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File No. N – 9 / 17 / 2014 - NM
Government of India
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Justice

Jaisalmer House,
26, Mansingh Road, New Delhi – 11.
Dated: 04.09.2014

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of First Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee to consider Research / Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms'- Regarding.

Please find enclosed herewith minutes of first meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee chaired by Secretary, Department of Justice, on 26th August, 2014 to consider Research / Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' for your kind information.

C. K. Reejonia
(C. K. Reejonia)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.
Tel. / Fax No. 011 – 2307 2146.
E-mail : ckreejonia@nic.in

Enclosure: As Above.

Members of the Project Sanctioning Committee:

- 18579/14 ✓ 1. Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor (Law and Justice), Ministry of Law and Justice, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✓ 2. Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
- ✓ 3. Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice, Jaisalmer House, 26-Mansingh Road, New Delhi.
- ✓ 4. Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India, 14th Floor, Hindustan Times House Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
- ✓ 5. Director, Indian Law Institute, Opposite Supreme Court of India, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi.
- ✓ 6. Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhadbhadha Road, Suraj Nagar P.O., Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Copy to: Sr. PPS to Secretary (Justice).



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**Minutes of the First Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee
(PSC) of the Plan Scheme, Action Research and Studies on Judicial
Reforms' held on 26th August, 2014**

The first meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) to consider research / project proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' was held on 26th August 2014 at New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Anita Kaul, Secretary, Department of Justice. Ms. Bharathi S. Sihag, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor (Law), Shri Ravindra Maithani, Secretary-General, Supreme Court of India, Shri Anil Kumar Gulati, Joint Secretary & Mission Director, Department of Justice, Dr. Pawan Sharma, Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India, Professor (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute, Professor (Dr.) Balram K. Gupta, Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal and Shri C. K. Reejonia, Deputy Secretary (National Mission), Department of Justice, attended the meeting as members of the PSC.

Secretary (Justice) welcomed the members of the PSC and stated that 13 proposals have been received so far from various institutions under the Scheme. Six proposals are ready for consideration of the Committee, and the others are under correspondence with the concerned institutions. She requested Joint Secretary and Mission Director of National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms to initiate discussion on the proposals that were shortlisted for the consideration by the PSC.

JS (MD) gave an overview of the genesis and objectives of the Scheme. He stated that the Scheme was recommended by the Working Group for 12th Five Year Plan and supported by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice. It was felt that there was need to build the capacity of law schools and judicial academies for action research in the areas which needed judicial reforms. The recommendations on the various issues concerning dispensation of justice in the action research studies could contribute to the reforms process leading to improvements in the justice delivery.

As per guidelines of the Scheme, studies could be commissioned through Law Universities, Judicial Academies, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Law Institute, National Council for Applied Economic Research and other reputed research organizations. Initially, communications were sent to all National Law Schools, National Judicial Academy and State Judicial Academies with an illustrative list of topics inviting proposals. Later, similar communications were addressed to Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Law Institute (ILI), Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Administrative Staff College of India and National Council for Applied Economic Research. The Scheme was placed on the web-site of Department of Justice for wide publicity. The proposals received from various institutions were reviewed by the Mission Directorate, and six proposals were found to be ready for being placed for the consideration of the PSC.

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Deputy Secretary, National Mission, made a presentation on the six proposals to be considered by the PSC.

Proposal I- Assessment of Legal Education in India and the Road Ahead submitted by IIT, Kharagpur

IIT Kharagpur has proposed to undertake a study on the varied international practices with regard to Continuing Legal Education for Advocates to develop a best practices code. The main deliverable will be the report consisting of various recommendations for developing a model of continuing legal education suited for implementation in India. The proposed budget of the study is Rs 24.90 lakh and the duration of the study will be two years.

Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor (Law and Justice), (AS & FA) sought clarification on the linkage between the findings of the study and its subsequent implementation. JS (MD) clarified that implementation of continuing legal education essentially lies with the Bar Council of India (BCI). The recommendations of the study will be shared with BCI and the Department of Legal Affairs (DLA) who are the nodal department for this purpose. Secretary (Justice) added that besides BCI the report will also be shared with other stakeholders such as National Law Schools. DoJ will play an advocacy role in the implementation of recommendations.

Director, National Judicial Academy supported the need for such a study and mentioned that currently there is very little effort on developing Continuing Legal Education in India and the recommendations emerging from this study can strengthen the role and contribution of the advocates in the justice delivery system. Secretary (Justice) suggested that one north-eastern state should be included in the list of target States shortlisted by the institution for field study. Accordingly, the institution would be asked to make necessary change in their proposal.

Decisions

- (i) The Committee approved the project proposal '*in-principle*'.
- (ii) The institution will be asked to include one North-Eastern State as part of its field study.
- (iii) The institutional overhead charges as 20% of the project cost are on the higher side. It was decided that the institute may be asked to furnish details of expenditure covered under institutional overhead charges. The matter shall be referred to Integrated Finance Division for a policy decision on the subject.
- (iv) A standard schedule of disbursement of funds should be followed as far as possible in all cases for which a policy decision could be taken in consultation with AS & FA.

