

## ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

### Minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of India held on 23.02.2023 at AWBI Hqs.

The following members attended the meeting on 23.02.2023 at 2.00 p.m. physically / through virtual mode: -

- |   |   |                           |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Dr. O.P. Chaudhary, IFS<br>Joint Secretary, (AWD) MoFAH&D  | - | Chairman                  |
| 2. Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.)   | - | Member                    |
| 3. Shri Sunil Mansinghka  | - | Member                    |
| 4. Shri Girish J. Shah  | - | Member                    |
| 5. Shri S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.)   | - | Member                    |
| 6. Prof. R.S. Chauhan   | - | Member                    |
| 7. Ms. Anjali Gopalan   | - | Member                    |
| 8. Dr. Hitesh Jani  | - | Member                    |
| 9. Shri Ram Krishan Raghuvanshi   | - | Member                    |
| 10. Shri Ajeet Sharad Kelkar  | - | Member                    |
| 11. Dr. Vijay Kumar Teotia, R.O. AQCS,<br>New Delhi - Representative of<br>Animal Husbandry Commissioner, | - | Member                    |
| 12. Dr. Ramachandra S.G., Director, NARFBR,<br>Hyderabad, T.S. Representative of Director,<br>ICMR        | - | Member} Online            |
| 13. Dr. S.K. Dutta, Joint Commissioner (AWD)<br>MoFAH&D   | - | Secretary In-charge, AWBI |
| 14. Smt. Prachi Jain  | - | Assistant Secretary, AWBI |

The Chairman welcomed the Members in the 50<sup>th</sup> General Meeting of the Board present physically and through virtual mode. Thereafter, the Chairman requested the Secretary AWBI to present the agenda items.

#### **Item No.1: Revised allocation of budget for the year 2022-23 and Allocation of Budget for the year 2023-24.**

The Board noted the allocation of the Budget by the Ministry for the financial year 2023-24 and requested the Chairman AWBI for enhancement of the Budget as the allocated budget is meagre for Animal Welfare. The allocation of the budget for the year 2023-24 is as per the details given below: -

## Budget Allocation for the year 2023-24

(Rupees in lakhs)

S. No.	Schemes	BE Allocation 2023-24	Remarks / Reason
1	Grant in Aid Salary	330.00	Pay & allowances of AWBI staff and Salary of outsourced staff
2	Grant in Aid General (Admin & Office Expenses)	250.00	Website Cloud Storage charges, Lease line rental, e-office charges and other admin. expenses, including procurement of Assets, Meeting expenses etc.
3	Regular Grant	400.00	Regular Grants to AWOs
4	Provision of Shelter House	150.00	Shelter Grant to AWOs
5	Provision of Ambulance Services	50.00	Priority will be given on urgent need basis in each district
6	Animal Birth Control (ABC) Scheme	15.00	-
7	Natural Calamity Relief to Animals	5.00	-
	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>1200.00</b>	

The Board members have recommended that the budget allocated for the Animal Birth Control Schemes shall be utilized for training of manpower carrying out ABC Programme.

### Item No.2: Ratifications of the minutes of various committee meetings: -

The minutes of the following committee meetings were placed before the Board for information and ratification. The Board noted and ratified the minutes of the following committee meetings: -

#### i) Ratification of the Minutes of the Grants Committee Meetings of the Board held on 12.09.2022, 30.11.2022 & 17.01.2023.

The minutes of the Grants Committee Meetings held on 12.09.2022, 30.11.2022 & 17.01.2023 were noted, confirmed and ratified by the Board.

#### ii) Ratification of the Minutes of the ABC Committee Meetings of the Board held on 26.09.2022, 27.10.2022, 30.11.2022, and 17.01.2023

The Minutes of four ABC Committee Meetings of the Board held on 26.09.2022, 27.10.2022, 30.11.2022 and 17.01.2023 respectively were placed before the Board and the Board noted, confirmed and ratified the minutes of the above said meetings.

