



AWBI NEWSLETTER

Vol. No. 11,

RNI No. TNBIL 2003/10675 , Feb, 2018 - Mar, 2019

Re. 1/-

AWBI GETS NEW FACES



Dr Neelam Bala has joined Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) as secretary from October 3, 2018. Counted among leading veterinary professionals in the country, Dr Bala has worked at senior positions in the animal husbandry department of the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government for over 17 years besides being a nominee on

Continue... P-2



Prachi Jain is the new Assistant Secretary at the Board. A trained computer professional she has experience of almost a decade in various administrative roles in central ministries including Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). Ms Jain was associated with Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) in her previous role.



AWBI has appointed Nirbhay Kumar as Editor of Publications with the task to bring out quarterly magazines Animal Citizen and Jeev Sarthi besides monthly Newsletter of the Board. Kumar brings over a decade long experience in media, publishing and policy advocacy. In the last

Continue... P-2



02
UP Govt. Brings New Policy to Establish Cow Shelters



03
NOC from AWBI is mandatory for using performing animals in films



04
New Year Celebration at AWBI Office

Animal Welfare Board reconstituted

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4 and Section 5A of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 (59 of 1960), the Central Government reconstituted the Animal Welfare Board of India consisting of the following persons as its Members for a period of three years w.e.f. 01.03.2017 vide notification No. S.O.729(E), dated 3rd March, 2017. The following 18 members of the Board were nominated vide above said notification:

Shri Siddhanta Das, IFS, Director General of Forest & Special Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Dr. Suresh S. Honnappagol, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India
Shri V.B. Dubey, Joint Secretary (Judicial), Ministry of Home Affairs,	Ms. Ishita Roy, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resources Development,
Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IFS, Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change,	Shri Mohan Singh Ahluwalia, Panchkula,
Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Former Secretary, Dept. of Youth Affairs, Lucknow,	Shri Girish J. Shah, Samast Mahajan, Mumbai,
Prof. R.S. Chauhan, College of Veterinary and Animal Science, Department of Pathology, Pantnagar,	Dr. Vaidya Hitesh Jani, Head & Chief Physician, Department of Panchakarma UG, Jamnagar, Gujarat Ayurved University,
The Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research,	The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Guwahati,
The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Hubli-Dharwad, Hubli,	Shri Sunil Mansinghka, Gauvigyan Anusandhan Kendra, Devlapar Nagpur,
Shri Ram Krishan Raghuvanshi, People for Animal Jankalayan Samiti, Vidisha,	Mrs. Manju Pandey, IAS, Joint Secretary, (AW) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar, Abhinav Centre for Development of Agriculture Human Resources Samiti, Indore	Shri Dhan Pal Singh, Gayatri Parivaar, Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidhyala, Haridwar

Shri Siddhanta Das, IFS, Director General of Forest & Special Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was appointed the Chairman of the Board.

In continuation of notification number S.O. 729(E) dated 3rd March, 2017 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4 and Section 5A of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960), the Central Government nominated the following four persons as the Members of the Animal Welfare Board of India w.e.f. 06.12.2017, vide notification No. S.O.3847, dated 08.12.2017, namely:-

Shri S. P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.) Founder's Chairman, People's Voice, Kamdhenu Gow Dham & Arogya Sansthan, Haryana	Dr. Prakash Amte Director, Amte's Animal Ark, Gadchiroli,
Shri Rakesh Gupta President, Gopal Gausadan, New Delhi	Ms. Anjali Gopalan Founder of Animal Sanctuary "All Creatures Great and Small", New Delhi

The Central Government nominated Shri S. P. Gupta, IAS (Retd), HR-1990 Founder Chairman, People's Voice, Kamdhenu Gow Dham & Arogya Sansthan to be the Chairman of the Animal Welfare Board of India (relieving DGF&SS from his additional responsibilities as Chairman, AWBI) as per sub-section (3) of Section 5 of the aforesaid Act. Thus total 22 members of the Board were nominated to the Board and the 6 Members of Parliament are not yet nominated as the Members of the Board in the present Board.

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA HEADQUARTERS SHIFTED



The Government of India issued orders regarding shifting of its existing headquarters from Chennai to Sikri, Ballabgarh in accordance to the Animal Welfare Board (Administration) Rules 1962 and the Headquarter was shifted to NIAW Campus Sikri, Ballabgarh, Haryana with effect from 12.02.2018 and started its functioning from its new headquarter.

It is heartening to note that the UP government has considered some of our suggestions on stray cattle and their rehabilitation. We hope that other states will also follow the same and ensure that stray animals are taken off the streets.