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Proposal II – Unreasonable Delay in Criminal Trials: An insight into the ground of reality of Indian Judicial Structure submitted by West Bengal National University of Judicial Sciences, Kolkata.

AS & FA observed that the research methodology and sampling selection procedure of the proposal was quite vague. Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, raised concern on the methodology and the questionnaires submitted by the institution. He observed that there is no clarity on the deliverables. Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India (LCI), informed that the Commission is already undertaking a comprehensive review of the Criminal Justice System, and its report is likely to be submitted by next year. AS & FA observed that there are numerous Police Commission reports already available that examine the issues in detail and provide enough recommendations.

Decision

The Committee did not approve the proposal.

Proposal III – A study on Court Management Techniques for improving the efficiency of courts submitted by NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

This proposal aims to undertake an impact assessment of functioning of court managers in enhancing justice dispensation, accessibility and efficiency of the courts. The proposed budget for the study is estimated to be Rs. 25.38 lakh and the study will be completed in a time span of 18 months.

Secretary General, Supreme Court of India observed that this would be a useful study, and will definitely help in assessing the performance of Court Managers. Director, National Judicial Academy also supported this view. JS (MD) mentioned that the Scheme for appointment of Court Managers at High Court and District Courts was part of the Thirteenth Finance Commission recommendations and it would be useful to analyze the impact of the scheme on improvement in court management and speedier dispensation of justice.

AS & FA raised concern about payment of consultancy or honorarium to permanent staff members of the research agency from the project costs. Director, Indian Law Institute observed that this issue can be examined with reference to the practices prescribed under the University Grants Commission norms for undertaking research projects by academic institutions. Secretary (J) mentioned that the budget for the study should be within the prescribed ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs.

Decisions

- (i) The Committee approved the project proposal 'in-principle'.
 - (ii) Institution would be asked to furnish details of expenditure covered under institutional overhead charges. Total budget for the research study should be kept within the ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs.
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- (iii) The matter regarding payment of consultancy charges / honorarium to the permanent staff / faculty of the academic institution would be examined with reference to the norms / guidelines of the University Grants Commission.

Proposal IV – Proposal received from Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab to organize two conferences on Judicial Reforms

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab has proposed to organize two Conferences to study the challenges faced by our judicial system and to provide effective and workable solutions for judicial reforms. The Committee felt that if conferences and seminars are organized as a part of research project, the same could be considered for funding under the scheme. However, the institution has not indicated that these conferences are part of any research project / programme undertaken by them and accordingly it was decided not to support this proposal.

Decision

The Committee did not approve the proposal.

Proposed V – Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms and Legal Aid in the Settlement of Disputes: A case study of State of West Bengal

It is proposed to study the working of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms as provided under the existing laws in urban, semi-urban and rural areas in the State of West Bengal. The study is proposed to be completed in a time span of 2 years at the cost of Rs. 23.86 lakhs which is within the prescribed ceiling.

The Committee felt that the study is quite relevant in the context of the objective of the National Mission, which includes promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms. Secretary General, Supreme Court felt that there was a need for improving the linkages between the institutional mechanisms of ADR and Legal Service Authorities. Hence this study can provide necessary recommendations on improving these linkages.

Decisions

- (i) The Committee approved the project proposal 'in-principle'.
- (ii) Institution would be asked to furnish details of expenditure covered under institutional overhead charges.
- (iii) The matter regarding payment of consultancy charges / honorarium to the permanent staff / faculty of the academic institution would be examined with reference to the norms / guidelines of the University Grants Commission.
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Proposal VI - Reinventing Tradition: An Enquiry into the efficiency, effectiveness and essence of Gram Nyayalaya Act, 2008 submitted by National Law Institute University, Bhopal.

The proposal aims at studying the implementation of Gram Nyayalaya Act in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand to recommend necessary measures for effective implementation of the Act. The study has time span of 18 months at the proposed cost of Rs. 1 crore.

The Committee felt that Indian Law Institute has already undertaken a detailed study on working of the Gram Nyayalaya in the State of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Draft Report of the study has already been submitted to the Department of Justice and its recommendations are likely to be finalized shortly by ILI after holding a Round Table Conference with the stakeholders. In view of the above, the Committee felt that there was no need to take up this study.

Decision

The Committee did not approve the proposal.

Concluding the discussions, the Committee Members expressed the view that the Scheme needs to be given wider publicity by organizing a Conference of premier universities and Law Schools to promote Action Research on Judicial Reforms.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.


File No. N – 9 / 1 / 2015 - NM
Government of India
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Justice

Jaisalmer House,
26, Mansingh Road, New Delhi – 11.
Dated: 11.02.2015

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: **Minutes of Second Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee to consider Research / Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms'- Regarding.**

Please find enclosed herewith minutes of second meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee chaired by Secretary, Department of Justice, on 28th January, 2015 to consider Research / Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' for your kind information and record.


