

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of India held on 03.09.2020 through virtual meeting

The following members were attended the virtual meeting on 03.09.2020 at 3.00 p.m.:

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| 1. | Dr. O.P. Chaudhary, IFS
Joint Secretary, (AWD) MoFAH&D | - | Chairman |
| 2. | Shri S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | - | Member |
| 3. | Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.) | - | Member |
| 4. | Prof.R.S. Chauhan | - | Member |
| 5. | Shri Girish J. Shah | - | Member |
| 6. | Shri Sunil Mansinghka | - | Member |
| 7. | Shri Ram KrishanRaghuvanshi | - | Member |
| 8. | Shri AjitSharadKelkar | - | Member |
| 9. | Shri Dhan Pal Singh | - | Member |
| 10. | Dr. Hitesh Jani | - | Member |
| 11. | Dr. RajniKaul, Scientist G, ICMR | - | Representative of
Director-General, ICMR |
| 12. | Dr. S.K. Dutta, Joint Commissioner (AWD)
MoFAH&D | - | Secretary In-charge, AWBI |
| 13. | Mrs. Prachi Jain | - | Assistant Secretary, AWBI |

The Secretary, AWBI started the meeting with greetings to all Members and requested the Chairman to give his introductory / welcome remarks to the Members.

The Chairman welcomes the Members present in the virtual meeting of 50th Annual General Meeting. Thereafter the Chairman requested the Assistant Secretary to start with the agenda items.

Item No.1: Ratification of approval on circulation of Annual Report and adoption of Audit Report and Annual Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2017-2018

The Board ratified the approval on Annual Report for the year 2017-2018 and adopted the Audit Report and Annual Accounts of the AWBI for the year 2017-2018 for further necessary action.

Item No.2: Consideration and approval of draft Annual Report for the year 2018-2019.

The Members discussed about the draft Annual Report for the year 2018-2019 and approved with the following modifications / additions:

The Members suggested that minutes of various meetings should be removed from the Annual Report except the important decisions. Achievements, various circulars/advisories issued, details of court cases etc. should be added.

Shri S.P. Gupta, Member has recommended to check the number of colony animal care taker ID cards issued during the year 2018-19.

Shri S.P. Gupta has also pointed out the grant-in-aid released to Blue Cross of Hyderabad under the Scheme for Animal Birth Control (ABC Programme) during the year 2018-2019 which was not approved by the then Chairman during actual release of the grant. However, the grant had been released to the said organization. Then, it was pointed out the grant-in-aid released to Blue Cross of Hyderabad was recommended by the Grant Committee and accordingly the grant was released on 30.03.2019. He has also pointed out that the approval of grant-in-aid to Blue Cross of Hyderabad by the Grants Committee on circulation on 11.8.2020 for the year 2019-2020 is disproportionate to the budget of the Board, number of scheme and number of organisations to which the grants are released.

The Chairman directed the office to enquire about the matter and submit a report for further directions.

Item No.3: Consideration of the minutes of the meeting conducted by Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying with the officials of AWBI on 22.07.2020 regarding issues related to animal welfare, self-sustainable of Gaushalas and revenue generation by AWBI.

The Chairman briefed the Members about the meeting with the Shri Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying on 22nd July 2020. He described the necessity to increase revenue of AWBI for self-sustainable and sustainable of Gaushala.

Item No.3 (1): Consideration of the increase in the amount of registration fees for recognition, seeking financial assistance under Regular Grant, Shelter grant, Ambulance Grant, Animal Birth Control programme, Natural Calamity grant and applications received under Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001 as processing fees.

The Board Members deliberated upon the re-fixation of fees for processing of application of recognition, financial assistance under Regular Grant, HAWO and seeking permission for Pre-shoot / post-shoot under Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001.

The Chairman appraised the Members that the proposal for enhancement of fees for processing of application was made on the basis of discussions and decisions taken in the meeting with the Hon'ble Minister on 22.7.2020 for self-sustainable of AWBI.

Shri Girish J. Shah and Shri S.P. Gupta presented their dissent towards the enhancement of fees for Gaushalas and Honorary Animal Welfare Officer as they are doing honorary animal welfare at the ground level. Shri Sunil Mansinghka suggested that the fees for Honorary Animal Welfare Officer may be fixed at Rs.200/- so that the value and dignity of the card can be maintained.

Prof. R.S. Chauhan recommended that the fees for registration of race horses should be fixed Rs.2,000/- per horse per year upto maximum period of 5 years.

The majority of the Members recommended for further enhancement of fees proposed in the agenda for seeking permission for Pre-shoot / post-shoot under Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001.