Shri SP Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI



AWBI ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Board has been conducting training programmes on animal welfare for Honorary State / District / Legal Animal Welfare Officers since 30th July 2018 and a total of 278 such officers have been trained till December, 2018. The candidates from all over India have participated in the training programmes.
- The Board has set up a Grievance Redressal Cell to handle the complaints/grievances received from across the country on animal welfare and protection issues.
- The Board has issued advisories with respect to Gochar land, activation of State Animal Welfare Board, Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals, rescue and rehabilitation of stray animals for their welfare and reduce the man-animal conflicts. The Board has also issued advisories for implementation of ABC Schemes.
- All the Board committees have been activated and the meeting of the committees are taking place regularly. The Resource Committee of the Board is tasked to generate the resources of the Board on its own and to make the Board self-sustainable.
- The ABC committee of the Board has considered the ABC (Dogs) Rules, ABC Guidelines, Shelter Guidelines, the PCA (Pet Shop Rules) and pet dog circular and has finalized it. The Legal Committee has also finalized the PCA (State Animal Welfare Board) Rules. The guidelines have already been sent to the Ministry for approval and the Rules shall also be sent shortly.
- AWBI Staffing and Regularization of AWBI Staff Review Committee of the Board is also reviewing the Administrative

UP Govt. Brings New Policy to Establish Cow Shelters



Acting on some of the AWBI suggestions to tackle stray cattle, the UP government has announced a new policy for building and maintaining cow shelters across the state. The government will impose a 0.5 per cent cow welfare cess on certain items to fund the programme.

"It is heartening to note that the UP government

has considered some of our suggestions on stray cattle and their rehabilitation. We hope that other states will also follow the same and ensure that stray animals are taken off the streets," said Shri SP Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI.

The Chairman had held a meeting with Shri Yogi Adityanath, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in June last year and requested for setting up cow

shelter, revival of cattle pounds and 'Kanji Houses' among other animal welfare measures.

The UP government has also cleared a proposal to set up temporary 'gauvansh ashray sthals' under the urban and rural civic bodies. The cow sheds will be opened in all villages, panchayats and municipalities. In every district, a cowshed with minimum capacity of 1,000 animals will be built.

The AWBI has been reaching out to all the states and Union Territories (UTs) to take up animal welfare issues. The Board Chairman Shri SP Gupta along with members has held meeting with Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Karnataka and Jharkhand. He has also met the Hon'ble Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh Administration. In coming months, more such meetings are planned to take up animal welfare issues with state governments.

AWBI Chairman Shri SP Gupta takes up animal welfare issues with Hon'ble Chief Minister Jharkhand

Besides acting swiftly in cases of cruelty to animals, Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has been constantly making efforts to improve the overall living conditions of farm animals. In this series, the Board chairman Shri SP Gupta held extensive discussion with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Raghubar Das and proposed a slew of initiatives such as animal shelter homes in each of the 24 districts in the state with provision of fodder farm. As the AWBI has been committed to strengthen State Animal Welfare Boards and fully functional Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCAs) at district level, Shri Gupta noted the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court and sought to strengthen the institutional structure. The Board Chairman discussed as many as 13 different issues including earmarking land so that animals like cows, buffaloes, horses and donkeys could graze over there.

"The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has directed that 5 percent land of every village be declared as gochar land which could be used for Kanji House/ Goshala/ Animal Hospital. This order should be implemented in true spirit," the Chairman noted during the discussion. AWBI member Shri Ram Raghuvanshi and Shri RK Agrawal accompanied the Chairman in the meeting which yielded very satisfying outcome. Some of the senior Jharkhand government officers including Dr Sunil Kumar Barnwal, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Shri Ajoy Kumar Singh, Secretary, Dept of Urban Development and Housing and Shri Sri KK Soan, Department of Revenue and Land Reforms and Mrs Puja Singhal, Secretary, Dept of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative were present during the meeting.

Following the meeting, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed the state government officials to build a sprawling animal shelter home capable to accommodate 500 animals in Ranchi district also. Furthermore, one veterinary doctor of the respective district will be posted in each of the 27 gaushalas for two days in a week with intimation to the President/Secretary of the respective gaushala. Mrs Puja Singhal, Secretary, Dept of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative informed that the state government has already approved the proposal of setting up of Animal Shelter Homes in Hazaribagh, Lohardaga and Deoghar districts and one in Jama (Dumka) is in the pipeline. Each will be of 200 animal capacity and spread in 2.40 acre area. It was stated during the meeting that Government of Jharkhand provides a grant of Rs 50 only per cattle per day for six months to Goshalas for animals rescued from smugglers. Further, on the basis of study conducted by AWBI, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has fixed Rs 225 per day per animal cost for maintaining such animals. "Therefore Goshalas asked to maintain such cattle should be provided Rs 225 per day till the life of the cattle to ease the forced burden of Goshalas," the AWBI urged the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

It was noted during the discussion that local police impose sections of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 against persons/ smugglers arrested for illegally transporting cattle destined to slaughter houses and not those of Jharkhand Bovine Animal Prohibition of Slaughter Act, 2005 which recommends lifetime seizure of the vehicle carrying the cattle and up to seven years imprisonment of those involved in the illegal trade/ transportation. The Board requested that instructions should be issued to police officials for imposing sections of Bovine Act in such cases instead of PCA Act and necessary trainings should be imparted to them on this issue. The AWBI pointed out that maximum smuggling of cattle in Jharkhand is from Pakur and Nirsra (Dhanbad) which calls for stricter vigil by the local police and administration. Among other key issues, the Board called for effective implementation of Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme and having adequate number of ponds to meet the requirement of homeless animals.



