

**MINUTES OF THE 128TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BOARD
HELD ON 26.03.2024 AT CHANDERLOK BUILDING, NEW DELHI**

The 128th Executive Committee Meeting (ECM) of the Board held on 26.03.2024 at 3.00 PM at the Conference Room, Chanderlok Building, Janpath Road, New Delhi and the following were present in the meeting: -

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| 1. | Dr. O.P. Chaudhary, IFS | Chairman, AWBI |
| 2. | Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | Member, AWBI |
| 3. | Dr. S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | Member, AWBI |
| 4. | Shri Girish J. Shah | Member, AWBI |
| 5. | Shri Sunil Mansinghka | Member, AWBI |
| 6. | Shri Ram K. Raghuvanshi | Member, AWBI |
| 7. | Dr. Manilal Valliyate | Member, AWBI |
| 8. | Dr. S.K. Dutta | Secretary, AWBI |
| 9. | Smt. Prachi Jain | Asst. Secretary, AWBI |

The nomination of the Representative of the Ministry of Finance is not received yet. Dr. Hitesh Jani, Member AWBI could not attend the ECM meeting due to his prior engagements.

The Chairman, AWBI welcomed all the Members of the Executive Committee of the Board and then requested the Secretary, AWBI to start the meeting. The details of the agenda items discussed are given as under: -

Item No.1: Consideration of matter pertaining to renting out Regional Office, Chennai office space to Tamil Nadu State Animal Welfare Board.

The matter pertaining to the office premises of Animal Welfare Board of India situated at Chennai, Tamil Nadu was placed before the Board during its 51st General Meeting held on 4th July, 2023 at Delhi along with two request proposals received from the State Animal Welfare Board of Tamil Nadu to allow the SAWB of Tamil Nadu to utilize its office premises at Chennai free of cost for the purpose of Animal Welfare and another request from the office of Pollution Control Board of Tamil Nadu to take the office premises of AWBI at Chennai on rent respectively. In compliance to the decision of the Board, the First Floor of the AWBI Regional Office situated at Chennai was rented out to the Tamil Nadu Animal Welfare Board (TNAWB) and the matter along with the copy of the rent agreement was placed before the 128th ECM of the Board. The ECM noted the matter.

The EC Members opined that the revenue earned out of the rent of the office space should be utilized by the Board for repair / maintenance / other requirements for making the expenditure and should not be deposited in the Consolidated Funds of India (CFI).

Secretary, AWBI informed the EC Members that the Board will utilize the rent amount as it is the income falls under the category of income earned from assets. He further appraised the EC Members that the Board could also utilize the interest earned on the amount collected by the Board under RRAEC Fund in kind of fees etc. which is deposited in CFI.

The Chairman has directed to seek the clarification from Department of Expenditure regarding utilization of revenue.

The EC noted the matter and appreciated the step of renting out the vacant office space for the purpose of Animal Welfare to be carried out by the TNAWB.

Item No.2: Consideration of matter pertaining to Training and Awareness programme on Animal Welfare issues

The matter pertaining to conducting the training program or seminar/workshop during the year 2024-25 in collaboration with the State Government for public awareness on animal welfare laws, provides training to the Gaushala personnel for management of Gaushala and for their self-sustainability, imparting training to concerned individuals before nominating them as Honorary Animal Welfare Representatives (HAWR) to implement the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and its Rules was deliberated in the EC of the Board for consideration.

The ECM after due deliberation agreed for the same and it was also decided that the Board need to conduct training programs for the officials of SAWBs and SPCAs to strengthen them as well as to implement the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and its Rules at the grass root level. It was also discussed that the AWBI need to conduct regular training program from the AWBI Hqrs. as well as the Board should start these training programmes at Regional basis so that the trainees could learn according to their local conditions too and the travel time and expenses could be reduced.

Chairman AWBI decided that the AWBI should conduct the training programs which should be utility oriented and the office need to prepare a calendar for the training programmes with complete details for the whole year. Chairman also decided that the State Level Minister's meeting be conducted at Regional Level.

