

MINUTES OF THE 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA HELD AT CHENNAI ON 27TH & 28TH JANUARY 2011.

PRESENT

1. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM	-	Chairman	
2. Dr. S. Chinny Krishna	-	Vice Chairman	
3. Shri Hem Pande, I.A.S. Joint Secretary (AW) MOEF	}	Members	
4. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS	}		
5. Shri Doulat Jain	}		
6. Shri Guljarilal Soni	}		
7. Dr. J.C. Kochar	}		
8. Dr. Arun Varma	}		
9. Brig. S.S Chohan Representative of M.C. Gurgaon	}		
10. Ms. Norma Alvares	}		
11. Ms. Anjali Sharma	}		
12. Ms. Jasjit Purewal	}		
13. Dr. Sunil Kumar Dy. Director Incharge, (Homeopathy) Central Research Institute	}		
14. Shri H.R. Joshi Director, Dept. of Education, MOHRD	}		
15. Dr. A Batobyal, Joint Commissioner(LP) Rep. of Animal Husbandry Commissioner	}		
16. Shri P.K. Aggarwal Under Secretary (AW) MOEF	}		Special Invitee
17. Shri S. Vinod Kumaar	}		Assistant Secretary, AWBI

The following Members of AWBI viz. Shri A.K. Srivastava, IGF(WL), Smt. Amala Akkineni, Shri Sada Kant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Dr. Asgar Hasson Samoon, IAS Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, requested for leave of absence and were granted.

Honb'le Chairman extended a warm and hearty welcome to all the Members of the Board to its 43rd Annual General Meeting. Addressing the Members of the newly re-constituted Board he 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 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.

The Chairman briefed the Members about marked increase in man – animal conflict in our society due to increasing number of some species of animals and growing human population which is emerging a big challenge for all of us. He also briefed about the increase in number of court cases pertaining to cruelty to animals, abuse of animals during transportation and lack of humane slaughter in slaughter houses, which causes maximum cruelty to animals in our country.

The Chairman informed the Members that there are only a limited numbers of SPCAs and State Animal Welfare Boards (SAWBs) in the country that are active and the Police force is not aware of the animal protection laws. He felt that the Board has to tackle these challenges and we have to address these issues with respective State Governments.

Chairman informed that the PCA Act was enacted in 1962 and Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale was founder Chairman of AWBI and remained Chairperson for 24 years. Till 1980s the Board had just about 80 NGOs/AWOs recognized by the Board but now the number of recognized AWOs/SPCAs has risen to 2900. 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 facilitations being carried out 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 in natural calamities. He also briefed about the new concept of participatory ABC programme being carried out now on 50% participation basis by the Local Bodies and AWBI for expanding the scope of ABC programme. The Board is also sensitizing the Civic Bodies to start Gaushalas in their respective areas. The Chairman congratulated Brig. S.S. Chohan who is looking after a Gaushala started by the Municipal Corporation Gurgaon which is an eye opener for all civic bodies. Such model Gaushala should be replicated by all civic bodies in the country so that stray cattle problem can be addressed .

Chairman briefed the Board members about the “Jallikattu” the bull taming sport of Tamil Nadu being conducted from January every year which is causing serious cruelties to the participating bulls and fatal injuries to human beings. As per the directions of the Supreme Court of India the Board has been working day and night to register all the participating bulls as performing animals and till now we have registered 795 bulls for this event. As per the reports received from AWBI monitoring teams 2 persons have died and over 200 persons have been seriously injured apart from injury and cruelties caused to the participating bulls in the ongoing Jallikattu events. The Board will present its monitoring report to the Apex Court in next hearing.

Chairman also briefed Board members about the animal sacrifice in temples in the name of religion in Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Assam and Andhra Pradesh. These events should be banned by the Government of India and no animal sacrifices should be allowed to be conducted in the name of religion and faith.