(C. K. Reejonia)

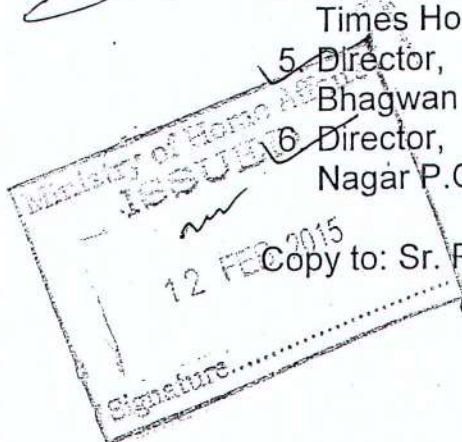
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Enclosure: As Above.

Members of the Project Sanctioning Committee:

- P.O. No. 518015
1. Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor (Law and Justice), Ministry of Law and Justice, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
 2. Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
 3. Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice, Jaisalmer House, 26-Mansingh Road, New Delhi.
 4. Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India, 14th Floor, Hindustan Times House Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
 5. Director, Indian Law Institute, Opposite Supreme Court of India, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi.
 6. Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhadbhadha Road, Suraj Nagar P.O., Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Copy to: Sr. PPS to Secretary (Justice).



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Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the Scheme of Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms being implemented by Department of Justice.

The Second Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) to consider research / project proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' was held on 28th January 2015 at New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Kusumjit Sidhu, Secretary (Justice). List of the participants in the meeting is attached as **Annexure**.

Secretary (Justice) welcomed all the members, which was followed by round of introduction. She requested the Joint Secretary & Mission Director of National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms (JS / MD) to initiate the discussion.

JS/MD gave a brief overview and background of the Action Research Scheme. He mentioned that the Scheme was recommended by the Working Group for 12th Five Year Plan and supported by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice. It was felt that there was need to build the capacity of law schools and judicial academies for action research in the areas which needed judicial reforms. The Scheme was formulated and approved in 2013. National Mission circulated an illustrative list of topics to reputed institutions / universities and proposals were invited. 17 proposals have been received under the Scheme since its inception from various Judicial Academies, National Law Schools, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institute of Technology and other reputed organizations. Initially six proposals were short-listed and placed before the PSC for its consideration in the first meeting held on 26th August, 2014. Three of these proposals were approved by the PSC. The three proposals which were approved have been referred to Integrated Finance Division (IFD) for their concurrence. He informed that a draft of agreement with the research institutions along with a detailed schedule for disbursement of funds has been prepared with the approval of Secretary (Justice) and has been sent along with the three proposals for concurrence of IFD. Six more proposals are now ready for the consideration of the PSC and the same are placed in today's meeting.

The members were requested to confirm the minutes of the first meeting of the PSC. The minutes of the first PSC meeting were confirmed.

The members were, thereafter, informed about the Action-Taken on the minutes of the first meeting of the PSC. It was informed that the IIT, Kharagpur had agreed to add one North-Eastern State in the research study as recommended by the PSC in the last meeting. It was also informed that with regard to the detailed breakup relating to institutional overhead charges all the three agencies had submitted the detailed breakup. With regard to the issue raised in the last meeting on the payment of honorarium to the permanent faculty of the institutions a clarification was sought from the University Grants Commission (UGC). UGC in its reply has enclosed Twelfth Plan guidelines for Major Research Project Scheme. On perusal of the guidelines, it was observed that these guidelines are not relevant for our purpose as they are not meant for regular employees of the Universities / Research Institutions. It was observed that different institutions have their own set of rules and regulations. There is no uniformity in the procedures followed in different institutions.

Director (Finance) raised the issue relating to institutions charging different rates of overhead charges. He stated that there should be standardized norm for payment of

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overhead institutional charges under the Scheme. Secretary (Justice) observed that a policy decision needs to be taken on this issue. Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, was also of the opinion that there should be standardized overhead institutional charges mentioned in the Scheme itself. However, JS / MD observed that the institutions which are short-listed are either statutory bodies or registered societies that are governed by their own set of rules and regulations framed for this purpose. They are receiving funds and grants from various Ministries and Public Authorities and it may not be appropriate to adopt a single rate for payment of overhead institutional charges. He was of the view that this issue could be decided on a case by case basis in consultation with the IFD. Secretary (Justice) agreeing with the JS / MD suggested that the institution could be asked to provide details of the institutional overhead cost and we may recommend a ceiling of overall overhead cost. AS & FA (Law) agreeing with the Secretary (Justice) observed that a decision in this regard would be taken after examining the proposals which are presently under consideration of IFD.

A presentation was made by Project Manager, JDLR on the six proposals to be considered by the PSC.

Proposal I- Analysis of Causes for Pendency in High Courts and Subordinate Courts, Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad.

