

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

Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of India held on 4th May 2017 at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.

PRESENT

1. Shri Siddhanta Das, IFS - Chairman
DGF & SS, MoEF&CC
2. Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IFS - Members
Inspector General of Forests (WL), MoEF&CC
3. Shri R.S. Negi
Under Secretary (AW), MoEF&CC
Representative of Joint Secretary (AW), MoEF&CC
4. Shri S., Shankar
Deputy Secretary (HE), MoHRD
5. Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia
6. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.)
7. Shri Girish J. Shah
8. Prof. R.S. Chauhan
College of Veterinary & Animal Science
Pantnagar.
9. Dr. Hitesh Jani
Head & Chief Physician
Dept. Of Panchkarma UG, Gujarat Ayurved University
10. Dr. R.S. Sharma
Head & Sr. DDG, Div. Of RBMCH
Representative of Secretary, DHR & Director General ICMR
11. Shri Sunil Mansinghka
12. Shri Ram Krishan Raghuvanshi
13. Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar
14. Shri Dhan Pal Singh
15. Shri S. Vinod Kumar
Assistant Secretary, AWBI

Dr. Suresh S. Honnappagol, Animal Husbandry Commissioner requested for leave for absence due to coinciding meeting and it was noted.

Chairman extended a warm and hearty welcome to all the Members of the Board to its 48th Annual General Meeting.

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

The Board Members introduced themselves with details of their association with animal welfare activities.

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

Addressing the Members of the newly re-constituted Board the Chairman stated that the Hon'ble Minister (EF&CC) (I/C) Shri Anil Madhav Dave has addressed the Members of the Board at the Minister's Conference Room before the Board Meeting. The Hon'ble Minister has informed the Members that the post of Board Member is a very sensitive post and the whole country is looking out with high expectations from this new Board.

The Chairman stated that AWBI is the regulatory body of Animal Welfare Organizations and its mandate is animal welfare. AWBI will not interfere in the fund raising programme of AWOs. AWBI's role comes into play when any animal cruelty issues are observed in AWOs.

The Chairman emphasized the need of functioning as a team to achieve broader objectives and management. We all are part of good governance and we have to take all efforts to deliver good results towards the expectations of the society. The Chairman informed the Members that it will be difficult to control the problems all over the country by sitting in a centralized place. The Board should think about the necessity of working at the grassroots level in coordination with State Animal Welfare Boards and District level SPCAs.

The Chairman expected the full co-operation and support in taking forward the activities of the Board. Chairman expressed his gratefulness for having Shri Rajeev Gupta, a very senior retired IAS Officer with good experience in the working of AWBI and animal welfare subject as a Member of the present Board.

The Chairman informed the Board that the Secretary of the Board could not attend the AGM due to the meeting of Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forest with AWBI in Chennai today i.e. 4.5.2017.

During the discussions 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 which will help in inspections of AWOs and also to collect the outstanding UCs. It is also decided that the Board should request the Animal Husbandry Department of the States to nominate/declare the District Veterinary Officer to be the Animal Welfare Officer/Sub-Divisional Animal Welfare Officer with additional charge of animal welfare work in coordination with AWBI, SAWB and SPCAs of the concerned districts. It is also decided to make guidelines and manuals for the Chief Veterinary Officers for their working as Animal Welfare Officers and consider for honorarium to them. Workshop and other programmes to

be conducted in the State to emphasise and to create awareness on animal welfare and AWBI.

[Action: HEO]

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

[Action: HEO]

The Members urged for active functioning of SPCAs/AWOs in Taluk level all over the country for effective monitoring of animal welfare activities.

Item No.3: Briefing on Board's mandate, functions and activities by Assistant Secretary, AWBI.

The Assistant Secretary briefed about the mandate and 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 / SAWB of the concerned State. The main reason for delay in release of grants to AWOs is the late receipt of inspection report from State Government. He informed the Board 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 abuses are not being addressed by the States. The Board also advises the Government on the regulations of Animal Welfare Laws and Rules and any other matter connected with animal welfare as per the provisions of Section 9 of the PCA Act 1960.

The Assistant Secretary informed the Members that at present Performing Animals Sub-Committee (PASC) meetings are conducted on every Wednesday and approximately 50 applications for Registration of performing animals to be used for entertainment 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.

