

F. No. 13-2/2018-NBB
National Bee Board
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Government of India

'B' Wing, Second Floor, Janpath Bhawan,
Janpath, New Delhi – 110001

Dated: 19.03.2020

Subject: Minutes of the meeting of the Managing Committee (MC), National Bee Board (NBB) held on 3rd March, 2020 at 03.00 p.m. in Committee Room no. 142, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

Sir,

Please find enclosed the minutes of the Meeting of Managing Committee (MC), National Bee Board (NBB) held under the Chairmanship of Smt. Vasudha Mishra, Special Secretary, DAC&FW, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Chairman, MC, NBB and Vice-Chairman, NBB at 3.00 p.m. on 3rd March, 2020 in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi, for kind information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.

(Dr. B.L. Sarawat)
Executive Director

To

1. Special Secretary & FA, DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Joint Secretary & Mission Director (MIDH), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
3. Managing Director, SFAC, 5th Floor, NCUI Auditorium Building, 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi 110016.
4. Chairman, APEDA, NCUI Building, 3 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, N Delhi-16.
5. Chief Executive Officer, Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KCIC), Gramodaya, 3, Irla Road, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai – 400013
6. Assistant Director General (Plant Protection), ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
7. MD, National Horticulture Board (NHB), DAC&FW, Gurgaon, Haryana.
8. Dr. R.P. Phadke, Ex-Director, Central Bee Research Institute & Bee Keeping Industry, S.No.680/20, 'Yashoda' Eknathnagar (Part II), Bibvewadi, Pune – 411037, Maharashtra.

Elected Members:

9. Shri Jagjit Singh Kapoor, Managing Director, M/s.Kashmir Apiaries Export, Kashmir House, G.T.Road, Doraha-141421, District Ludhiana, Punjab
10. Shri Vimal Anand, Partner, Natural Honey Bee Products, 18/32, East Patel Nagar, N Delhi-08.
11. Shri Devvrat Sharma, M/s. Akhil Bharatiya Vikas Sansthan, 144-A, Pocket A, Dilshad Garden, New Delhi – 110095.
12. Shri Jaidev Singh, Jaidev Singh, G-2, 3/39, Sector-5, Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201005
13. Shri Om Prakash Gupta, S/o. Shri Ram Swaroop Gupta, B-10, Subhash Nagar, Near Raghu Atta Chakki, Bharatpur, Rajasthan.

14. Shri Kavuri Subba Rao, Flat No.404, Vijay Durga Apartment, Nagarjuna Homes, Nijampeth Road, Kukatapalli, Hyderabad-72, Andhra Pradesh.
15. Shri T. Ashuhrii Romeo, Vice-Chairman Jonts Charitable Society, Kids Camp, Shop No. 38, (NEIC) Takar Complex, Naharlagun, Papum Pore District, Arunachal Pradesh.

Special Invitee:

16. Inspector General (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi

Copy for information to:

17. Sr. PPS to Secretary (AC&FW) & Chairman, NBB, DAC & FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi,
18. Sr. PPS to Special Secretary (VM) & Chairman, MC, NBB, DAC & FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
19. PPS to Horticulture Commissioner & MS, NBB, DAC & FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi,
20. Guard file.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE (MC), NATIONAL BEE BOARD (NBB) HELD ON 3rd MARCH, 2020 AT 03.00 P.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO.142, KRISHI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

A meeting of the Managing Committee (MC) of National Bee Board (NBB) was held under the chairpersonship of Smt. Vasudha Mishra, Special Secretary, DAC&FW, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Chairman, MC, NBB and Vice-Chairman, NBB at 3.00 p.m. on 3rd March, 2020 in Committee Room No.142, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. A list of participants is enclosed at **Annexure-I**

2. The Chairperson welcomed the participants and asked the Executive Director, NBB to present the Agenda items of the meeting for discussion. Accordingly, Dr. B.L. Sarswat, ED, NBB, made Agenda item-wise detailed presentation for discussion as per the following details and proceedings of the meeting:-

I. Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting of Managing Committee, NBB held on 29th August, 2018:

Managing Committee (MC) confirmed the Minutes of the meeting held on 29.08.2018.

II. Action Taken Report (ATR) on decisions of MC meeting held on 29th August, 2018:

Detailed, Agenda item/decision-wise, Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken by MC in its meeting held on 29th August, 2018, was presented by ED, NBB. **MC approved the ATR.** Regarding organizing of Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NBB, one of the members suggested that, if required, AGM of NBB may be organized sometime in September-October, 2020.

III. Presentation of Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2019-20 of National Bee Board submitted under MIDH & NBHM:

The activity-wise details of Annual Action Plans (AAP) submitted by NBB for the year 2019-20 under MIDH & NBHM were presented. It was informed that AAP of **Rs. 10.00 crores**, including **Rs. 8.79 crores** for last years' liabilities & **Rs. 1.61 crores** for current year Plan, submitted to MIDH, was not approved by MIDH because of approval of new scheme- "National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM)".