Chairman emphasized the need for effective implementation of PCA Act. The Police force is not conversant with the animal protection laws. The State Animal Welfare Boards and Districts SPCAs are not existing on the ground inspite of our continuous efforts to revive the SAWBs and SPCAs. Now the Board has requested the Ministry to take up the matter with the State Governments to activate the working of SAWBs and District SPCAs.

He also informed the Members that the revision of PCA Act is pending with the Ministry for finalization and approval. The Hon'ble Minister of Environment & Forests has announced in the Parliament that the PCA Act will be replaced by Animal Welfare Act which is under process in the Ministry. The existing PCA Act is having very low penalties and punishments, which need to be revised to create deterrence against animal abuse.

Another important issue effecting the functioning of the Board is the requirement of additional staff for AWBI which is pending with the Ministry for consideration. The sanctioned strength of staff in the Board is only 21 to address huge animal welfare issues all over the country. Since the sanctioned staff strength is grossly inadequate vis-à-vis its responsibilities, the Board has employed 11 additional staff from time to time. The Ministry has since ordered for work measurement study by the SIU team of the Finance Ministry. The Chairman thanked Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Joint Secretary, MOEF, Member of the Board for his helping the Board in solving many a problems and was sure that in times to come with his help and guidance the Board will be empowered by getting additional man power to address the growing challenges / responsibilities.

The Chairman also pointed out about lack of proper training facilities in animal welfare disciplines. Since animal welfare is a specialized subject, in foreign countries like U.K., U.S. it is being taught in several Universities. Our country needs people who are properly trained in this discipline. The Board has taken new initiative and has started several training programmes in Gaushalas with the help of NGOs. National Institute of Animal Welfare (NIAW), Ballabgargh requires more specialized training programmes in Animal Welfare for AWOs / SPCAs / HAWOs.

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

Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Joint Secretary, MOEF and Member welcomed all Board members on behalf of Ministry of Environment and Forests and told that all nominated Members except the Govt. officials have come to the Board as a result of recognition of their own work in the field of animal welfare. He suggested that if the Board members

can divide States among the Board Members for overseeing the Animal Welfare work in states then the activities in the states can be better monitored and they can also take responsibility to revive the State Animal Boards (SAWBs) and District SPCAs in their respective States. He also suggested that the Board Members should take active steps to sensitize the State Governments to revive the SAWBs and SPCAs during this three years tenure. He pointed that the animal welfare sometimes has conflict with human welfare issues and our main focus so far has been to address problems related to stray cows and stray dogs only.

It was also informed that the Ministry has proposed to write to all State Government to revive the SAWBs so that the financial assistance to AWOs/SPCAs can to be routed through the SAWBs from next financial year. At present there is no participation from SAWBs which needs to be changed and we have to get them involved more and more in the animal welfare activities to address animal welfare issues.

Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Joint Secretary, MOEF and Member also suggested that across the country we should send teams to sensitize people about our Rules and Acts. He also informed that the Ministry is in the process to appoint a new Director for NIAW and Secretary for AWBI. He appreciated the Board efforts in timely utilization of grants.

The Chairman suggested that each Member should adopt 4-5 States as convenient to him for monitoring the animal welfare activities there and reviving the SAWBs/SPCAs in co-ordination with the State Governments. He requested the members to inform him about their choice of States so that regional committees could be constituted.

ITEM NO.1: Approval of Annual Report and adoption of Audit Report and Annual Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2009-10.

The Assistant Secretary, AWBI briefed about the audit remarks of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of AWBI for the year 2009-10. The Board approved the Annual Report 2009-10 and adopted the separate Audit Report of C&AG of India on the accounts of the Board for the year 2009-10. The AGM decided that the Annual Report and Audit Report for the year 2009-10 be put on the website of AWBI and tabled in the Parliament.

