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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
INDRAPRASTHA ESTATE, RING ROAD
NEW DELHI-110002

Minutes of the 235th Meeting of the Executive Council held on 24th August, 2000 at 5.00 p.m. in the Conference Hall of the Institute

PRESENT

1. Shri S.B. Chavan - Chairman
2. Prof. Mohit Bhattacharya
3. Prof.(Dr.) P. Chandrasekharan
4. Shri T.N. Chaturvedi
5. Dr. K. Chockalingam
6. Shri M.K. Gaur
7. Shri K. Malaisamy
8. Shri B.C. Mathur
9. Shri M. Gopalkrishna Naidu
10. Shri S. Ramanathan
11. Dr. Agarala Eswara Reddi
12. Prof. R.K. Sachdeva
13. Prof.(Mrs.) S. Saroja
14. Shri Kewal K. Sethi
15. Dr. V. Shanmugasundaram
16. Shri S.S. Singhania
17. Dr. S. Subramanian
18. Dr. V. Subramanian
19. Shri T.K. Thanickachalam
20. Shri M. Thyagarajan
21. Prof. S.P. Verma
22. Shri M.C. Gupta - Director & Member-Secretary

Dr. S.N. Suri, Registrar, was also present.

Shri V. Aivalli, Prof. (Mrs.) Noorjahan Bava, Shri Arun Bhatnagar, Shri G.C.L. Joneja, Prof. K. Kamalanathan, Prof. J.C. Kapur, Shri M.K. Kaw, Dr. V.T. Patil, Prof. K.N. Pathak, Shri Ashok Nath, Shri P.A.Sangma, Dr. (Mrs.) Y. Shanmugasundaram, Shri B.B. Tandon and Dr. H. Thansanga could not attend the meeting and were granted leave of absence.

Item No.235.1 (i) Confirmation of the Minutes of the 234th meeting of the Executive Council held on 29th March, 2000.

A member made a request for reviving the practice of making available to the candidates at the time of counting of votes, a list of members who cast

their votes. The Director said that he was examining the matter and will take an early decision. The minutes, thereafter, were confirmed.

(ii) Action Taken on the Minutes referred to above.

While taking note of the action taken on the minutes of the previous meeting, the Executive Council was apprised of the views of the Standing Committee with regard to the revival of Pondicherry Regional Branch. The Executive Council concurred with the Standing Committee that before according approval for revival of the Pondicherry Regional Branch, the membership of elected office bearers may be ascertained from office records and it may also be ensured that the proposal meets other requirements. Further, whether the Pondicherry Branch may be treated as Regional Branch or Local branch would depend on the strength of its members.

Some members were of the view that the Institute has not been liberal in admitting new members and this was coming in the way of formation of new branches or the revival of branches whose membership strength has depleted considerably. Some members also felt that there was no clear-cut policy on admission of new members and reasons for rejection must be communicated to the applicants.

The Chairman, Screening Committee for Admission of New Members however clarified that there was no discrimination against admission of members from any particular region and the applications were considered on the basis of clear-cut criteria fixed for admitting members. The restriction on membership was only to keep the number of members within manageable limit and effort was always made, as far as possible to accommodate the minimum requirement of local branches or new regional branches to make them viable.

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Item No.235.2 Draft Annual Report for 1999-2000.

The Executive Council approved the Draft Annual Report for 1999-2000 subject to suitable editorial changes and format of the Report by a Committee comprising Prof. S.P. Verma, Prof. (Mrs.) Noorjahan Bava and Director, IIPA, as recommended by the Standing Committee. The Executive Council also agreed with the Standing Committee that: (a) unfunded research projects may find mention in the individual contribution of the Faculty; (b) a small committee of the Executive Council members and Director may evaluate the quality of research work of faculty; (c) faculty members should not take up more than one research project at a time; and (d) faculty members whose research projects are unduly delayed or pending without valid reasons may not be allowed to undertake official foreign visits.

Item No.235.3 Balance-sheet and Audited Statement of Accounts for 1999-2000 together with the Report of the Chartered Accountants.

The Executive Council approved the Balance-sheet and Audited Statement of Accounts for 1999-2000 together with the Report of the Chartered Accountants and draft office replies thereon, and placed on record its appreciation for the efficient financial management of the Institute. It expressed ~~great~~ satisfaction over the sound financial position of the Institute during the year 1999-2000, particularly the substantial increase in internal resources and surpluses generated even after contributing Rs.55 lakhs to the Infrastructure Development Fund. The Executive Council agreed with the observations of the Standing Committee on the Report of the Chartered Accountants that:

(i) The Institute may pursue with U.P. Cooperative Spinning Mills Ltd. and M.P. Electricity Board for expediting necessary investment scrips/interest due on investments made with them. The Director informed

that the matter has already been taken up with the concerned organisations including a D.O. letter from him to the Chairman, M.P. Electricity Board in this regard. He also clarified that the investments were made in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Finance after due deliberations and decision by the Pension Fund Trust and taking into consideration the various options available at the time of investment.

(ii) Taking note of the concern of the Standing Committee on the inordinate delay on the part of some faculty members in completion of the research/consultancy projects and cost over runs in many cases, the Executive Council concurred with the Standing Committee that the Director should take up all cases of long outstanding balance grants against externally funded research projects with the concerned faculty members and that the decision to write-off cases which are beyond recovery may be taken up thereafter.

The Executive Council further agreed with the suggestion of the Standing Committee that the Director may write letters to each faculty member seeking status report on his/her research project(s) including the scheduled/expected time of completion, realisation of project funds, expenditure incurred so far, cost over-runs (if any), etc., and that the faculty members should, incur expenditure on research projects within the sanctioned grant and follow-up with the sponsoring organisations for timely release of the project grants. Of course, their efforts for realization of the Research grants be appropriately supplemented by the office.