Item No.3: Consideration of matter pertaining to allotment of funds for Anti Rabies Vaccination Program (ARV Program)

The matter pertaining to the granting of fund to undertake mass vaccination to the local authority / NGO to whom project recognition by the Board has been considered to control the rabies as well as to contribute in national action plan for dog mediated rabies elimination by 2030 was placed before the ECM of the Board. After due deliberation on the matter, it was decided that the funds allocated to AWBI in the ABC Scheme is very less and

the Board need to launch ARV program through some higher dignitary and the responsibility to carry out the ABC and ARV is already vested with the local bodies. The Board needs to launch the ARV programme on the occasion of World Rabies Day or some other important day to provide boost to the programme.

Chairman AWBI further clarified that the Board will not pay any grant amount to any AWO / Local Body under ARV Programme.

Item No.4: Consideration of matter pertaining to revision of existing CSS Schemes being implemented by AWBI

The matter pertaining to the revision of existing CSS Schemes being implemented by the Board which was already submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Animal Welfare Division) vide its letter No. 2/1/2017-AWD dated 06.04.2018 was discussed. The Board had revised the existing schemes guidelines which focuses on animal welfare viz. (i) AWBI Regular Grant Scheme, (ii) Provision of Ambulance Services/Animal Helpline to Animals in Distress (iii) Relief to Animals during the Natural Calamities and Unforeseen Circumstances (iv) Animal Birth Control & Immunization of Stray Dogs and (v) Provision of Shelter House for Looking After the Animals which were furnished to the MoEF&CC and later on MoFAH&D for consideration and approval but no action had since been taken therefore the matter was again placed before the ECM for consideration.

The ECM after due deliberation decided that the existing schemes to be discussed in detail in the special Board meeting to formulate the new schemes which should be utility oriented and should focuses on animal welfare so that it will have impact and fetch outcome throughout the country. The Members has also suggested that the schemes should also strengthen the SAWBs and DSPCAs.

The Secretary AWBI stated that the existing schemes, revised schemes and other related documents may be circulated to all the Members of the Board for detailed discussion. The Secretary, AWBI has also stated that the matter is under active consideration of the Ministry for revamping of the CSS Schemes.

Item No.5: Consideration of matter pertaining to Third Party Evaluation of Gaushalas / Animal Welfare Organizations funded by the Board

The matter pertaining to conducting the evaluation of the implementation of the schemes at Animal Welfare Organizations' level to make best of the schemes being implemented by the Board, for making better use of the government money being provided to the AWOs was discussed in detail.

The ECM after due deliberation decided to conduct an independent external evaluation of the implementation of the above schemes on animal welfare at

Gaushalas / Animal Welfare Organizations by some independent third party with the following objectives was placed before the ECM of the Board: -

- i) To assess overall outcome, impact as well as cost effectiveness.
- ii) To improve the quality of implementation.
- iii) To determine continued relevance of the schemes.
- iv) Suggestions for making best use of the government money being released to the AWOs.

The Chairman AWBI briefed the committee members that the Third Party Evaluation of the Schemes has become mandatory for keep vigil and has relevance of the schemes. He further suggested that the Third Party Audit may be conducted by AWBI through some agencies or hiring agencies through GeM.

Item No.6: Consideration of matter pertaining to use of QR Code in AWBI Certificates

The matter pertaining to the use of QR Code on the letters and certificates etc. issued by the Board was placed before the EC to robust authentication measures. This includes incorporating advanced security features into official documents such as QR codes. Using QR codes to authenticate documents can be an effective and convenient method to enhance security and streamline verification of the authentic documents by embedding QR codes on the authenticated documents, organizations can reduce the risk of fraud or identity theft.

The EC after due deliberation on the matter agreed for the same and approved the matter.

Item No.7: Consideration of matter pertaining to categorization of Gaushalas and AWOs

The matter pertaining to identify the categories of the Gaushalas / Animal Welfare Organizations / Non-Governmental Organizations was placed before the EC. The EC after discussion on the matter decided that the Board may seek undertaking from the AWOs / NGOs on Rs.100/- Non-Judicial Stamp Paper that they are sheltering cow and its progeny in their shelter houses. The AWOs providing such undertaking shall be considered as Gaushalas and remaining organizations shall be treated as AWOs / NGOs. Further it was decided that the organization to be considered as Gaushala should not house more than 50% of milching animals in their organizations. Accordingly, it was also decided that all the AWOs / NGOs / Gaushalas will be categorized as AWO in the online system and after furnishing the above undertaking on stamp paper, the category will be considered as Gaushala.