Item No.4: Approval of Annual Report and adoption of Audit Report and Annual Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2015-16.

The Board approved the Annual Report for the year 2015-16 and adopted the Audit Report and Annual Accounts of the AWBI for the year 2015-16 for further necessary action.

[Action: Editor / ACCTS]

Item No.5: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 43rd General Meeting of the Board held on 23.7.2016.

The Board confirmed the Minutes of the 43rd General Meeting of the Board held on 23.7.2016 in Chennai.

Item No.6: Report on action taken on the minutes of the 43rd General Meeting of the Board held on 23.7.2016.

The decisions and actions taken on the minutes of the 43rd General Meeting of the Board held on 23.7.2016 were reviewed and noted by the Board.

During the discussions, the Members stated that funding for SPCAS and SAWBs is necessary for functioning effectively. Unless there is proper funding it will not work. The funding should be given to AWOs through the SAWBs. The Board decided to conduct workshop for the officials concerned in the State Animal Welfare Boards, District SPCAs for making them to work effectively on animal welfare matters. The Board also discussed about convening State level conferences with the officials of Animal Husbandry Department, SAWBs and Goseva Ayogs for strengthening and coordinating the work of SAWBs and Goseva Ayogs with AWBI.

[Action: HEO]

The Members opined that pet owners have to keep pets responsibly and the Resident Welfare Associations and public should be educated/advised to allow the pet animals in residential areas through communication and awareness programmes.

[Action: HEO]

The Board recommended to remind the Ministry to increase the fees for Registration of animals under the Performing Animal Registration Rules from Rs.500/- to Rs.5,000/-

[Action: HEO]

The Board directed the office to send the details, report received from District Administration regarding the organization of Shri Naresh Kadyan (referred in item No.8 of ATR)) to the Legal Sub-Committee of the Board for its advise for further action.

[Action: HEO]

The Board directed the office to circulate the draft Rules sent to the Ministry (as in Additional Item No.9 of ATR) to the Board Members for information.

[Action: HEO]

During the discussions about the poultry farms (item no. 16 of ATR) the Board decided to visit some of the Poultry Farms in Panchkula, Haryana by a team consisting of three Board Members and District Officials to check cruelty/animal welfare concerns.

[Action: HEO]

It was also noted that the inspection report of the poultry farms in Uttarakhand have not been received and it was decided to request the State Animal Welfare Board and others to inspect the poultry farms and send the report at the earliest for further necessary action.

[Action: HEO]

Item No.7: Ratification of Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of the Board held on 10.11.2016.

The Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee Meeting of the Board was held on 10.11.2016 were approved and ratified by the Board.

Item No.8: Ratification of Revised Estimates for 2016-17 and Budget Estimates for 2017-18 submitted to the Ministry.

The Assistant Secretary briefed the Members on Revised Estimates for 2016-17 and Budget Estimates for 2017-18 submitted to the Ministry and the Board noted the matter.

Item No.9: Consideration of matter regarding Budget sanctioned and received from the Ministry for the year 2016-17 and Grant-in-aid sanctioned/released/pending for release to AWOs under the schemes of AWBI.

The Assistant Secretary briefed the Members about the allocation of the budget for the year 2017-18 and the Board noted the matter.

The Ministry representative has informed the Board that the Ministry will consider the enhancement of budget during the supplementary demands for grants in June-July 2017. The Board decided to request the Ministry for enhancement of grant to Rs.50 crores for the year 2017-18 under the Plan and Central Sector Schemes.

[Action: ACCTS]

The Board informed that the grants to be considered only for the organizations recognised by the Board and duly registered with NGO Portal of NITI Aayog. All applications for grant-in-aid are to be obtained through Online process.

[Action: CP/UNIT I & II]

The Members opined that the procedure for submission of application for grant by the AWOs are to be simplified and more conditions should not be imposed. The Board agreed in the meeting that AWBI is for the welfare of animals including cows and the Board is not against the working of Gaushalas. However, production of milk and action against adulteration of milk is not in the mandate of AWBI. The Board can write to the concerned authorities for prevention of adulteration in milk.