ASCI, Hyderabad proposed to undertake a study on the analysis of causes of pendency in High Courts and Subordinate Courts by analyzing sample cases from High Courts and Subordinate Courts. The proposed budget of the study is Rs. 22 lakh and the duration of the study is one year.

Acting Director, NJA observed that several studies have been undertaken to examine the causes of pendency in courts by various expert committees including the Law Commission of India and large volume of recommendations are already available on the topic of pendency. Secretary General, Supreme Court, was also of the same view. Secretary (Justice) suggested that instead of looking into the procedural aspect of the pendency problem, the study may focus on the managerial aspect by looking into issues relating to court management.

Decisions:

- (i) It was decided that the implementing agency will be requested to submit a revised proposal.
- (ii) The research objective in the revised proposal should focus on court management.

Proposal II- Judicial Information Research System, Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

The proposal aims to develop prototype database software of judgments in the area of criminal law to provide quick search facilities, case summaries and sentencing patterns for sentence predictability. This would facilitate judicial officers in taking appropriate decisions. The proposed cost of the project is Rs. 47, 43,360 and the duration is two years.

Secretary General, Supreme Court mentioned that there is no sentencing policy in India and the apex court through its various decisions has laid down the guidelines.

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As such a database consisting of various decisions of the apex court tailored to the purpose can be useful. He, however, mentioned that several databases comprising of case laws already exist. Secretary (Justice) while agreeing with the point raised by the Secretary General felt that such a software could have multiple utilities for all stakeholders. JS / MD stated that while there is no compulsion to follow all the recommendations that may arise out of the study, but such studies help the cause of innovation in the field of judicial reforms. AS & FA suggested that the agency needs to be intimated that once the software is ready it should be possible for the Department of Justice to share it with other stakeholders. She was also of the view that the relationship between the Department of Justice and Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur was that of principal and agent and consequently Intellectual Property Rights must necessarily rests with Department of Justice.

Decision:

- (i) It was decided that the implementing agency will be requested to submit a revised proposal.
- (ii) The revised proposal will require modifying the objective of the study from "sentence predictability" to facilitating judicial officers on issues relating to sentencing.
- (iii) The agency shall be requested to limit its budget within the prescribed ceiling limit of Rs 25 lakh of the scheme.
- (iv) The agency shall be conveyed that the intellectual property rights of the software and other deliverables of the research study shall remain with the Department of Justice. The agency needs to convey their agreement for this.

Proposal III- Study of Court Processes and Re-engineering Opportunities for Improving Court Efficiencies for Justice Delivery in India, Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata

The study will focus on identifying the bottlenecks and the policies contributing to court delays. It will further identify the processes where computerization can be introduced for process automation and standard operating procedure. The proposed cost of the study is Rs. 3,50,000 and the duration is one and a half years.

Decision:

- (i) The Committee approved the proposal.

Proposal IV- Impact of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on Public Opinion: A Study of Select Cases in Delhi Metropolis, Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi

The broad objective of the study is to assess the degree to which PILs are capable of aptly addressing the social issues in the public opinion formation and assess the degree of pendency of cases in the context of reducing its time frame from 15 to 3 years. The proposed cost of the study is Rs. 56,04,000 and the duration is one year.

JS / MD stated that the proposed budget is far above the maximum ceiling limit of Rs 25 lakh. He further observed that although the subject of indiscriminate use of PIL is a very important issue but the steps that are necessary to curb such practices are within the domain of the judiciary. Acting Director, NJA observed that the objective of the

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proposed study is vague and does not provide in clear terms what will be the final outcome of the study. The Secretary General, Supreme Court observed that Supreme Court has imposed several conditions on filing of PILs including creation of a committee that requires examining every PIL before it is heard. In similar way few High Courts have also initiated steps to curb indiscriminate use of PILs. He further pointed out that the proposal does not exhibit a proper methodology to be used for conducting the study.

Decision:

- (i) The committee did not approve the proposal.

Proposal V- Study on major bottlenecks in procedural laws affecting expeditious conclusions of criminal trials and measures needed to remove such bottlenecks, Judicial Academy, Jharkhand

The study aims to find out the procedural lacunae in dispensation of criminal justice and to understand the problems from the view point of the different stakeholders of the justice system. The proposed cost of the study is Rs.10,00,000/- and the duration of the study is one year.

It was the general view that a study of this kind on the criminal justice side would be extremely useful. JS /MD mentioned that as the study will be conducted by a Judicial Academy they will have better access to court data and processes. Director, India Law Institute suggested that the agency may be requested to also include a district from the Santhal Pargana region of the Jharkhand State to ensure a comprehensive representation of the whole State in the data set.

Decisions:

- (i) The Committee approved the proposal.
- (ii) The institution will be asked to include a balanced representation of districts as part of its field study from all the regions of the State.

Proposal VI- Performance indicators for subordinate courts and suggestive policy / procedural changes for reducing civil case pendency, Indian Institute of Management, Kashipur

The objective of the study is to evaluate the performance of the subordinate courts based on the indicators developed on the basis of this research. The proposed cost of the study is Rs.25,00,000 and the duration is one year and four months.