Item No.8: Consideration of matter pertaining to issuing of Colony Animal Care Taker Authorization (CACT) to one person at same address

The matter of issuing authorization letter as CACT to the citizens showing compassion to the animals in the locality for feeding the stray animals was placed before the ECM where various members of the same family are applying for the CACT Cards at regular basis.

The EC after due deliberation on the matter decided that in general there are no restrictions on the feeding of the animals and if various members from the same family are applying or misusing such authorization letters, then the EC was of the opinion that the Board can issue only one CACT authorization to one address listing out the members intended to feed the animals from the same address. However, in case of CACT authorization for multiple members of one family, the recommendation of Board Members would be required.

Item No.9: Consideration of matter pertaining to nomination of Nodal Officers for Animal Welfare in all the States & UTs

The matter pertaining to the nomination of the Nodal Officers for Animal Welfare in all the States / UTs was placed before the EC and the EC after due deliberation on the matter decided that the nomination of Nodal Officer in every District/Taluka to act as the Animal Welfare Officer and State Level Officer to be nominated from State Animal Welfare Board following the statutory system. It was further decided that the Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO) / District Animal Husbandry Officer (DAHO) shall be nominated as Nodal Officer in every district to look in to the matters pertaining to the Animal Welfare, SPCAs and HAWRs etc.

The EC further opined that the SAWBs and SPCAs have to be made more effective and properly functional. The Board need to write to the concerned authorities to make them functional.

Item No.10: Consideration of matter pertaining to Review of Utilization Certificate of the financial assistance released to PFA, Haryana under the Scheme for Provision of Shelter House for looking after the animals

The matter pertaining to release of grant-in-aid to PFA, Haryana for establishing a shelter house facility for animals at Sarai Khatela, Dist. Palwal, Haryana during the year 2003-04 by the Ministry amounting to Rs.11,25,000 as 2nd instalment in regard to Utilization Certificate and other documents, was placed before the ECM.

However, the same was still under consideration as per the discussion held in the Board. Meanwhile, the then Secretary, AWBI based on the report submitted by the then Legal Advisor sent a letter to PFA, Haryana regarding acceptance of Utilization Certificate. Thereafter it was observed that UC submitted by the Organization prima facie appears to be forged. The PFA Haryana was headed by Shri Naresh Kadyan for mis-utilization of Government funds.

The matter was deliberated by the members and it was informed by the secretariat of AWBI that as per file records, two members committee was constituted comprising of the then Legal Advisor, AWBI and Ms. Manisha Karia, co-opted member, AWBI for examination of the matter and providing comments. However, the matter was disposed of based on the comments received by one member i.e. Mr. Pawan Kumar, the then Legal Advisor. Thereafter, comments from other member was received which was in line with the earlier committee headed by Brig. S. S. Chouhan. Hence, the process adopted by the then secretary for issuance of the said letter communicating acceptance of UC was not in order.

Therefore, after deliberation, the EC recommended that the same may be communicated to the said Organization.

Item No.11: Consideration of matter pertaining to De-recognition of all recognized Animal Welfare Organizations and Gaushalas whose recognition is beyond five years old and haven't applied for renewal of recognition

The matter pertaining to the derecognizing all the recognized AWOs / Gaushalas whose recognition is beyond five years old and have not applied for renewal of recognition was placed before the EC. The EC after due deliberation on the matter decided that the Board will issue a Public Notice in some National Newspaper and local newspaper as well as on the website of the Board appealing all the AWOs / Gaushalas for getting renewal of their recognition failing which the Board will derecognize all such Gaushalas / AWOs. The Board shall provide 90 days' time for renewal of the recognition provided to Gaushalas / AWOs.

Item No.12: Consideration of matter pertaining to pending old Legal Fees / Bills.

The matter pertaining to the old cases of Advocates' pending bills for which any documentation proof of engagement could not be traced was discussed in the Animal Act and Rules Reviewing and Legal committee, wherein it was decided that counsel may provide the necessary documents as proof of their engagement by the AWBI in particular case for which they have raised the Bill, was placed before the ECM of the Board.

The EC after due deliberation on the matter decided to pay the pending bills of advocates who have submitted the details of cases and raised their bills. The Board appreciated the advocates who have stated that they will not claim their pending bills from AWBI and consider it for the welfare of the animals as charity act.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to Chair.