The AAP of Rs. 50.00 crores for the year 2019-20 under NBHM was approved by the Secretary (AC&FW) for implementation of various activities under MM-I, II & III under NBHM. **MC, NBB, also approved the same.**

It was also informed that an amount of **Rs. 25.00 crores** allotted under NBHM has been approved for release during the year 2019-20, it includes **Rs. 20.00 crores to NBB & Rs. 5.00 crores to NDDDB.** However, the funds could not be released physically under the scheme due to technical reasons/completion of formalities for PFMS.

IV. Progress of implementation of activities of NBB in 2018-19 & till date:

The activity-wise detailed physical & financial Progress Reports/ Annual Reports of implementation of activities by NBB during the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 (as on 03.03.2020) were presented in detail. **MC noted the same and approved.**

V. Presentation of Audit Report/ Balance Sheet of NBB for the year 2018-19: The detailed Audit Report/ Annual Report/ Balance Sheet, etc. of NBB for the year 2018-19 was presented. **MC noted the same and approved.**

VI. Induction of new Members with NBB:

The category-wise details of the Registered entities of NBB under various categories and which have applied for membership of NBB were presented. The details of 25 applicants which

were found eligible (**19 under Individual category, 4 under Beekeeping & Honey Societies category & 2 under Apicultural Scientists category**) were presented and approved by MC for induction as member of NBB.

VII. Setting up of Training Institutions/ Centres and offices for development of Scientific Beekeeping in the country by NBB by utilizing accumulated surplus income as well as grants from Central/State Governments:

The details of setting up of Training Institutions/ Centres/ other Beekeeping development activities and offices for development of scientific beekeeping in the country by National Bee Board (NBB) by utilizing accumulated surplus income as well as grants from the Central/ State Governments were presented. It was also mentioned that this was submitted to the Income Tax Department, with the approval of Special Secretary, DAC&FW and Chairperson, MC, NBB, in response to filing of details under case of scrutiny of ITR of NBB for the year 2016-17 (Assessment Year 2017-18). MC was requested for ratification of the decision of the Chairperson. **MC ratified the decision of the Chairperson.**

VIII. Issues relating to National Biodiversity Act (NBA):

The details of the sections of the Notification and Bio-diversity Act, 2002, Section-7 of the Act and **12 (d)** of Notification were presented. These sections, among others, explains that accessing of Biological Resources for conventional breeding or traditional practices in use in any agriculture, horticulture, poultry, doing farming, animal husbandry or beekeeping in India are exempted from approval of NBA or SBB. However, in Explanatory Note of Section 12 (d), among others, it is mentioned that when accessing biological resource is practised for scaling up with commercial intent will not be considered as conventional breeding & traditional practises. It means may not be exempted. The action taken by NBB in this regard/ correspondence with the **National Bio-Diversity Authority (NBA)** was also presented.

The Chairperson mentioned that these details may be examined on file and issue may be taken up with the NBA for exemption of commercial/ scientific beekeeping under the Act in the light of implementation of GST.

IX. Insurance of Honey Bee Colonies, Bee hives, Equipments, etc.:

The insurance company-wise (4 companies) which are having Insurance policies for bee colonies/ honeybees were presented to the MC.

One of the member of the MC, NBB informed that he got insured honey bee colonies from one of these companies and mentioned that thought the Company has charged the insurance premium and issued Insurance Policy for Honey Bee colonies but when the problem arises, the company did not give any claim even against the items/risk covered under the Insurance Policy. Therefore, there is need to take this matter with the concerned Insurance Authority to design a good Insurance Policy for Honey Bee colonies, which may serve the purpose.

X. Recommendations of Beekeeping Development Committee (BDC):

All the 14 recommendations of Beekeeping Development Committee (BDC), its Report and action taken/initiated by NBB, DAC&FW, were presented. **MC noted the same.**

XI. Matters relating to pay of ED, NBB and other issues relating to remuneration/ pay of contractual staff (including Consultants) working in NBB & requirement of staff and approval of staff:

The details of matters/issues relating to pay of ED, NBB and remuneration/pay of contractual staff, including Consultants, Office Assistants, Accountant, DEOs, MTS, etc., working in NBB, were presented. The details of 18 posts, including 10, in addition of 4 Consultants, already approved by MC, NBB, along with details of levels of their pay scale (as per 7th Pay Commission), etc. were also presented. Regarding Consultants, it was informed that MC, NBB had already approved placing of 4 Consultants. However, IFD, DAC&FW has

approved only two, one existing Dr. Pooja Singh & one new. It was proposed for approval of placing 4 Consultants in NBB as approved by MC with remuneration of Rs. 50,000/- per month as approved under MIDH. These 4 Consultants and staff proposed (18 posts) are very much required for effective and smooth functioning of NBB.