[Action: HEO]

The Members discussed about the Pilot project on National Rabies Control Programme being implemented in Haryana. In view of allegations/concerns raised by a Member about the implementation and expenses incurred for the programme, the Board agreed to conduct an enquiry by a team consisting of Board Members and official of the State Animal Husbandry Department.

[Action: HEO]

It was also decided to monitor the ABC programme and other schemes for which funding is done by the Board through the State Animal Welfare Board and District SPCAs.

[Action: UNIT I & II]

In view of grants in aid being given to AWOs by different agencies in some States for the same purpose, the Board should obtain the information from AWOs regarding the same.

The Board directed the office to review the recognised AWOs of the Board for filtering the deserving and active AWOs from the defunct organizations. The organizations should have registered with NITI Aayog and the details of Bank Account, Annual Report and Activity Report and pending Utilization Certificate, if any, are to be obtained for scrutiny. The list of defunct organizations is to be placed before the Board in the next meeting for further directions.

[Action: UNIT I & II]

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

The Board discussed the matter and constituted the Executive Committee of AWBI as under:

1. Chairman, AWBI
2. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.)
3. Shri Girish Shah
4. Shri Sunil Mansinghka
5. Shri Ram Krishan Raghuvanshi
6. Prof. R. S. Chauhan

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

The Board reconstituted the following Sub-Committees:

a) Performing Animals Sub-Committee

1. Chairman, AWBI
2. Regional Officer, Central Board of Film Certification, Chennai
3. Shri M. Ravikumar, IFS, Secretary, AWBI
4. Shri S. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Secretary, AWBI
5. Dr. S. Bharat Kumar, Humane Education Officer, AWBI

b) Grants Sub-Committee

1. Chairman, AWBI
2. Dr. Hitesh Jani
3. Shri Girish shah
4. Shri Sunil Mansinghka

The Board decided that the Grants Sub-Committee Members if they represent any recognised AWOs of AWBI, they must refrain from discussion in the particular proposal during the GSC meeting. The Ministry representative (Under Secretary, AW) requested the Board that Ministry representative may not be included in the GSC.

The Board decided that the GSC meeting may be convened prior to the Board meeting or EC meeting to take decisions at convenience.

[Action: ESTT]

c) Legal Sub-Committee

1. Chairman, AWBI
 2. Shri Girish Shah
- Lawyers suggested by Members:

3. Dr. Ashutosh Bansal, Advocate, Supreme Court.
4. Shri J.S. Kiri, Advocate, Mumbai
5. Shri Rajendra Joshi, Advocate, Mumbai
6. Shri Shrikant Damle, Advocate, Nagpur
7. Shri Arun Devendra Oza, Advocate, Ahmedabad
8. Shri Nimish Kapadia, Advocate, Ahmedabad
9. Shri Archit Jani, Advocate, Ahmedabad
10. Shri Maulin Panya, Advocate, Ahmedabad
11. Shri Mohit Banker, Advocate, Ahmedabad

The Board Members are requested to suggest name of Advocates from each State for the Legal Sub-Committee.

It was also decided that a proposal to be sent to the Ministry for nominating the Central Government Standing Counsels to appear in the cases on behalf AWBI.

It was decided that a separate National Coordination Committee comprising the Officials from Ministry of Commerce, Animal Husbandry Department, Ministry of Transport, MOEF&CC and AWBI to be formed for consideration of animal welfare activities at National level.

[Action: HEO]

d) Humane Education Sub-Committee

1. Chairman, AWBI
2. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.)
3. Shri Ram Krishan Raghuvanshi
4. Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar

5. Shri Dhan Pal Singh
6. Shri S. Shankar, US (HE) MoHRD
7. Shri Suresh Sen, Bhilwara, Rajasthan

e) Editorial Sub-Committee

1. Chairman, AWBI
2. Dr. Hitesh Jani
3. Shri Ram Krishan Raghuvanshi
4. Shri Sanjay Bohra, Gujarat

f) ABC/AR Sub-Committee

1. Chairman, AWBI
2. Prof. R. S. Chauhan

g) Gaushala Sub-Committee

1. Chairman, AWBI
2. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.)
3. Shri Girish Shah
4. Shri Sunil Mansinghka
5. Shri Ram Krishan Raghuvanshi
6. Prof. R. S. Chauhan
7. Dr. Hitesh Jani
8. Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia
9. Shri Dhan Pal Singh
10. Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar

h) Fund Raising Sub-Committee

1. Chairman, AWBI
2. Shri Girish Shah
3. Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia
4. Shri Ram Krishan Raghuvanshi

i) Regional Sub-Committees:-

- i. Eastern Regional Sub-Committee
- ii. Western Regional Sub-Committee
- iii. Northern Regional Sub-Committee
- iv. Southern Regional Sub-Committee
- v. Central Regional Sub-Committee

The Chairman requested the Members to propose name with details for consideration of nomination in the Sub-Committees and the Board authorised the Chairman to appoint Sub-Committee Members as recommended by the Members.