It was felt that this would be a useful study, and will help identification of certain parameters for assessing the performance of Courts. JS / MD stated that the National Court Management System (NCMS) established by the Hon'ble Supreme Court is also seized of this matter and the recommendations of the study can be shared with the NCMS.

Decision:

- (i) The Committee approved the proposal.

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Concluding the discussion, Secretary Justice suggested that the Scheme can be beneficially utilized for getting research studies done by reputed institutes in the country on important topics on judicial reforms. She requested Secretary General, Supreme Court to discuss this matter internally and provide a list of topics where studies can be undertaken with the support of this Scheme. She also suggested that studies may be commissioned to examine how the legal-aid delivery mechanism to under-trials can be standardized and for developing a curriculum for training of judicial officers on commercial laws and court and case management techniques.

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

Second Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the Scheme of Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms being implemented by Department of Justice.

List of Participants

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Ms. Kusumjit Sidhu, Secretary, Department of Justice; | Chairperson |
| 2. Ms. Bharathi S. Sihag, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Law and Justice; | Member |
| 3. Shri A. V. Vaidhani, Secretary General, Supreme Court of India; | Member |
| 4. Shri Anil Kumar Gulati, Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice; | Member |
| 5. Professor (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi; | Member |
| 6. Professor (Dr.) Geeta Oberoi, Acting Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal; | Member |
| 7. Shri C. K. Reejonja, Deputy Secretary (National Mission), Department of Justice; and | Member-Secretary |
| 8. Shri H. C. Azad, Director (Finance), Ministry of Law and Justice | Special Invitee |

File No. N – 9 / 19 / 2015 - NM
Government of India
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Justice

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Jaisalmer House,
26, Mansingh Road, New Delhi – 11.
Dated: 31.12.2015

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: **Minutes of Third Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee to consider Research / Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms'- Regarding.**

Please find enclosed herewith minutes of third meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee chaired by Secretary, Department of Justice, on 21st December, 2015 to consider Research / Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' for your kind information and record.

C. K. Reejonia

(C. K. Reejonia)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

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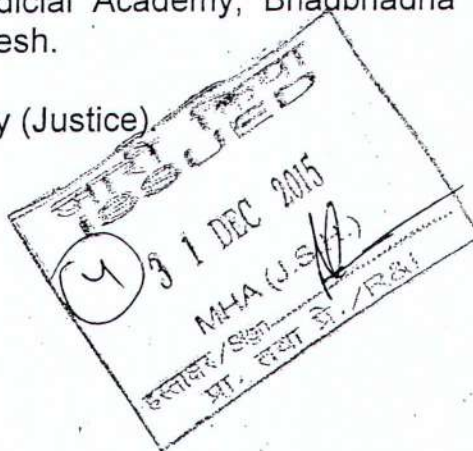
Enclosure: As Above.

Members of the Project Sanctioning Committee:

- 1/ Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor (Law and Justice), Ministry of Law and Justice, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. P.B. No. 6/2015
- 2/ Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
- 3/ Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice, Jaisalmer House, 26-Mansingh Road, New Delhi. → *31/12/15*
- 4/ Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India, 14th Floor, Hindustan Times House Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
- 5/ Director, Indian Law Institute, Opposite Supreme Court of India, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi.
- 6/ Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhadbadha Road, Suraj Nagar P.O., Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Copy to: PSO to Secretary (Justice)

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Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the Scheme of Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms being implemented by Department of Justice.

The Third Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) to consider research / project proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' was held on 21st December, 2015 at New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Kusumjit Sidhu, Secretary (Justice). The list of the participants in the meeting is attached (**Annex - I**). Secretary (Justice) welcomed the members present and requested the Joint Secretary (AKG) to initiate the proceedings.

2. JS (AKG) through a power point presentation gave a brief overview and background of the Scheme and the progress of research proposals sanctioned so far during the previous meetings. It was informed that Director, Indian Law Institute, was unable to attend the meetings as he was going out of station. He telephonically expressed his support for the research proposals coming for discussion. He was, however, not in favour of financing seminars which are not a part of research projects.

3. JS (AKG) thereafter highlighted the three policy decisions taken so far under the Scheme of Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms, *namely*, the institutional overhead charges to be restricted to 15% of the project cost, the payment of consultancy charges / honorarium to the permanent staff / faculty of the academic institution to be paid if allowed under the rules and regulation of the Institute / Organization and projects for organizing workshops / conferences / seminars if not being a part of the research projects may not be considered for funding under the Scheme. Thereafter, he informed the Committee regarding the two policy decisions which were to be considered by the Project Sanctioning Committee. The first policy decision pertained to the issue of the ownership of intellectual property rights (IPRs) accruing on the output of the project. It was informed that as per the terms of the agreement to be entered into between the Department of Justice and the implementing agency, the ownership of the final report / output of the proposal shall vest with the Department of Justice. As such, it was decided that matters relating to IPR and Copy right, if any, be dealt with accordingly. The second policy issue for consideration before the Committee pertained to the applicability of Service Tax on research projects under the Scheme. JS (AKG) informed that the clarifications of the Department of Revenue on this issue has been received and the same was circulated to the members. Department of Revenue has clarified that *prima facie*, there is no service tax on research projects / studies under the Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms. A copy of this clarification is attached (**Annex - II**).