**iii) Ratification of the Minutes of the Honorary Animal Welfare Officer (Representative) Committee Meetings of the Board held on 07.09.2022 and 01.12.2022**

Minutes of two meetings of Honorary Animal Welfare Officer Committee of the Board held on 07.09.2022 and 01.12.2022 were placed before the Board and the Board noted the same and ratified the minutes.

**iv) Ratification of the Minutes of the Performing Animals Committee held from 06.09.2022 to 14.02.2023**

The details of the PAC Meetings along with the details of the applications received for Pre-shoot Permission and No Objection Certificate during the 44 meetings held from 06.09.2022 to 14.02.2023 in which 293 Pre-shoot Permissions and 477 No Objection Certificates were issued to the concerned after approval of the Chairman, AWBI were placed before the Board and the Board noted the same.

**Item No.3: Reconsideration of the matter pertaining to the criteria of the regular grant**

The matter pertaining to new criteria of the Regular Grant & Rescue Cattle Grant was placed before the Board for notification as the new criteria approved by the Board in its 52<sup>nd</sup> AGM held on 13.09.2022. The Board had approved the criteria for considering the application seeking financial assistance under Regular and Rescue Cattle Grant to the Gaushalas / AWOs implementing new rates of Regular Grants @ Rs.50/- per animals / day for large animals and Rs.30/- per animal / day for the small animals and Rs.100/- per animal per day for treated animals from next financial year onwards i.e. from 01.04.2023 which could not be considered as the demand of Rs. 63.00 Crores sent by the Board to the Ministry for the year 2023-24 considering the new criteria for release of regular grant and cattle rescue grant could not be considered and the Board did not receive the enhanced budget in proportionate to its demand.

In view of the foregoing, the slightly revised criteria as given below was considered and approved by the Board for considering the Regular Grant & Rescue Cattle Grant during the Financial Year 2023-24: -

Number of animals sheltered	Existing Criteria		Approved Revised Criteria	
	Grant for Small animals in rupees	Grant for large animals in rupees	Grant for Small animals in rupees	Grant for large animals in rupees
Up to 25	Nil	Rs.1200 per animal	<u>Nil</u>	Rs.1300 per animal
26 to 50	Nil	36000/-	<b>10000/-</b>	<b>40000/-</b>
51 to 100	12000/-	48000/-	<b>18000/-</b>	<b>60000/-</b>
101 to 200	24000/-	60000/-	<b>30000/-</b>	<b>75000/-</b>
201 to 300	36000/-	72000/-	<b>45000/-</b>	<b>90000/-</b>
301 to 400	48000/-	84000/-	<b>60000/-</b>	<b>105000/-</b>
401 to 500 (and above for small animals)	60000/-	96000/-	<b>75000/-</b>	<b>120000/-</b>
501 to 750	-do-	1,20,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>150000/-</b>
751 to 1000	-do-	1,50,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>180000/-</b>
1001 to 1250	-do-	1,80,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>210000/-</b>
1251 to 1500	-do-	2,10,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>240000/-</b>
1501 to 1750	-do-	2,40,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>270000/-</b>
1751 to 2000	-do-	2,70,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>300000/-</b>
2001 to 2500	-do-	3,00,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>370000/-</b>
2501 to 3000	-do-	3,60,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>440000/-</b>
3001 to 3500	-do-	4,20,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>510000/-</b>
3501 to 4000	-do-	4,80,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>580000/-</b>
4001 to 4500	-do-	5,40,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>650000/-</b>
4501 to 5000 and above	-do-	6,00,000/-	<b>-do-</b>	<b>720000/-</b>

**Category 2 – The criteria for animals rescued/treated and the grant to be sanctioned as given hereunder: -**

Number of animals rescued/treated	Existing Criteria	Approved Revised Criteria
	Grant in Rupees	Grant in Rupees
Up to 100	Nil	5000/-
101 to 500	6,000/-	15000/-
501 to 1000	12,000/-	30000/-
1001 to 1500	24,000/-	45000/-
1501 to 2000	30,000/-	60000/-
Above 2000	36,000/-	80000/-