Item No.12: Nomination of Co-opted Members, Honorary Animal Welfare Officers and issuing Identity Card to Colony Care Takers.

Co-opted Members:

The Chairman requested the Members to propose name with details for consideration for nominating as Co-opted Members and the Board authorised the Chairman to appoint Co-opted Members as recommended by the Members.

Honorary Animal Welfare Officers:

The Board noted the matter and agreed to continue with the same procedure for Honorary Animal Welfare Officers.

Colony Care Takers:

The Board noted the matter and agreed to continue with the same procedure for Colony Care Takers.

Item No.13: Ratification for the implementation of recommendations of 7th Central Pay Commission circulated to Members for approval.

The Board noted the matter and ratified the decision for the implementation of recommendations of 7th Central Pay Commission to the employees of AWBI after approval of the Ministry.

[Action: ESTT]

Item No.14: Review of the matter regarding Implementation of report submitted to MOEF by Staff Inspection Unit (SIU), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, GOI in March 2011 in respect of enhancement of staff strength of AWBI.

The Board discussed the matter and directed to submit the Recruitment Rules according to the posts with chances for promotions. The Board directed that contractual appointments should be done through outsource basis following regular process/procedures.

[Action: ESTT]

Item No.15: Consideration of matter regarding establishment of Regional Office of AWBI at New Delhi.

The Board considered the matter and the Under Secretary (AW) informed that the Ministry is in the process of sending a communication to the Board seeking the space requirement for the AWBI Head office in Delhi.

[Action: ESTT]

Item No.16: Consideration of matter relating to latest status report of Utilization Certificate under Regular Grant and CSS Grant (Shelter, Ambulance, ABC & Natural Calamity).

The Board noted the fact that the pendency of UC from the AWOs have come down to around Rs.1.84 crores for the grants released upto 2015-16 making it around 0.8% of the total grants that have been released since 1994-95. However, the Board directed that the details of the pending UCs should be circulated to the Board Members so that Members can assist in the collection of UCs. The Office will also pursue rigorously to collect the pending UCs.

In respect of those AWOs who were issued with legal notice for pending UCs, the office shall write to the District Administration to recover the amount as arrears of land revenue or any other manner. They may also be issued notice for the de-recognition of AWOs who have not submitted the UCs.

[Action: UNIT I & II]

Item No.17: Consideration of matter regarding Re-recognition of AWOs doing ABC programme and the application and tentative checklist proposed for the same.

The Board approved the matter regarding Re-recognition of AWOs doing ABC programme and the application and tentative checklist proposed for the same and directed the office to send the letter, application form and guidelines to all the State Governments and AWBI recognised AWOs implementing Animal Birth Control programme. The Board also directed that the office to upload the details in the Board's website.

[Action: UNIT I ABC]

Item No.18: Brief on matter relating to important pending court cases by Secretary, AWBI

The Board noted the matter.

Additional Agenda Item No.1: Agenda proposals forwarded by the Uttarakhand State Animal Welfare Board, Dehradun to the Chairman, AWBI vide their letter No.62-690-2017/AWBI dated 15.4.2017 on the following matters.

i) Uniform Central Share funding for ABC programme.

The Board has already approved for payment of ABC rate @Rs.445/- per dog from Financial Year 2016-17 onwards to all local bodies as decided in the Grants Sub-Committee held on 10.11.2016.

ii) Statutory status to bylaws of SAWBs under PCA Act.

The Board noted that the Ministry is in process of notifying Rules for SAWBs.

iii) Participatory funding to AWOs through State Governments/ SAWBs & District Administration/SPCAs.