ITEM NO.2: Formation of Executive Committee and other Sub-Committees of the Board

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

1. Executive Committee

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Joint Secretary (AW), MOEF
- iv) Shri Guljarilal Soni
- v) Dr. J.C. Kochar
- vi) Ms. Anjali Sharma
- vii) Ms. Jasjit Purewal

2. 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. Jasjit Purewal
- v) Ms. Norma Alvares
- vi) Ms. Amala Akkineni

3. Gaushala Sub-Committee

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Guljarilal Soni
- iv) Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS
- v) Shri Doulat Jain
- vi) Brig. S.S. Chohan

4. 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 Jayesh Dolia, Legal Advisor, AWBI
- vi) Shri Raj Panjwani, Senior Advocate, Delhi
- vii) Ms. Brinda from Bangalore

5. Editorial Sub-Committee

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

- iii) Shri Guljarilal Soni (for Jeev Sarathi - Hindi)
- iv) Dr. Arun Varma
- v) Ms. Jasjit Purewal
- vi) Ms. Amala Akkineni
- vii) Dr. Lakshmi Padmanabhan, Bangalore
- viii) Prof. B. Ramanathan, Chief Executive Officer, Karuna International, Chennai.
- ix) Shri N.G. Jayasimha, Humane Society International
- x) Two more Members to be intimated by Ms. Jasjit Purewal

6. 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) Secretary, AWBI
- vi) Assistant Secretary, AWBI
- vii) HEO, AWBI

7. Regional Sub-Committees - to be constituted

- i) Southern Region
- ii) Eastern Region
- iii) Northern Region
- iv) Central Region
- v) Western Region
- vi) North-Eastern Region

8. Humane Education Sub-Committee

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Guljarilal Soni
- iv) Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS
- v) Dr. Arun Varma
- vi) Brig. S.S. Chohan
- vii) Ms. Anjali Sharma
- viii) Ms. Jasjit Purewal
- ix) Dr. J.C. Kochar
- x) Ms. Norma Alvares
- xi) Ms. Amala Akkineni
- xii) Shri Doulat Jain

9. Disciplinary Sub-Committee for AWOs

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr. R. M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS
- iv) Shri Doulat Jain
- v) Dr. Sunil Kumar, Deputy Director (Incharge), CRI

10. Sub-Committee on Fund Raising and awareness

- i) Maj.Gen.(Rtd) Dr.R.M. Kharb, Chairman
- ii) Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman
- iii) Ms. Jasjit Purewal
- iv) Shri Doulat Jain
- v) Dr. J.C. Kochar
- vi) Shri Satyam (to be confirmed by Ms.Anjali Sharma)
- vii) Ms. Lyn D'Souza (to be confirmed by Ms. Norma Alvares)
- viii) Ms. Namita Kothari, Delhi

11. 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

The Board recommended to increase the Performing Animals Registration fees from Rs. 500/- to Rs.5,000/- and recommended that this money should be available for honorarium to be paid to the inspectors who will conduct on the spot inspection at the time of shooting of films. Case for approval of Ministry amendment in the Performing Animals Rules 2001 be initiated for this purpose. It was also suggested that all animals used in any performance should be registered as it will come under Performing Animals.

ITEM NO.3: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting held on 8th & 9th January, 2010.

The Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 8th & 9th January 2010 were confirmed and approved.

ITEM NO.4: Report on action taken on the minutes of 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 8th and 9th January, 2010.

The action taken on the decision of the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Board held on 8th & 9th January 2010 was noted and approved with the following comments:

It was decided to circulate the copy of draft PCA Act amendment along with draft Pet Shop Rules, draft Dog Breeding Rules, draft Fish Breeding Rules and recommendations to the Board Members for their inputs.

ITEM NO.5: Ratification of the Minutes of the 114th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 12.7.10 and 36th General Meeting of the Board held on 13.7.10 and Action Taken Report for the above meetings.

The Minutes of the 114th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 12.7.10 and 36th General Meeting of the Board held on 13.7.10 were confirmed and approved.

