring the required funds from the existing accounts in SBI Chennai for the functioning of the office for the time being.

Item No.12: For the consideration to make a provision of Animal Shelter / Animal Hostel in the smart cities and other Metro cities in the Country.

It was observed by the Members that in the smart city project of Government of India there is no provision for animal shelter and animal hostel for the stray cattle and cattle are thrown out of cities and most of the animals are taken for slaughter. It was decided that Ministry of Urban Development may be approached to make a provision for animal shelter and animal hostel on the Gocharan Land and grazing land or uncultivable land in the smart cities and other metro cities in the country.

Animal Shelter / Animal Hostel may be set up in gocharan land and grazing land to avoid animals are being thrown out of the cities.

The animal hospital and animal shelters are must for maintaining balanced environment in the smart cities and metros. It was decided to make a provision for animal shelter and animal hospitals in the metros and smart cities.

Item No.13: Modalities/process for appointment of staff against sanctioned strength and creation of Temporary Man Power as per the requirement.

The EC decided to appoint qualified persons to the regular sanctioned vacant posts and also authorised the Chairman to create new temporary manpower as per the requirement and appoint them as provided under Animal Welfare Board (Administration) Rules, 1962 through advertisement in News Papers.

The EC has discussed the matter about revising the AWBI Logo and requested Shri Girish J. Shah, Member to provide a draft design of AWBI Logo for further consideration. It was also decided that only Government Notified Members can use the AWBI Logo and Govt. of India emblem and flag in the vehicle.

The EC directed that an advisory to all State Governments be issued to provide necessary help for the stray animals through Panchayats or local bodies for additional shelter wherever the existing capacity to keep stray animals in their shelters are inadequate.

Item No.14: Nomination of Member of Parliament on the Board

As per the Section 5(1)(i) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 six Members of Parliament, four to be elected by the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and two by the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) as Member(s) of the Board. However, they have not been appointed so far in the present Board. The matter was discussed and deliberated by the Members of the Board that Member of Parliament needs to be appointed on the Board for the strengthening of the Board.

The issue of office of profit was also discussed and it was observed by the Board that these Member of Parliament are not getting any facilities /perks from the Board in lieu of their membership as Member of Board and thus, it is not covered under the category of the "Office of Profit". The EC also directed that the Ministry to be requested to take necessary steps to nominate Members of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha in the Board as per the provisions of PCA Act.

At the outset, some of the Board members have complained that they have not received the information regarding the said meeting. Therefore the Board took a serious view and directed the Secretary that such lapses should not happen in future. Shri Ramkrishan Raghuvanshi, Member has suggested that an Official in AWBI should be specifically entrusted to communicate with the Members and respond to their queries and suggestions if any.

The meeting ended with Vote of thanks to the Chair.