Some members brought to the notice of the Executive Council th inadequacy of the financial assistance being given by IIPA to the Branches However Considering the improved financial position of the Institute, th

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Executive Council approved that the financial assistance to Regional and Local Branches be generally raised as follows:

(i) Regional Branches - Rs.10,000/- per year, inclusive of assistance for the prelude Conference.

(ii) Local Branches - Rs. 5,000/- per year, inclusive of assistance for the prelude Conference.

The above grants would be in addition to the financial assistance separately earmarked for carrying out Research Projects by Regional and Local Branches. In this connection, the Director mentioned that a provision of Rs.2 lakhs has been kept in the Plan Funds allocation for 2000-2001 for research grant to the Branches in addition to last year's unspent balance of Rs.3 lakhs. The Executive Council was appreciative of the fact that some Branches, both Regional and Local, have already been provided financial assistance for carrying out research projects.

The Executive Council also desired that the narration on Finance and Accounts in the Report should contain a comparative statement highlighting the innovations brought out during the year in the finances of the Institute.

Item No.235.4 Draft remarks on suggestions/observations made by members in the AGM held on 30th October, 1999.

As recommended by the Standing Committee, the Executive Council approved the draft remarks on suggestions/observations made by members in the last AGM, subject to suitable editorial changes by a Committee comprising Prof. S.P. Verma, Prof. (Mrs.) Noorjahan Bava and Director, IIPA.

Item No.235.5 Removal of Members in arrear for more than two years (1998 & 1999) from the roll of membership of the Institute under Rule 35(1).

While taking note of the removal of members whose subscription is in arrear for more than two years as approved by the Standing Committee, the Executive Council felt that efforts should be made to persuade Corporate members to renew their subscription. It further desired that the Director may convene a meeting of Corporate members to ascertain their requirements and the type of interaction they expect from the Institute.

Item No.235.6 Formation of IIPA Indore Local Branch.

The Executive Council approved the formation of IIPA Indore Local Branch, as recommended by the Standing Committee.

Item No.235.7 Recommendation of the Screening Committee for Admission of New Members.

Noted.

Item No.235.8 Items to Report:

(i) Action with regard to Bihar Regional Branch.

Noted. The Executive Council placed on record its appreciation of the efforts put in by the Committee comprising Shri B.C. Mathur and Shri S.S. Singhania and the assistance provided by Dr. B.B. Malhotra, Dy. Registrar, in resolving the matter and holding of fresh election.

(ii) Extension of probation of Dr. Dolly Arora for another three months.

Noted. The Executive Council agreed with the Standing Committee that no further extension of probation be granted to Dr. Dolly Arora and that she may be relieved from IIPA on 31.8.2000 A.N. if no request is received from her for confirmation in IIPA by then. The Executive Council further endorsed the view of the Standing Committee that in future, the terms of deputation/lien in case of new appointees should be settled well in advance before their joining.

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(iii) Grant of Dearness Allowance instalment to IIPA employees.

Noted.

(iv) Visits abroad of Director's and faculty members.

Noted.

Item No.235.9 Any other Business with permission of the Chairman.

(i) Proposals for Utilisation of IX Plan Funds for the year 2000-2001.

The Executive Council approved the proposals for utilisation of IX Plan Funds for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) The Executive Council was of the view that the action of Shri S.S. Singhania in circulating election appeal through his official channel may not be discussed at this stage when the election process is on and that the consideration of the matter may be deferred till the election process is complete.

(iii) In regard to the safe upkeep of ballot papers, while taking note of the discussion in the matter in the meeting of the Standing Committee, the Executive Council felt that since the election process has already begun, it would not be desirable to depart from the existing procedure as it was in accordance with the Executive Council decision taken in 1990. As such the suggestion of the Standing Committee for keeping the ballot papers in a sealed box was ~~not endorsed by the Executive Council~~ deferred.

To an observation made by a member regarding issue of duplicate ballot papers to members who have intimated change in their addresses, the Director explained that through the election notice it was clearly communicated to all the members that requests for change of address may be made latest by 9th June, 2000. Therefore, requests for effecting change of address after this date are not being entertained till the election process is over. This being so, duplicate Ballot Papers (on request) would only be sent on the address as existing in our records.

(iv) Collaboration with ECOLE Nationale d'Administration (ENA), France.

The Executive Council expressed its happiness at the signing of Memorandum of Association between ENA and IIPA for collaboration in areas of mutual interest and twinning arrangements, viz. conduct of training courses, commissioning of joint research projects in Public Administration, exchange of faculty members and experts, holding of joint seminars/symposia/workshops on issues of topical interest and sharing of information, etc.

(v) Public Lectures on 'Governance in India : Today & Tomorrow'.

The Executive Council appreciated the Director's initiative in launching a new Lecture series on 'Governance in India : Today & Tomorrow' and that the first lecture in the series would be delivered by Dr. R. Venkataraman, former President of India, on October 18, 2000. Some members desired that these lectures may be printed and copies thereof as well as of documentation on seminars/conferences organised by the Institute, may be sent to the Branches of the Institute.

(vi) Letter dated 29th May, 2000 from the Chairman, IIPA Madhya Pradesh Regional Branch.

Taking note of a request from the Chairman, Madhya Pradesh Regional Branch that Regional and Local Branches may be permitted to admit 'Local Members' who fulfill the qualifications laid down in Rule 4 on payment of prescribed fee, the Executive Council desired that the proposal may first be referred to Dr. Subramanian Committee for consideration.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(S.B. CHAVAN)
CHAIRMAN

(M.C. GUPTA)
DIRECTOR &
MEMBER-SECRETARY