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.726(E), dated 3rd March, 2017. The following 18 members of the Board were nominated vide above said notification:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shri Siddhanta Das, IFS</td>
<td>Director General of Forest &amp; Special Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Suresh S. Homnappagol</td>
<td>Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri V.B. Dubey</td>
<td>Joint Secretary (Judicial), Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Ishita Roy</td>
<td>Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resources Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Soumitra Dasgupta, IFS</td>
<td>Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment Forests &amp; Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Mohan Singh Ahuwalia</td>
<td>Panchkula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Rajeev Gupta, IAS (Retd.)</td>
<td>Former Secretary, Dept. of Youth Affairs, Lucknow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Girish J. Shah</td>
<td>Sarnam Mahajan, Mumbai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. R.S. Chauban, College of Veterinary and Animal Science, Department of Pathology, Pannagar</td>
<td>The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Gawahati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research</td>
<td>Shri Sant Kantisinh, Guvimagam Anusandhan Kendra, Devlapur Nagpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Hubli-Dharwad, Hubli</td>
<td>Mrs. Manju Pandey, IAS, Joint Secretary, (AW)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Ram Krishna Raghunathia, People for Animal Jankalay Samiti, Vidishah</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Ajit Sharad Kelkar, Ahibhav Centre for Development of Agriculture Human Resources Samiti, Indore</td>
<td>Shri Dhan Pal Singh, Gayatri Parivaar, Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyala, Haridwar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shri S. P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.)</td>
<td>Founder’s Chairman, People’s Voice, Kamdhenu Gow Dham &amp; Aragya Sansthan, Haryana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Prakash Anir</td>
<td>Director, Anir’s Animal Ark, Gachibowli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shri Rakesh Gupta</td>
<td>President, Gopal Gausadan, New Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Anjali Gopalan</td>
<td>Founder of Animal Sanctuary “All Creatures Great and Small”, New Delhi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Central Government nominated Shri S. P. Gupta, IAS (Retd.), HR-1990 Founder Chairman, People’s Voice, Kamdhenu Gow Dham & Aragya Sansthan to be the Chairman of the Animal Welfare Board of India (relieving DGKSS 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 with the Animal Welfare Board (Administration) Rules 1962 and the Headquarters was shifted to NIAW Campus Sikri, Ballabgarh, Haryana with effect from 12.02.2018 and started its functioning from its new headquarters.
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 26 districts in the state.

"The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has directed that 5 percent land of every village be declared as goshar 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 Sumil Kumar Barmawal, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Shri Ajoy Kumar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development were regularly and Shri Sri RK 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 5000 animals in Ranchi district also. Furthermore, one veterinary doctor of the respective district will be posted in each of the 27 goshalas for two days in a week with intimation to the President/Secretary of the respective goshalas. Mrs Puja Singhal, Secretary, Dept of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative informed that the state government has already approved the proposal of setting up an Animal Shelter Home in Hazaribagh, Lohardaga and Deoghar districts and one in Jama (Dumka) is in the pipeline. Each will be of 200 animal capacity and spread over 2.50 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 are advised 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 Nirsa (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.
NOC from AWBI is mandatory for using performing animals in films

Mumbai : 11 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 Mumbri, 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 emphasised 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, Srikakulam, 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

Dr. Neelam Bala, Secretary, Animal Welfare Board of India inaugurated 8th AFLAS Congress 2018 at Federation of Laboratory Animal Science (FALAS) 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, Academics, 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 “Vasudheva Kutumbakam” 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.
NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT AWBI OFFICE

At a time when 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 1st in the evening after finishing their work.

A cake-cutting ceremony was held within the office campus to make the day memorable. On this occasion, Hon’ble Chairman Shri SP Gupta wished all the staff 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 antyalakshmi (a song competition) which was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all. The programme ended on a high note.

Continuing its effort to have a 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 an 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 Gowdhama at Bassar-Akbarpur in Nuh district of Haryana. They were briefed at the Gowdhama on conservation of indigenous cow breeds and benefits of Panchgavaya-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 animal officer, 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, Rahul 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.

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

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 where in she was felicitated by Honorable Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Govt. of India on occasion of World veterinary day.

Published by
Animal Welfare Board of India
NIAY Campus, 62 Milestone, NH-3, Sonepat, Haryana
E-mail: animalwelfareboard@gmail.com, Website: www.awbi.in