The category of small and large animals are as under: -

- 1) Small animals - Cats, dogs, sheep, goat and others
- 2) Large animals - Cows, Calves, Buffaloes, Bull and Horses

The grants will be released, subject to furnishing the bonds and other requisite documents by the respective organizations, as per details given below:

**Grant amount upto Rs.3,50,000/- - in one instalment**

**Grant amount above Rs.3,50,000/- - in two equal instalments**

As per above proposal, the minimum and maximum grant to be sanctioned to the AWOs by the Board under Regular Grant will be Rs.10,000/- and Rs.7,20,000/- respectively.

In this context, the Board Members informed that the State Governments are providing Rs.20 to Rs.100 per day per animal but the Board is considering and providing a meagre amount to the Gaushalas / AWOs due to non availability of the proper funds from the Ministry.

Prof. R.S. Chauhan stated that this is a support only and other amount of funds are arranged by the Gaushalas / AWOs to run their organizations.

Chairman, AWBI stated that although there may be financial crunches but the Board can always take good and Animal Welfare friendly decision and should bring these to the notice of the Ministry which may come in effect in later stages. The proposed criteria were approved by the Board for considering the Regular Grant.

#### **Item No.4: Recruitment Rule Schedules for sanctioned posts of the Board**

The matter pertaining to the Recruitment Rules of the Board was discussed in 52<sup>nd</sup> AGM and it was decided that the RRs for officers and employees of the Board to be done at Ministry level and the Schedules for these RRs to be placed before the Board for approval. The Schedules for the RRs of the officers and employees of the Board were placed for consideration, approval and ratification during the GM of the Board.

Secretary, AWBI briefed the Board Members that the RRs of the Board are still in the draft stage and have not been notified and out of 21 employees of the Board, 5 posts have been converted to MTS as on date and many other posts have been abolished or deemed to be abolished. Therefore, the RRs need to be notified at the earliest possible.

Shri S.P. Gupta raised the issue that the competency of the Board should not get affected and the Board should have the power to consider the promotions etc. mentioned in the column No.12 of the schedules for RRs.

Chairman AWBI stated that the Board may get more competent and suitable staff through the Staff Selection Commission or through Union Public Service Commission etc. where the laid procedure is followed for recruiting the staff or the Board can recruit the staff by its own following the due procedure. It was decided by the Board and agreed in principle that the Board will recruit the staff by its own and the column number 12 regarding promotions / up-gradations was not agreed by the Board.

#### **Item No.5: Consideration of matter regarding Recognized Non-Functional AWOs**

The matter pertaining to the non-functional AWOs was placed before the Board as the Board has already requested the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying of all States / UTs to furnish the status of the functional Animal Welfare Organizations / Gaushalas recognized by AWBI. The Board has so far received response from five States and have got details that out of total Recognized 3708 AWO, 238 AWOs are not found functional in these five states.

The Board decided to request Hon'ble Minister's office for issuing letter to the Chief Secretaries of all States / UTs so that the Board could get response from them and get the real picture about status of the recognized AWOs/Gaushalas for updating the same on its online portal.

The Board also decided that non functional AWOs to be de-recognized and to ensure that no funds are released to these non functional AWOs.

Shri Girish J. Shah suggested that the Board should bring all the Gaushalas / AWOs under the umbrella of the Board and the States / UTs also consider the grant to only AWBI recognized AWOs.

Assistant Secretary informed the Board that the matter may be considered after amendment in the PCA Act where the recognition of the Board is likely to become mandatory.

The matter pertaining to renewal of recognition of 1716 nos. of multipurpose AWBI recognised AWOs except Gaushalas in the specified proforma alongwith the application fee of Rs. 5000/- was placed before the Board and it was decided that the renewal of recognition of multipurpose organizations to be done with fee.