MC was requested for, issue-wise approval of the followings:

- (A) Approval for resolving the pending issue of payment of Dr. B. L. Sarswat, working as ED, NBB since August, 2014 to June, 2016 (as additional charge) and **from July, 2016 to till date** working exclusively as ED, NBB, as per decision/ approval of MC, NBB and Orders issued by DAC&FW. However, the salary of ED, NBB, is not being given to him against the work of ED, NBB. MC approved and decided to make the payment to ED against the post for which he is working. MC has already approved his appointment to the post in its previous Meeting. The Chairperson asked, MS, NBB to examine the case and resolve the issue on priority.
- (B) Regularisation of Contractual staff which was already agreed, in principle, by MC, NBB in its meeting held on 12.04.2017. MC reiterated its decision.
- (C) Approval of 18 proposed posts, out of which 10 (in addition to 4 Consultants) had already been approved by MC, NBB in previous meetings, alongwith pay scales/ levels, as per the 7th Pay Commission as per details presented by ED, NBB. The proposal was "in principle" approved by MC in view of the workload & role of NBB in overall promotion & development of scientific beekeeping in the country, implementation of newly approved scheme of National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM), recommendations of BDC report, including setting up of Honey and Pollinators Board of India (HPBI) etc.
- (D) Hiring of 4 Consultants, as already approved by MC, NBB alongwith revised remuneration of Rs. 50,000/- per month, which are very much required. MC approved the same.
- (E) Enhancing the remuneration/ pay of other contractual staff working in NBB (Accountant, Office Asstt, S,O, DEO, MTS, etc.) which is low paid, on the pattern of contractual staff appointed in Crops Division, DAC&FW. The Chairperson, MC mentioned that the post-wise details of such staff posted in other divisions/organizations with same qualifications and post may be examined and pay of these contractual staff may be revised/decided, accordingly. **MC approved the same.**

It was reiterated by MC that appointment of ED & other officials & employees/ creation of posts in NBB, fixation of pay/ remuneration, etc. are the functions/ powers of MC, NBB/ officials of NBB (ED, MS, Chairman, MC, Vice Chairman & Chairman, NBB). Further, among others, MC, NBB may take policy decision for furtherance of the objects of the Board (NBB). Therefore, these matters/issues should be decided at NBB's level. The Chairman, MC/Chairman, NBB/HC & MS, NBB/ED, NBB are authorised for approval and appointment of staff/officials in NBB on such terms & conditions deem fit/appropriate in the interest of work of NBB.

Keeping in view the above, the proposal of posting of staff/ Consultants, etc. along with pay scales, etc. was approved and Chairman, MC, NBB was once again authorised to create the posts, fixing their pay/ remunerations and approve the appointment of staff/Consultants in NBB for effective & smooth functioning of NBB.

The Chairperson, MC, asked the Director, IFD to examine the issue, in view of the bye-laws of NBB, a registered Society under Society Registration Act, which permit the Chairman, NBB/Chairman, MC/MS/ ED, NBB to appoint the staff/ contractual staff/Consultants, etc. in NBB, decide their pay/ remunerations, etc., and NBB making expenditure from its resources, and resolve the issue at the earliest.

XII. Revision of Delegation of Powers to ED, NBB, MS NBB & Chairman, MC & Vice Chairman, NBB and Chairman, NBB:

The MC advised to put up a detailed proposal with full justification for examination.

XIII. Status of implementation of standards of Honey notified by FSSAI and amendments issued by FSSAI:

The action taken by FSSAI, NBB and other concerned organizations regarding the standards of Honey, notified by FSSAI, were presented. **MC noted the same.**

XIV. Issue of membership of late Shri N.M. Kejriwal, ex-Founder Member of NBB: The MC expressed the grief for death of Shri N.M. Kejriwal and appreciate his contribution to the beekeeping industry. Regarding the issue of membership, it was decided that the concerned applicant/claimant may be asked for submitting the documents/ details for support of their request to justify their proposal to process further as per Bye Laws of NBB.

XV. Case relating to scrutiny of ITR of NBB for the year 2016-17 by Income Tax Department:

The case relating to scrutiny of ITR of NBB, including the decision of the Assessment Officer(AO), Income Tax Department, who has raised the demand of **Rs.21,48,110/-**, as tax, was presented. The status of action taken, including an Appeal against the decision of the IT department, etc. was also presented. **MC noted the same.**

XVI. Any other issues with the permission of the Chairperson of the MC, NBB:

One of the MC members, suggested the following:

- a) Organizing API-INDIA for 3-4 days in consultation with all stakeholders for promotion and development of Scientific beekeeping in the country;
- b) Publicity may be made on crystallisation of Honey to create awareness among the public/consumers;
- c) Some other member may be nominated in place of Dr. Phadke, who is very old, by Government of India. The Chairperson, MC, asked not to omit his name, but, if required,
- d) some other Member may be nominated as a '**Special Invitee**', in MC meeting.
- e) The "**World Bee Day**", may be organized in big way on 20th May by organizing exhibitions, seminars, lectures, etc, for 3-4 days.
- f) The '**True Source**' which is working in isolation for Traceability Source of Honey in India may be asked to work in this field in consultation with NBB; and
- g) One of the member from North-Eastern State requested for making payment of TA/DA to the members of MC, NBB. ED, NBB mentioned that as per provisions of the bye-laws of NBB, it is not permissible.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.