Accordingly, it is decided that the fees for processing of application of recognition, seeking financial assistance under Regular Grant, Shelter Grant, Ambulance Grant, ABC grant and Natural calamities, registration of performing animals under Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, seeking permission of Pre-shoot /Post Shoot, registration of Circuses, Race Horse(s) registration, Processing of application of Honorary Animal Welfare Officer has to be revised as below:

S.No.	Particulars	Period	Existing Fee	Proposed Registration / processing fee	Proposed Renewal fee
1	Recognition of Gaushalas	for life time	1100	1100	Not applicable
2	Recognition of AWOs (having multi-purpose activities)	For five (5) year	1100	5000	5000
3	Regular Grant Scheme	Each application	100	500	Not applicable
4	CSS - Shelter	Each	Nil	2000	Not

	House, Ambulance, ABC and Natural Calamity (every time)	application			applicable
5	Performing Animal Registration	To be renewed every five (5) year	500	5000	5000
6	Horse Race registration	To be renewed every year	500	2000 per horse	2000 per horse
7	Pre-shoot / Post shoot permission	Each application	Nil	25000	Not applicable
8	Direct Post-shoot permission	Each application	Nil	50000	Not applicable
9	Honorary Animal Welfare Officer	To be renewed every five (5) year	100	500	500

The Board decided to simplify the application forms for registration / recognition etc. and to introduce online system for all the applications.

Item No.3 (2): Consideration for inclusion of training of Gaushala personnel to make the Gaushalas self-sustainable.

Shri Sunil Mansinghka appraised the Board about the training programmes conducted by Govigyan Anusandhan Kendra, Deolapar, Nagpur for making self-sustainable Gaushalas and the farmers for use of by-products from cow dung and cow urine for organic farming. He suggested that a committee of the Board Members to be formed for training programme to Gaushala personnel to make the Gaushala self-sustainable and contribution to the "AtmaNirbhar Bharat" programme. The Chairman requested Shri Sunil Mansingka and Prof. R.S. Chauhan to prepare a syllabus for training of Gaushala personnel.

Prof. R.S. Chauhan agreed to prepare design for online training programme module in English and Hindi which can be used by the Board for conducting virtual training programme all over the country throughout the year.

Shri S.P. Gupta suggested that after Covid 19 period, the Board can restart the training programmes at the NIAW campus which is having all infrastructure facilities.

Shri D.P. Singh suggested that all the recognised Gaushalas should have training people in by-products of cow dung and cow urine for self-sustainability of Gaushalas. He also suggested that the Board should not consider grant-in-aid to Gaushalas who have not trained their people for manufacturing of by-products.

Item No.4: Ratification of the Minutes of the 47th General Meeting of the Board held on 19.07.2019.

The Members confirmed the minutes of the 47th General Meeting of the Board held on 19.07.2019.

Item No.5: Report on action taken on the Minutes of the 47th General Meeting of the Board held on 19.07.2019.

The Members noted the action taken on the minutes of the 47th General Meeting of the Board held on 19.07.2019.

It was decided that the celebration of Jeev Jantu Kalyan Diwas and Award function can be considered after the Covid 19 pandemic.

It was noted that the number of authorization letter for Colony Animal Care Taker issued till 20.08.2020 is very less compare to the demand and requirement in the field of animal welfare. The Board decided to increase the number of Colony Care Takers and do the selection of people with utmost care to avoid misuse of authorisation by the Board.

The Members suggested that the issues regarding cruelty to animals in the field and action taken should be informed to the Board Members for their information necessary action.

Dr. RajniKaul, representative of ICMR informed that the scientific data about the procedure of reversible inhibition of sperm for painless sterilization of male dogs were sent to the Board. The Chairman requested Dr. RajniKaul to collect the information and share with the Board for further consideration.

Prof. R.S. Chauhan submitted that only the surgical method is successful for ABC programme.

Item No.6: Ratification of the Minutes of the 123rd Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 23.08.2019.

The Members ratified the minutes of the 123rd Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 23.08.2019.

Item No.7: Report on action taken on the Minutes of the 123rd Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 23.08.2019.

The Members noted the action taken on the minutes of the 123rd Executive Committee Meeting of the Board held on 23.08.2019.

Shri Sunil Mansinghka suggested that a panel of Advocates in all the State to be formed for attending the legal cases on behalf of the Board. The details of court cases to be informed to the Legal Sub Committee and Members of the Board from time to time.

The Secretary AWBI informed the Members that the Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying addressed a letter to the Principal Secretaries of all the States for formation of State Animal Welfare Board. It was also informed that one chapter regarding formation of State Animal Welfare Board in all States were included in the draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Bill 2020.

The Secretary briefed the Members about the Battery case matter and informed that the draft Rules has been prepared and submitted by the Ministry to High Court of Delhi as per its direction. No hearing was taken place in the matter.

Shri Girish Shah informed the Members about the efforts taken for notifying Gazette notification regarding Livestock export which was appreciated by the Chairman.

The Board decided to circulate the Annexure – V regarding Online training programme for Honorary Animal Welfare Officer (HSAWO/HDAWO/HLAWO) to the Members of the Board for comments and suggestions.