The action taken on the decision of the 114th Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 12.7.2010 and 36th General Meeting of the Board held on 13.7.2010 were noted and approved with the following comments:

It was decided that a letter be addressed to the Tamil Nadu State authorities about the inspection of the slaughter house (illegal) located near Thiruvanmiyur to be carried out by V.O., AWBI.

The AGM decided that the HAWO ID cards (provisional) can be issued/renewed on receipt of applications duly proposed by AWOs/SPCAs and endorsed/recommended by Member AWBI/Chairman or Secretary of SAWBs/District Collector of the concerned District. However, they will be required to attend a proper training programme at NIAW and only then they will be confirmed.

ITEM NO.6: Ratification of matter regarding Revised Estimates 2010-11 and Budget Estimates 2011-12 submitted to Ministry.

The Annual General Meeting considered the Revised Estimates 2010-11 and Budget Estimates 2011-12 submitted to the Ministry and ratified the same. The Joint Secretary (AW) MOEF has informed that the next financial year budget for AWBI will be Rs.27.45 Crores.

ITEM NO.7: Ratification of grant-in-aid released to organizations under CSS & Plan Schemes.

(i) Budget Allocation for the year 2010-11 and latest financial position;

Details of Grant-in-aid released to AWOs in 2010-11 for information and ratification of Board till 21-1-2011 -(Scheme-wise).

The Annual General Meeting noted the financial position and grant-in-aid released to AWOs in 2010-11 and ratified and approved the same. The AGM has decided to request the Ministry for re-appropriation of grant-in-aid of Rs.32.00 lakhs allocated for 2010-11 under Natural Calamity Scheme to Shelter Scheme to utilize the same before closing of this financial year.

It was also decided to get details of actual expenditure for ABC operations for male and female dogs from different States and to send a proposal to the Ministry for revision of rates for ABC programme if Rs.445/- which was fixed more than 8 years back is not adequate for the purpose.

(ii) Consideration of Ratification of recommendations in respect of CSS & Plan proposals (Batch I and II), Cattle Rescue Grant and Recognition to new AWOs approved in the Grants Sub-Committee Meetings held after the 114th ECM held on 12.7.10 (13.8.10, 24.9.10 & 19.1.2011).

The Board considered the recommendations of Grants Sub-Committee meetings held on 13.8.10, 24.9.10 and 19.1.11 and ratified and approved the same. It was decided that if the inspection reports of Government officials are forwarded with a covering letter by the concerned Government Department then it can be accepted for consideration of the proposal even if the name of the Official who carried out the inspection is not given in the inspection report.

(iii) Ratification of increase/decrease of grants in aid to AWOs already approved under schemes due to restriction as per demand of AWO etc.

The Board considered the matter and ratified and approved the same.

ITEM No.8: Matter relating to pending Inspection Reports of AWOs under various schemes from State Govt. Agencies.

The Board considered the matter and decided to incorporate the State Animal Welfare Boards as one of the inspection agencies to expedite the pending inspection under various schemes of the Board. The Board also requested the Animal Husbandry Commissioner to write letters to the State Animal Husbandry Departments to carry out the inspection of AWOs expeditiously. The Board should prepare guidelines for inspection for various grants to help the State Government officials in carrying out proper inspection.

ITEM NO.9: Matter relating to latest Status reports on State Animal Welfare Boards and SPCAs established in various States.

The Board noted the status report and decided to get the details and composition of SAWBs which are newly constituted/re-constituted by the State Governments. It was decided that all States are to be divided among the Members for follow up with the State Governments for the revival and strengthening of SAWBs. It was also decided to ascertain whether the SAWBs formed in 1990s have been reconstituted or not. Shri Hem Pande informed that there are around 700 Districts in India and at present there are only 183 SPCAs established and that the Board should make an endeavour to sensitize the State Governments to establish atleast 500 District SPCAs before the expiry of the current Board's tenure in three years.

ITEM NO.10: Matter relating to proposal of the Ministry for routing financial assistance under the existing schemes to the Animal Welfare Organizations through State Animal Welfare Board from next Financial Year.

Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Joint Secretary, MOEF informed that the matter regarding routing financial assistance under the existing schemes to the AWOs through SAWBs from next financial year is under consideration of the Ministry. It was suggested that the details about the functioning of SAWBs are to be obtained from the State authorities. He has also informed that the Ministry has addressed letters to the Chief Secretaries for formation/revival of SAWBs and SPCAs.

ITEM NO.11: Consideration of matter relating to latest State-wise status report of pending utilization certificates due from AWOs under Regular Grant and Central Sector Schemes.

The Board noted the matter and decided that State wise list of UC pendency is to be prepared and provided to regional committee Board Members for follow up in their respective States. It was also decided that action is to be taken against erring AWOs and recovery proceedings to be initiated against them.

ITEM NO.12: Consideration of matter relating to proposed National Level Seminar on Animal Welfare at Delhi and other States.

The Board considered the matter and decided to conduct two days Seminar of Ministers, Secretaries and Directors of State Animal Husbandry Department and Secretaries of State Animal Welfare Boards in the month of April – May 2011 at New Delhi. Agenda points should include sensitizing the State Police for checking animal abuse, issuing certificates for transportation of animals by Animal Husbandry officers, strengthening of SAWBs and District SPCAs in all States be included for the Seminar. The Hon'ble Minister for Environment & Forests be requested to Chair the Seminar. The Board requested the Joint Secretary, MOEF to take up this matter with the Hon'ble Minister.

ITEM No.13: Matter relating to consideration of financial assistance to AWOs under Humane Education Component.

The Board considered the recommendations of Grants Sub-Committee meeting held on 19.1.2011 and ratified and approved the same.

ITEM NO.14: Matter relating to consideration of proposals received from AWOs for conducting training courses under Humane Education Programme.

The Board considered the proposals and decided to support the AWOs for conducting training programme on participatory basis by AWBI and AWOs with 50% funding by AWBI subject to a maximum of Rs.1.00 lakh. The Board approved the proposals for 50% funding subject to a maximum grant of Rs.1.00 lakh to (i) Bharat Seva Sansthan, Gorakhpur, UP (ii) Society for Animal Protection, Kolhapur (iii) Goa Animal Welfare Trust, Goa (iv) Govigyan Anusandhan Kendra, Nagpur (v) Sant Sri Asaramji Gaushala Samiti, Narnaul (vi) Shri Gaushala Trust (Regd), Bhiwani subject to receipt of details of number of persons attending training programme, faculty, subjects for the training etc.

With regard to the proposal submitted by Mass Education and Social Development Organization, Manipur, it was decided that the proposal of the organization be got verified by the concerned District Collector for further consideration in the matter.

ITEM NO.15: Matter relating to the Animal Welfare Training programmes already conducted at NIAW and proposed training programme for Master Animal Handlers.

The Board noted the matter and ratified the same.

ITEM NO.16: Matter relating to Animal Welfare Fortnight 2011 (from Jan14 to Jan30) for information.

The Board approved and ratified the grant amount to AWOs duly approved by Chairman, AWBI for Animal Welfare Fortnight 2011.

The Chairman briefed about the information received from AWOs regarding celebration of Animal Welfare Fortnight and the advertisement given in newspapers by the Board which was sponsored by CLE was ratified by the Board.

ITEM NO.17: Consideration of WSPA's suggestion for promoting Animal Welfare through participatory model involving major stake holders across the World.

The Vice-Chairman, AWBI briefed about the setup and working about WSPA. He informed that some of the AWOs/NGOs are getting funds from AWBI and also from

foreign organizations for animal welfare programmes. He suggested that in the interest of animal welfare, information about funding to AWOs can be shared with WSPA so that duplication of grant does not take place and that only genuine AWOs should get funding from them. The Board approved the proposal.