**Item No.6: Consideration of the matter pertaining to the amendment of Transportation of Animals Rules, 1978 and Transportation of Animal on Foot Rules, 2001**

The draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Transportation of Animals) Rules, 1978 as well as the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Transportation of Animals on Foot) Rules, 2001 duly considered by Animal, Act and Rules Review Committee meeting on 09.01.2023 before forwarding to Ministry for further action were placed before the Board for inclusion of Chapter for "Transportation of camel by Rail & Road". The Board considered the matter and approved the drafts Rules for further action.

**Item No.7: Consideration of guidelines for Residents' Welfare Associations or Apartment Owner Association (AOA) for community animals**

The draft guidelines as per the direction of the Implementation Committee established by Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in its judgment dated 24.06.2021 in case "CS (OS) 277/2020", Titled "Dr. Maya D. Chablani V. Radha Mittal & Ors." were placed before the Board for consideration. The guidelines will be applicable for the Residents' Welfare Associations (RWA) or Apartment Owners Associations (AOA) or Market Welfare Associations (MWA) or Industrial Area Associations (IAA) in Delhi National Capital Territory and to the Municipal Corporation for those areas where RWAs or similar organisations are not available. The management bodies of large complexes such as educational institutes, hospitals, office buildings, malls etc. are encouraged to implement the similar systematic approach to maximize the impact across the Delhi (NCT).

It was decided that the Implementation Committee constituted by the Hon'ble High Court will send the guidelines to the Board for its approval and issuance of the same.

Ms. Anjali Gopalan has stated that most of the societies are not taking action on constitution of Animal Welfare Committee to designate the feeding points for stray animals in the societies as all the officials nominated in the committee are not present at the same moment. Hence, it has been decided that the Board will issue the general notice regarding constitution of animal welfare committee stating that if any one of the Govt. officials nominated for the Animal Welfare Committee are present, then the meeting shall be held to deal with the animal welfare issue and feeding points can be designated.

**Item No.8: Consideration of the matter pertaining to inclusion of Fodder and Fodder Storage (Chara / Bhusa Go-down) as component in the Regular Grant**

The matter pertaining to the existing guidelines for having the component of fodder for financial assistance to the AWOs for purchase of feed and fodder storage (Chara /

Bhusa Godown) for storing the fodder at gaushala premises. The Board considered the matter and approved inclusion of both Fodder and Fodder Godown in the Regular Grant. The following components to be in the Regular Grant: -

- a) Maintenance/Repairs of Rescue Home for animals
- b) Construction of Water Troughs/Facilities
- c) Rescue operation during natural calamities including maintenance of stray animals
- d) Purchase of Medicine for animals
- e) Purchase of Medical Equipment
- f) Establishment charge- cost of engaging Veterinary Doctors, SPCA inspectors, Veterinary Assistants, Compounders, Ambulance Drivers etc.
- g) Creation of infrastructure of generation of bio –gas, bio-fertilizers and electricity from bio-gas plant (maximum 25% of total Regular Grant Sanctioned)
- h) Purchase of Fodder
- i) Fodder storage (Chara / Bhusa Godown)

**Item No. 9: Consideration of matter regarding issue of an advisory to prohibit the manufacture, sale and use of both gestation and furrowing crates in Pig farming**

The matter raised by PeTA pertaining to the issue an advisory to prohibit the manufacturing, sale and use of both gestation and furrowing crates in Pig farming as this is a very cruel practice. Secretary, AWBI informed the Board that the NRCP in its reply to RTI response has informed the applicant that the gestation hestle violates the section 11 of PCA Act, 1960. Further, OIE has also discouraged the furrowing crates.

The Board agreed to constitute a committee to examine the matter. It was further recommended that the space requirements for furrowing crates should be decided guidelines to be drafted by the expert committee of the subject experts in consultation with the OIE Guidelines.