Continuation of P-1

Dr Neelam Bala

numerous animal ethics committees.

A post-graduate in veterinary science & animal husbandry, she did her Ph.D. in animal genetics and breeding from Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar in Haryana. Dr Neelam has been recognized for her research and academic excellence with over a dozen prestigious awards including Lady Veterinarian Award, Santulan Award, Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Excellence Award, Rashtriya Gaurav Award and Young Scientist Award. Dr Bala is also the recipient of national scholarship from human resource and development (HRD) ministry, Government of India.

Nirbhay Kumar

12 years of his career he has worked with country's leading media houses like Economic Times and Financial Express. He has also worked with top industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and GMR Infrastructure in different roles. Before joining AWBI, Mr Kumar was special correspondent with Financial Chronicle.

Shri Gupta stated that Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) will nominate one animal lover in the State Animal Welfare Board (SAWB) and offer him or her a five-day residential training on laws controlling animal welfare.

Shri SP Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI



NOC from AWBI is mandatory for using performing animals in films

Mumbai : 13 March, 2019. Speaking in the "Shoot at Site" organized on the sideline FICCI FRAMES 2019, Asia's largest global convention on the business of entertainment at Mumabi, Dr. Neelam Bala, Secretary, Animal Welfare Board of India told that the film industry people should love the animals and come openly to save them.

She expressed happiness that the matter of animal welfare was raised on such a big platform which will go a long way to save the animals from the cruelties being suffered by them. Dr. Bala also told that all the laws of the land and Performing Animals Registration Rules must be kept in mind whenever the animals are being used as performing animals by anyone and necessary clearance from the Board should be obtained for using these performing animals. She put light on the simple process of obtaining NOC from the Board.



AWBI Chairman holds meeting with senior Tamil Nadu government functionaries

Shri SP Gupta, Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI held meeting with senior Tamil Nadu government functionaries and urged them

to strengthen the State Animal welfare Board and implement Animal Birth Control (ABC) policy besides conserving native breed of cows and constitute a mobile veterinary medical emergency team in each district.

Later, speaking to the press persons, the Chairman emphasized the need for ABC programme. He further said that while the Board will monitor animal sterilisation programme in the state, it was the job of local authorities to sterilise animals.

Shri Gupta stated that Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) will nominate one animal lover in the State Animal Welfare Board



(SAWB) and offer him or her a five-day residential training on laws controlling animal welfare.

He reiterated on this occasion that no one should take law in their hands and report the cases of cruelty to local enforcement agency.

Republic Day celebrated at Board's New Headquarter

Animal Welfare Board of India celebrated 70th Republic Day at its headquarters at NIAW Campus, Sikri, Ballabhgarh where the flag was hoisted by Shri S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Chairman, AWBI. Dr. Neelam Bala, Secretary, AWBI delivered a talk in remembrance of the Heroes of our freedom.



Dr. Neelam Bala, Secretary, AWBI inaugurated 8th AFLAS Congress-2018

Dr. Neelam Bala, Secretary, Animal Welfare Board of India inaugurated 8th Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science (AFLAS) Congress-2018 on Laboratory Animal Science in India. Bridging the GAP in Asia Pacific Region at Bangalore, India. She addressed the august gathering of Scientists, Veterinarians, Academicians, Stakeholders and Policy Makers working for the pious purpose to provide succor to small and large animal which are used in research and laboratory test for formulation of drugs and vaccines and to provide skill sets for their use in ethical manner. Dr. Neelam Bala emphasized on Ahimsa Parmo Dharma and our creed is nonviolence and our motto is "Vasudhev Kutumbkam" which means the entire world is a family. Animal being an integral part of our existence. The existence of human being is inextricably linked with welfare of animals both domestic and wild, small and large. She elaborated five freedoms of Animals during her inaugural speech.



AWBI ACHIEVEMENTS

Rules of the Board which was not amended in the last 56 years.