The Chairman requested Shri Sunil Mansinghka, Shri Girish Shah and Prof. Chauhan to prepare a management training module for the Managers / workers of Gaushalas.

The Chairman informed the members about the Cabinet decision not to print books, magazines and to promote digital publications. It was decided to resume the publications of AWBI in digital form.

Item No.8: Ratification of the Minutes of the Grants Committee Meeting of the Board held on 19.07.2019.

The Members ratified the minutes of the Grants Committee Meeting of the Board held on 19.7.2019.

Item No.9: Report on action taken on the Minutes of the Grants Committee Meeting of the Board held on 19.07.2019.

The Members noted the action taken on the minutes of the Grant Committee meeting of the Board held on 19.07.2019.

Item No.10: Consideration of the Budget Estimate allotted by the Ministry for 2020-2021.

The Chairman briefed about the budget allocation for the year 2020-2021 and informed that due to the current situation in the country, there will be no chances for enhancement of budget during this financial year.

Shri Girish Shah briefed about the Animal Ambulance 1962 model implemented in the State Gujarat. The Board should study about this successful scheme in Gujarat and issue an Advisory to all the State Government for implementing this model of animal ambulance services in their respective States.

Item No.11: Consideration of matter related to re-issue of Honorary Animal Welfare Officer Cards to the candidates who were trained in 2018-19 and 2019-2020.

The Board considered the matter and decided to nominate and issue authorisation letter as Honorary Animal Welfare Officer (State/District) only after verification by the Police Department of the concerned area of applicant.

Item No.12: Consideration of matters relating to Animal Act & Rules Reviewing and Legal Committee.

Shri Girish Shah suggested that the draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Registration of Animal Welfare Organisation) Rules 2020 and draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Bill 2020 to be hold for some time as it will take more time to send suggestions and comments which was considered in the 5th Animal Act and Rules Reviewing and Legal Committee held on 25.08.2020.

Shri Girish Shah made a point that the clause 9 regarding Prohibition of doing animal welfare work in the draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Registration of Animal Welfare Organisation) Rules 2020 should be deleted. The Chairman informed that the matter was discussed in the Legal Committee and will re-examine the matter.

Item No.13: Consideration of matter regarding proper inspection of new Organisations before consideration of grant of recognition by the Board.

The Board considered the matter and approved for physical inspection by the State Government agencies after receipt of application for Recognition from the organisations to verify the activities and infrastructure available for animal welfare activities.

It was decided that the submission of application for Recognition to be made online for speedy processing and issue of Recognition certificate.

Additional Item No.1: Ratification of the Minutes of the Grants Committee on the Agenda circulated to Members of Grants Committee on 11.08.2020.

The Members ratified the minutes of the Grants Committee of the Board on the agenda circulated to Members of Grants Committee on 11.08.2020.

Additional Item No.2: Consideration of the matter regarding removal of ban on import of reptile leathers, fox mink and chinchilla fur skins.

The Chairman briefed about the recommendations made by the Board vide letter dated 28.10.2016 regarding the amendments to prohibit import and export of fur and exotic skin, under Chapter 5, 41, 42 and 43 of Indian Trade Clarification based on the Harmonized System of Coding) ITC-HS codes), 2012-Schedule 1 (Import Policy) and ITC (HS), 2012 (Export Policy). He has also informed the Members that the Board has received an email from the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying dated 20th January, 2020 to withdraw the AWBI's letter dated 28.10.2016 for ban of import of reptile leather, fox mink and chinchilla fur skins.

The Chairman appraised that this matter will not come under the mandate of AWBI as this is only import of materials and no cruelty is happening in our country in the matter. Hence, this matter need not be included in the mandate of the Board. However, Prof. R.S. Chauhan made a point that it is to be ensured that the import of reptile leather, fox mink and chinchilla fur skins should be diseased free and cruelty free. It was decided to communicate to the Ministry for their decision.

Additional Item No.3: Consideration of points, comments/suggestions forwarded by the Members of the Board.

The various points, comments/suggestions forwarded by Shri S.P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.), Shri Girish J. Shah, Shri Sunil Mansinghka and Shri D.P. Singh were discussed in the meeting and status of the matter was briefed by the Chairman and officials of the Board.

It was decided to include the comments and modifications suggested by the Members in the final version of Annual Report 2018-2019. The suggestions of the Members regarding the minutes of 5th Animal Act and Rules Reviewing and Legal Committee will be further considered by the Committee for necessary modifications.

Shri D.P. Singh pointed out the cruelties on Monkeys, Blue Bull/Rozad/Boselaphustragocmelus Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The Secretary, AWBI informed the Members that the Board has already sent letter to the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Moef&CC to reconsider the notification. The Government is working on sterilisation of Monkeys at Dehradun and not yet killed any monkeys.

Since the matter related to Wild Life Act, it was decided to send a letter to the Department of Forest, Government of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand to look into the matter.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.