The research proposals to be considered in the meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee were circulated to all members well in advance. The proposals were gone through by the members and the following decisions were taken:

Proposal I - Judicial Information Research System from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur has proposed to undertake a study to develop prototype database software of judgments in area of criminal law and provide quick and user-friendly search facilities for latest updates, case summaries, and sentencing patterns in order to facilitate judicial officers on issues relating to sentencing. This research proposal was earlier placed before Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) in its Second meeting held on 28.01.2015. As per the decision of PSC, the institute was

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requested to revise the proposal by modifying the objective of the study from "sentence predictability" to facilitating judicial officers on issues relating to sentencing, limit its budget within prescribed limit of Rs. 25 lacs and that the agency should convey its agreement that the intellectual property rights of the software and other deliverable of the research study shall remain with the Department of Justice. The institute has submitted its revised proposal with modified objectives and reduced budget to Rs. 25,71,360/-. With respect to IPR rights, the institute has stated that the intellectual property of the software and other deliverable of the research study could be jointly owned by the Department of justice and IIT Kharagpur on agreed terms.

Decision:

The Committee deliberated on this research proposal in detail and felt that proposal is about collection and collation of data and not a research study. Such data is already available, *for example*, in Manupatra. The emphasis is on preparation of software to make information available. The outcome of the research study would be static and need to be updated on regular basis. It was decided that the institute may be asked to make a presentation before Project Sanctioning Committee in its next meeting.

Proposal II - Analysis of Causes for Pendency in High Courts and Subordinate Courts for Improved Court Management from Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad

This research proposal was earlier placed before Project Sanctioning Committee in its Second meeting held on 28.01.2015. As per the decision of PSC, the institute was requested to revise the proposal so that research objective in the revised proposal should focus on court management. Institute has submitted its revised proposal and has included improving court management as one of the objectives. The institute has proposed to undertake research study to identify the causes for pendency of court cases in High Courts and Subordinate Courts by analysing a sample of cases; to understand the pattern, if any, of case pendency for each class of cases and to identify principles to be adopted for reducing pendency and thereby improving court management. The proposed cost of the Study is Rs. 23,75,000/- and duration is one year.

Deputy Secretary (Finance) pointed out that expenses on travel indicated by the institute in this case accounts for nearly one-third of the project cost. It was however felt by other members that on the request of this Department, the institute has increased the scope of research and major activity under the project relates to collection of data and surveys which may involve a lot of travelling by the research study team.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

Proposal III - The Anatomy of Judicial Pendency from Maharashtra Judicial Academy in collaboration with Gokhale Institute of politics & Economics (GIPE).

The study will quantify the amount and causes of pendency in different types of courts and cases; and to suggest remedies for reducing pendency and delays. This project proposes to study the judicial pendency problem from both quantitative and qualitative perspective. It relies on application of various statistical techniques appropriate

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for large databases to undertake the analysis of judicial pendency. Based on the qualitative and quantitative analysis so undertaken, the final product of the proposed study will be the formulation of actionable plan that ensures the timely and low cost justice delivery to the litigants. Funds will be released to Maharashtra Judicial Academy which will be responsible for monitoring of the project being undertaken by GIPE. Proposed cost of the study is Rs.25,82,670/-. However, with clarification received on Service Tax cost will come within the ceiling prescribed. The duration of the study is one year. The members of the Committee felt that it was a good proposal and should therefore be approved.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

Proposal IV - Shifting Paradigms: Making Clinical Legal Education Relevant from National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.

The broad objective of the study is to get a bird's eye view on the state of Clinical legal education in India from the point of view of different stakeholders; to develop strategies for overcoming obstacles to Clinical legal education and for promoting Clinical legal education in law Universities and colleges; to draw from the comparative experiences relevant to the Indian context from other parts of the world; and to have a brainstorming cum dissemination conference which will not just test the strategies developed but also help both colleges and universities which are planning to offer Clinical legal education programme or are facing obstacles in existing programmes. The proposal seeks to review the present framework in law Universities and colleges to assess the extent to which they provide for the Clinical legal education experience for the students. It will also look at the challenges faced by these institutions in providing a platform for the implementation of human rights law clinics in India. The proposed cost of the research study is Rs. 25,49,895/-. However, with clarifications on Service Tax, the cost of the study will come within the ceiling prescribed. The duration of the study is one year. The Committee discussed the proposal and the members were of the view that the proposal has merits and should be approved.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

Proposal V - Two Days National Seminar for High Court and District Court Judges titled "*National Seminar on Cyber Crimes and Indian Criminal Justice Administration*" from Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy

The aim of the two Days Seminar is to create awareness among the members of the Judiciary on the emerging legal and social trends on the criminal activities *vis-à-vis* the cyber world and the response of the criminal justice administration of the country. A communication was sent to the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy stating that the view of the Project Sanctioning Committee on a similar proposal was that if proposed conferences and seminars are not organized as part of a research project the same could not be considered under the Scheme. However, the Tamil Nadu State Judicial Academy has re-submitted the proposal saying that the Governing Body of the Academy has directed to reiterate the proposal since guidelines of the Scheme provide for extending financial support to such proposals. Proposed cost is Rs. 25,00,000/- and duration is two days.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation did not approve the proposal.