**Item No.10: Consideration of matter regarding issue an advisory to the State Governments to ensure enforcement of laws that prohibit the killing of chicks by hatcheries and to bring ovo sexing technology to India**

The representation received from PeTA, India forwarding the investigation report on Hatcheries Breeding chickens for meat and eggs stating that 10 hatcheries in Uttar Pradesh, 3 in Telangana, 2 in Maharashtra, 1 each in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were investigated wherein it was observed that severe cruelty is inflicted to the chickens and the male chickens are coloured and reared for meat, debeaking, killing, dumping in drums, pits, ponds or rubbish bins, burned alive, crushed, suffocated and left to die and



then used as fish feed, feed for dogs. The Board deferred the matter and did not approve issue of an advisory. The Board may seek expert opinion from the expert committee.

**Item No.11: Approval of Annual Report and adoption of Audit Report and Audited Annual Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2021-22.**

The draft Annual Report of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the Year 2021-22 containing the Audited Annual Accounts of the Board and the Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India was placed before the Board for perusal, approval and adoption of the Audit Report and Audited Annual Accounts of the Board for the year 2021-22 along with the Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India. The Board adopted the final and audited accounts of the Board for the year 2021-22, approved the draft of Annual Report 2021-22 and decided that the Members of the Board may furnish their inputs / comments, if any, within 15 days for incorporating the same in the Annual Report 2021-22.

**Item No.12: Requests / representations received from earlier HAWOs**

The matter pertaining to the change of nomenclature of Honorary Animal Welfare Officer (HAWO) to Honorary Animal Welfare Representative was placed before the Board keeping in view the representations to change the name of HAWR to HAWO. After due discussions on the matter, the Board decided that there shall be no change in the nomenclature of HAWR.

**Item No.13: Points raised by Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI**

The points raised by Shri Girish J. Shah, Member AWBI were placed before the Board and after due deliberation, the following were informed/ briefed: -

(i) Agenda Item No. 1: The Chairman informed that there is no action pending on behalf of the Ministry for amendment of the PCA Act, 1960. The matter is under consideration of PMO.

(ii) Agenda Item No.2: The Chairman informed that the chapter for constitution of State Animal Welfare Board has been included in the draft amendment of PCA Act, 1960.

(iii) Agenda Item No. 3: The Chairman informed that the land of NIAW is the premier land, to be utilized for the welfare of animals and to be managed by Animal Welfare Board of India. In view of the allowances to be paid to the employees of the Board, the Board may effort to declare the Seekri under the ambit of Delhi NCR. Chairman also decided that the

CPWD or any other PSU for the said purpose may be contacted immediately for renovation of the building of NIAW.

(iv) The Chairman informed that the matter of revision of SPCA Rule, 2001 is under consideration.

(v) The Chairman informed that the Board may examine the matter in the Act & Rule Reviewing Committee of the Board.

(vi) The matter is deferred for further discussion.

(vii) The matter is discussed and informed that the Board has issued the guidelines for Regulatory Compliances for Slaughter Houses and Meat Shops vide letter dated 30.05.2022.

Agenda items No 8 to 34 couldn't be discussed due to paucity of time.

**Any Other Item:**

1. Two scientist from Ministry of Renewal Energy have made a presentation on sattat programme implemented by MNRE for installation of Bio-gas Plant by the various entities including Gaushalas. They have shared the information and scheme guidelines for the same for awareness among the Board Members and the Gaushalas.

2. The issue of pre-receipts is being obtained alongiwth the Bond in the process of release of financial assistance has been raised by Sh. Girish J. Shah, stating that the pre-receipts should not be obtained from the AWOs / Gaushalas until the grant is released to the AWOs. The secretary informed that this is procedure followed by the Board since longtime but in the online system, the pre-receipts will not be obtained prior to the release of grant. The acknowledgement of receipts of payment shall be obtained in the online system from the AWOs/Gaushalas. After utilization of the grant, the AWO will submit the utilization certification in the specified format.

The meeting ended with the thanks to all the members and Chairman.