The Chairman requested the Members to give feed back on the proposal of WSPA, London regarding the concept of building network/participatory model of promoting animal welfare, involving the major stake holders across the world so that reply could be sent to the Board. The Board members approved the participatory programme / networking with WSPA.

ITEM NO.18: Matter relating to conduct of Animal Handlers Training programme at Gurgaon by VBB under aegis of Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon.

The Chairman informed that the Board has circulated information about the conduct of Animal Handlers training programme for the AWOs/SPCAs and Local Bodies. Humane dog catching is very important for success of ABC programme. Therefore there is a need to train more animal handlers for the success of this programme. The Chairman requested the Board Members to contact the Local Bodies concerned for adequate participation for the success of the training programme being conducted by VBB under arrangements of Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon.

The Board approved and ratified the training programme to be conducted at Gurgaon by VBB under the aegis of Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon.

ITEM NO.19: Matter relating to conduct of inspection of slaughter houses all over the country – Action Plan regarding.

The Chairman briefed about the earlier inspection of slaughter houses carried out by the Board as per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Board has now requested the State Animal Husbandry Departments to conduct random inspection of slaughter houses in their respective states but so far no reply has been received from them.

Dr. Batobyal, Joint Commissioner (LP), representing Animal Husbandry Commissioner, has suggested that the matter of inspection of slaughter houses can be institutionalize through the Animal Husbandry Department with some kind of an agreement for joint inspection by AWBI & AHD of State Governments on the basis of guidelines prepared by AWBI. He also suggested that a circular letter from the Animal Husbandry Commissioner can be sent to the State Governments for carrying out joint inspection by AWBI & AH Department.

The Board members approved the proposal and decided that the decision of the Board be conveyed to the Animal Husbandry Commissioner with a request for sending a circular letter to all State Animal Husbandry Departments for joint inspection of slaughter houses.

Shri H.R. Joshi, Director, Department of Education, MoHRD has informed that the Ministry of Food Processing is giving funding for establishment of slaughter houses. He suggested that at the time of sanction of funds for establishment of slaughter houses the condition of joint inspection of slaughter house by AWBI & AHD, method of humane slaughter, proper transportation of animals, videography at the time of slaughter be mentioned as a condition of sanction letter.

The Board approved and decided that the Board should request the Ministry of Food Processing for inclusion of the above conditions in the sanction letter at the time of sanction of funds to the new slaughter houses.

ITEM NO.20: Consideration of matter relating to issue of HAWO ID cards.

The Board considered the matter and decided that HAWO ID cards can be considered for issue on receipt of application duly proposed by the AWOs/SPCAs and recommended/endorsed by Member of the Board/SAWBs/District Collector of the concerned District. It was decided that the ID cards are to be issued only for those volunteers who undergo HAWO training at NIAW or at any other place decided by the Board.

ITEM NO.21: Brief on pending court cases in the Supreme Court and various High Courts.

The Chairman briefed about the important pending cases in various courts. The Board expressed its concern that the Solicitor General of India has appeared in Jallikattu case against AWBI. The Chairman informed that he has written to the Hon'ble Minister that the Solicitor General should not appear against the Board and Ministry in the Supreme Court. He requested the Ministry to follow up the matter for necessary action.

The Board noted the appointment of Shri Jayesh Dolia, as Legal Advisor of AWBI and approved and ratified the same.

Since the Board is proactive on impleading the cases filed by AWOs/SPCAs, the Chairman requested the Members to identify and suggest names of good Advocates from their areas for engaging them in the court cases for the benefit of AWBI.

ITEM NO.22: Brief on action taken on complaints/information received regarding cruelty to animals

The Board considered the matter and ratified the same.

The Chairman briefed about the need to include animal welfare as subject in the syllabus of schools. He also informed the Members about the CD prepared and circulated to all the DGPs by the Board for sensitizing the Police personnel about animal

welfare laws. The Board endorsed that once again the Board should approach all the DGPs, State Government officials of the Police Department to enforce the animal protection laws by sensitizing the police personnel. It was also decided to write to the Directors of Police academies to include the animal laws in the training syllabus.