Animal News in Brief

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for establishment of Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog for Conservation, protection and development of cows and their progeny. The move is aimed to conservation, protection and development of cattle population in the country including development and conservation of indigenous breeds. It is also expected to result in increased growth of livestock sector which is more inclusive, benefitting women, and small and marginal farmers. The decision is in pursuance of the announcement of setting up the Aayog in the Union budget 2019-20.
- In a bid to address the issue of homeless animals, the Rajasthan Government has decided to honour those who adopt stray cows on Independence Day and Republic Day. The Directorate of Gopalan (Cow Protection) has issued a letter to all district collectors advising them to motivate donors, NGOs, social workers and cow lovers to adopt stray cows and felicitate such people on the national festival.

Smt. Manju Pandey, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC addressing a meeting on Performing Animals issues before implementation of OSPAR

Smt. Manju Pandey, JS (AW), MoEF&CC addressing a meeting of the film producers and serial makers regarding implementation of Performing Animals Registration Rules and making this system online by launching a new portal - Online System for Performing Animals Registration (OSPAR) (<http://ospar.nic.in>). She told them that the Board registers the Animal Owner under the Performing Animal (Registration) Rules 2001; grant permission for the use of animals in the films or other entertainment and issue certification for the use of animals in the Films.





NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT AWBI OFFICE

At a time work-life balance generally goes haywire due to growing stress level in offices it is important to celebrate festivals and important occasions to make things better.

Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) employees seem completely aware of it and do not leave opportunity to make important days in the calendar memorable. All the staff came together to celebrate New Year on January 1 in the evening after finishing their work.

A cake-cutting ceremony was held within the office campus to make the day memora-



ble. On this occasion, Hon'ble Chairman Shri SP Gupta wished all the staffers a very happy New Year and appealed everybody to work in a team to carry out important tasks.

Dr Neelam Bala, Secretary also exchanged greetings with all the staff and

distributed sweets and chocolates to make the event special.

The AWBI team members also played antyakshari (a song competition) which was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all. The programme ended on a high note. •

Another Five-Day Training Programme For Honorary Animal Welfare Officers Organized



Continuing its effort to have three-tier network of honorary animal welfare officers (HNAOs) across the country, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) successfully organised yet another five-day training programme for animal lovers and activists at its headquarters.

The five-day programme started with inaugural speech of AWBI Chairman Shri SP Gupta, IAS (retd.) which broadly covered all the aspects of animal welfare. He noted the importance of all the animals in the nature and advised the participants to care for all the creatures -- from ant to elephant.

During the training, lectures were delivered on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA Act), 1960 and other rules aimed at preventing cruelty against animals. Most of the relevant issues related to stray animals, shelter and first aid were discussed. As part of the training programme, the participants also visited Kamdhenu Gowdham at Bassar-Akbarpur in Nuh district of Haryana. They were briefed at the Gowdham on conservation of indigenous cow breed and benefits of Panchgavya-based products.

The five-day training programme for honorary animal welfare officers concluded on December 24 (Monday) with the valedictory speech of Shri SP Gupta.

Speaking at the event, the Hon'ble Chairman reiterated the plan to expand the network of honorary animal welfare officers to village level. He

urged the trained officers to reach out to people and educate them about animal welfare laws and measures to prevent cruelty against animals.

"But nobody should take law in their hands while dealing with the cases of cruelty

against animals," he advised the training participants.

Dr Kamal Taori, former IAS officer and eminent author, graced the function as chief guest. He urged all the participants of the training programme to put knowledge

into action.

In her concluding remarks, Dr Neelam Bala, Secretary, AWBI appreciated the deep interest shown by the participants during training and welcomed their suggestions.

Elaborating on the programme contents, Rakhi K. Jha, Training Coordinator said that the five-day course covered legislative framework on animal welfare and various rules that a common citizen should know.

All the participants were given certificates after completion of the five-day training programme. During the valedictory function, Ms Prachi Jain, Assistant Secretary, AWBI was also present. •

IN BRIEF

Chairman's New Year Message

"I wish you a very Happy New Year. The year 2018 was a very fruitful year for us. We achieved many milestones during the year and are on course to deliver more in 2019. We have been tirelessly working for welfare of all the animals, from ant to elephant. Yet, cases of cruelty against animals and suffering are reported. This requires us to work harder for the speechless creatures. I certainly hope that we all would serve them better and set an example for others."

Shri SP Gupta, IAS (Retd)
Chairman, AWBI

Secretary greets on New Year

"Every year millions of animals suffer and die for want of food and shelter. We can make their life better by being kind and compassionate towards them. We must not forget that we all share the planet Earth with other living beings. Animals could be our best partners and companions. Let's pledge to comply with animal welfare laws of the country and make it the best place in the world for all living creatures. Wish you a great and fulfilling 2019."

Dr. Neelam Bala,
Secretary, AWBI

World Veterinary Day

Dr. Neelam Bala, Secretary, AWBI participated in the World Veterinary Day programme organized by Canis Welfare Club (Regd) at Delhi wherein she was felicitated by Honorable Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Govt. of India on occasion of World veterinary day.