Proposal VI- Impact Assessment of the working of the Karnataka State Litigation Policy and the Karnataka Sakala Services Act, 2011 in reducing Government Litigation in the State of Karnataka from National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

The broad objectives of the proposed research project are to study the implementation of the State Litigation Policy of the State of Karnataka and analyze its impact in reducing number of pending cases in courts in light of the 10-point Action Plan evolved during the National Consultation with State Governments and High Courts in December, 2013; to study the working of the grievance redressal mechanisms as provided under the Karnataka Sakala Services Act, 2011 in effectively dealing with citizens demand for public services; to analyze the impact of the legislation (KSSA) in reducing government litigation relating to the specified public services in the state of Karnataka; and to conduct legal awareness camps at the grass root level for promoting the working of Sakala Services as an alternative mechanism to protect citizens rights and to secure the availability of public services in a time bound manner. Proposed cost of the study is Rs.24,72,546/- which included provision of Service Tax. The clarification received on Service Tax would be brought to the notice of the institution.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

Proposal VII - A Comparative Analysis of Performance Appraisal mechanisms and Schemes of Promotion in relation to the Judges of Subordinate Judiciary in different States in India from National Law University Odisha, Cuttack.

The broad objectives of the study are to conduct a comparative analysis of the performance appraisal mechanism and schemes of promotion in relation to the judges of subordinate judiciary in different states; to identify the prevalent best practices and model mechanisms in relation to the performance appraisal and schemes of promotion of the judges of subordinate judiciary in different States; and to make recommendations on the possibility of implementing uniform standards and policies concerning performance appraisal and schemes of promotion of the judges of subordinate judiciary. The study will conduct comparative analysis of the prevalent performance appraisal mechanism from different states of the country, take into account the best practices and will come up with suggestions for adopting a uniform policy and standards regarding performance appraisal and promotion schemes of judges in subordinate judiciary. Proposed cost is Rs. 24,10,000/- and duration is eighteen months.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

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Proposal VIII - Development and enforcement of performance standards to enhance accountability of the Higher Judiciary in India from Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.

The broad objective of the study is to develop a comprehensive composite of performance standards for reviewing the performance of judges of the Higher judiciary, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and establish a mechanism to enforce these performance standards. The study will take into account performance indicators from foreign countries and indicators obtained from sitting and retired Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court of India. The outcome of the research would be a report outlining detailed parameters emerging from the doctrinal and empirical research undertaken, to measure and review the performance of judges and broad performance Standards developed on the basis of parameters and would give recommendations for putting in place mechanism to enforce these performance standards. Proposed cost is Rs.19,05,000/- and duration is ten Months.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

Proposal IX - Strengthening Mediation as a viable Dispute Resolution Mechanism for India from Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.

The broad objectives of the study are to study the potential of mediation in out-of-court resolution of disputes, through an empirical study of mediation as carried out in India; and to suggest the necessary legislative amendments, and policy and institutional reforms needed to develop mediation as an effective alternative dispute resolution mechanism. The study will carry out detailed analysis of mediation practices in different jurisdictions, review of policy / legislative changes or rules governing mediation proceeding in different jurisdictions on laws relating to mediation. The outcome of the research would be a report outlining the effectiveness of mediation proceedings before the three High Courts of Delhi, Bombay and Allahabad. The report will give recommendations with respect to reforming mediation in India. The report will also provide a broad structure of specialized curriculum for training mediators professionally, in collaboration with the National Judicial Academy. The proposed cost of the study is Rs.17,77,000/- and duration is eight Months.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

Proposal X - Comparative Analysis of Causes for Pendency in Six High Courts and Six District Courts in India from Daksh, Bangalore.

The broad objectives of the study are to precisely identify and discuss in depth the causes of delay and pendency in Indian courts. Combining that analysis with data from public database and other sources, study intends to enumerate clear, workable solutions that can help bring down pendency significantly. The study aims to analyze causes for pendency in a local, specific and detailed manner. The data relating to pendency in six High Courts and six District courts shall be analyzed for the purpose. Outcome of the study would be implementable solutions to reduce and manage the problem of pendency based on research and findings. The proposed cost of the study is Rs.25,00,000/- and duration is one year.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

While concluding the discussions members of the Committee stressed on the need for monitoring the progress of ongoing research projects and undertaking periodic interaction with the institution concerned. In her concluding remarks, Secretary (Justice) requested the Secretary General, Supreme Court to suggest a few proposals covering the subject matter under the purview of National Court Management System on which research projects can be undertaken by various institutions.