Shri H.R. Joshi, Representative of MoHRD pointed out that budget for IEC is to be created and the need of the hour is to create awareness in the public. He has suggested that the Board should write to the State Education Departments to send animal welfare messages to school children as IEC component.

Dr. Arun Varma, Member suggested to constitute a Task Force for formulating awareness programmes. The Board requested Dr. Arun Varma to prepare a road map for formation of Task Force.

Additional Item No.1: Matter relating to sterilization of female dogs through Laparoscopic Ovariectomy.

The Board noted the matter and decided to grant permission only to few qualified and trained veterinary surgeons.

Additional Item No.2: Matter relating to Establishment of feeding spots for stray dogs in Delhi.

The Board noted the matter and decided to provide all possible help to the team carrying out identification and putting up Boards in Delhi as per Direction of Hon'ble Court.

Additional Item No.3: Matter relating to declaration of January 12, as meatless day across India: letter from Sir Paul McCartney to Prime Minister

The Board noted the matter and decided to request the Hon'ble Minister to take up the matter with P.M.O. for declaration a meatless day across India, if so approved.

Additional Item No.4: Consideration of financial assistance to Shri Banke Bihari Gaushala Samiti, Jatwa, Dist. Mohindergargh, Haryana.

The Board considered the matter and approved sanction of Rs.26,000/- to Shri Banke Bihari Gaushala Samiti, Jatwa, Dist. Mohindergargh for purchase of Tarpaulin sheets to shelter the animals from Board's donation account.

Additional Item No.5: Consideration of News item published regarding the animal welfare activist in Chennai.

The Board noted the matter.

Additional Item No.6: Consideration of matter regarding requirement of constitution of Monitoring Committee, survey of street dogs by Local Bodies for implementation of Animal Birth Control (ABC) scheme.

The Board considered the matter and decided that the AWOs/SPCAs doing ABC programme should not be penalized for the survey not being conducted by the Local Bodies. Since the survey of stray dogs is desirable, the Local Bodies have to be constantly addressed to have the survey done and forward to AWBI.

The Board discussed about the existing rates fixed for ABC operations and decided to obtain the details of actual expenditure incurred by various AWOs in each component and to prepare a proposal for revision of ABC rates to Animal Welfare Division, Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Additional Item No.7: Consideration of proposals under Animal Birth Control (ABC) Scheme for approval of grant-in-aid to AWOs/Local Bodies.

The Board considered the proposals for grant-in-aid received under ABC scheme from AWOs/Local Bodies and approved for sanction of grant-in-aid as per the list annexed as **Annexure – I**.

General discussions:

i) Revision / Amendment of PCA Act.

The Board discussed about the matter regarding revision of PCA Act. A draft copy of the proposed new Animal Welfare and Protection Act to replace the existing Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 was placed before the Board for consideration. The Members discussed the draft and finding several inadequacies in it, decided not to approve the draft in its present form. It was decided that AWBI will revise and re-formulate the draft Act in the light of the several in-house consultations / discussions that AWBI has already conducted and place a revised draft before the Ministry by mid-February (15th February 2011). Meanwhile the present PCA Act remains in force.

ii) Celebration of completion of 50 years of AWBI

The Board decided to celebrate the completion of 50 years of AWBI in the year 2012 by marking the occasion with Stamp release, seminars and various connected functions. It was decided that a Sub-Committee is to be formed under Vice-Chairman, AWBI to prepare guidelines for the celebrations and a proposal seeking separate

budget from the Ministry is also to be prepared. The Chairman requested the Members to give their ideas for celebration its 50 year of service to the animal welfare.

iii) New schemes to be introduced in AWBI

The Board discussed about the scope of expansion of the Board's activities by initiating new animal welfare schemes in future. The proposals are to be prepared with requirement of additional budget and staff for their implementation. The Chairman requested the Members to contribute their views on the proposal.

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

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