The Board noted that the grants-in-aid to AWOs are considered by AWBI based on the inspection reports of the AHD/SAWBs. The Board will consider providing grants-in-aid to AWOs through the State Animal Welfare Boards if the SAWBs are functioning effectively to carry out these functions.

iv) Humane Education Grant funding through SPCAs.

The Board will consider Humane Education Grant under the AWBI Plan Scheme to District SPCAs as and when proposals are received with details and subject to availability of budget.

v) Statutory SPCAs to be dealt unlike AWOs being run by NGOs.

The SPCAs are required to obtain recognition from AWBI.

vi) Other infrastructure support to Gausadans providing shelter to uneconomic cattle.

The considered the matter and agreed in principle to providing financial assistance to Gaushalas for the self sustenance of Gaushalas. The Board also noted that the Regular Grant given to AWOs has a provision for this. Enhancement of financial assistance for this can be considered only if the AWBI Plan Scheme budget is considerably increased by the Ministry.

vii) 50% representation to officers from State Governments in the AWBI Grant Sub-Committee.

The Board noted that the AWBI Administration Rules do not have such provisions and Grants Sub-Committee Members are the Board Members and did not agree to the above representation.

viii) Half Yearly evaluation/interaction meetings between AWBI & SAWBs.

The Board agreed in principle to periodic interaction and evaluation of the SAWBs by AWBI.

[Action: HEO]

Additional Agenda Item No. 2: Funding for activities of District SPCAs of Uttarakhand.

It is resolved that the Board will consider providing financial assistance for the activities of District SPCAs subject to availability of adequate funds in AWBI Plan Scheme budget.

[Action: UNIT II]

Additional Agenda Item No.3: Inspection Report on the slaughter house of M/s Alkabeer Exports Pvt. Ltd., Rudrapuram, Patancheru, Medak, Hyderabad on a surprise inspection by a four member team from the AWBI on 24th & 25th July 2016.

The Board decided to send the Inspection Report on the slaughter house of M/s. Alkabeer Exports Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad to the concerned authorities for taking further necessary action.

[Action: HEO]

Additional Agenda Item No.4: Establishment of National Cattle Development Board.

The Board decided to forward the write up of Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.) to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India for consideration and necessary action.

[Action: HEO]

Additional Item No.5: Consideration on Various matters regarding animal welfare proposed by Shri Sunil Mansinghka, Member for discussion.

The Board discussed the matters proposed by Shri Sunil Mansinghka and noted that the Board has been periodically writing to the State Governments for the effective functioning of SAWBs and District SPCAs. The Board noticed that most of the points were already covered in the agenda points discussed by the Board.

The Board agreed to revive the Prani Mitra and Jeev Puraskar Awards for honouring the animal welfare activists and directed to submit a detailed proposal in the next meeting for further discussions.

The Board also agreed to write to the concerned authorities for promoting Gaushalas in Jails.

[Action: HEO]

Additional Item No.6: Consideration of various matters regarding animal welfare proposed by Shri Girish Shah, Member for discussion.

The Board noted that Chairman, AWBI has been authorised by the Board to nominate and co-opt Members on the recommendation of the Members.

The Board noted that District SPCAs are to be established in each District as per SPCA Rules 2001. That the Supreme Court has directed the State Government to establish committee for the monitoring of slaughter houses. Co-opted Members can co-ordinate with the State authorities for promoting animal welfare activities and due enforcement of the animal welfare laws.

The Board noted that meat export is policy matter of Government of India. The Rashtriya Gokul Mission is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Board is not involved.

That the grazing of cattle in forest areas have to be regulated by the Forest Department as per their regulations.

The Board also noted that the ABC Dog Rules 2001 dealt with the sterilization and vaccination of stray dogs and the Supreme Court of India has directed the State Government and Local Bodies to implement the Rules in letter and spirit.

The State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules 2007 allows for Commissions and authorities, constituted or established by an Act of Parliament or set up by the Central Government to use the National Emblem of Ashoka Chakra on visiting cards and letter heads. Hence, Board Members are allowed to use the National Emblem of Ashoka Chakra on their visiting cards and letter heads. They can also use the status of Board Member stating "Member, Animal Welfare Board of India" on their cars but are not allowed to use the National Emblem on their cars.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to Chair.

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