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

Third Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the Scheme of Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms being implemented by Department of Justice.

List of Participants

1. Ms. Kusumjit Sidhu, Secretary, Department of Justice;	Chairperson
2. Shri Ravindra Maithani, Secretary General, Supreme Court of India;	Member
3. Shri Anil Kumar Gulati, Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice;	Member
4. Ms. (Dr.) Pawan Sharma, Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India;	Member
5. Professor (Dr.) Geeta Oberoi, Acting Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal;	Member
6. Shri C. K. Reejonia, Deputy Secretary (National Mission), Department of Justice; and	Member-Secretary
7. Shri K. Suresh Kumar, Deputy Secretary (Finance), Ministry of Law and Justice	Representing AS & FA

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F.No.354/308/2015-TRU
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Tax Research Unit

New Delhi, the 18th December, 2015

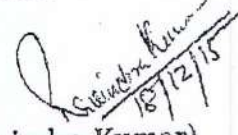
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Clarification on applicability of service Tax Act, 1994 on research projects under the Scheme for Action research and Studies on judicial reforms- reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to your OM No.- 9/12/2015 dated 23rd November, 2015 regarding the aforesaid subject and to state that prima facie, there is no service tax on research projects/studies. However, if any fee is charged and payments made for sharing the results of such research/ projects, service tax will be applicable. Service Tax will also be applicable on any services that may be outsourced for organising seminars/ conferences etc., and on any fee charged from participants/ researchers etc.

2. In case of research grant, when it is given with counter obligation on the researcher to provide IPR rights on the outcome of research or activity undertaken with the help of such grants then the grant is a consideration for the provision of service of research. If grants given for a research where the researcher is under no obligation to carry out a particular research would not be a consideration for such research. However, General grants for researches will not amount to a consideration. Moreover, conditions in a grant stipulating merely proper usage of funds and furnishing of account also will not result in making it a provision of service.

3. This issues with the approval of Chairman (CBEC).


(Dr. Ravindra Kumar)
Technical Officer (TRU)
Tel. No.: 2309 5547.

Shri C. K. Reejonja
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
(Department of Justice) Ministry of Law and Justice
Jaisalmer House, 26-Mansingh Road, New Delhi-110011

(8)

File No. N – 9 / 11 / 2016 - NM
Government of India
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Justice

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Jaisalmer House,
26, Mansingh Road, New Delhi – 11.
Dated: 28.03.2016

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: **Minutes of Fourth Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee to consider Research / Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms'- Regarding.**

Please find enclosed herewith minutes of fourth meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee chaired by Secretary, Department of Justice, on 22nd March, 2016 to consider Research / Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' for your kind information and record.


(C. K. Reejonia)


Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.
Tel. / Fax No. 011 – 2307 2146.
E-mail : ckreejonia@nic.in

Enclosure: As Above.

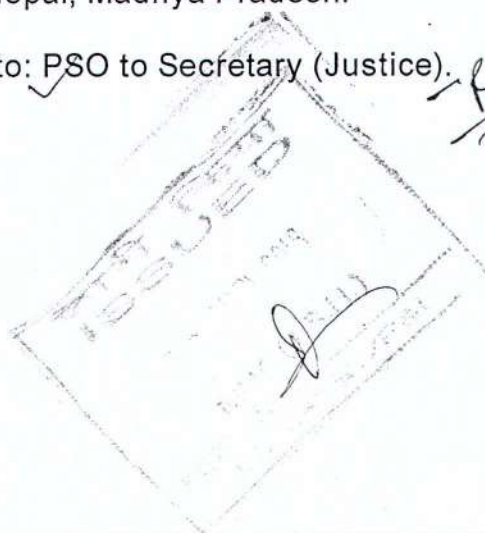
Members of the Project Sanctioning Committee:

1. ✓ Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor (Law and Justice), Ministry of Law and Justice, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. P.B. No. 10/2016.
2. ✓ Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
3. ✓ Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice, Jaisalmer House, 26-Mansingh Road, New Delhi.
4. ✓ Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India, 14th Floor, Hindustan Times House Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
5. ✓ Director, Indian Law Institute, Opposite Supreme Court of India, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi.
6. ✓ Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhadbhadha Road, Suraj Nagar P.O., Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Copy to: ✓ PSO to Secretary (Justice).


28/3/16

O/C



Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the 'Plan Scheme of Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' being implemented by 'Department of Justice' held on 22.03.2016.

The Fourth Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) to consider research / project proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' was held on 22nd March, 2016 at New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Kusumjit Sidhu, Secretary (Justice). The list of the participants in the meeting is attached (***Annex – I***). It was informed that Director, Indian Law Institute, was unable to attend the meetings as he was going out of station. Secretary (Justice) welcomed the members present and requested the Joint Secretary (AKG) to initiate the proceedings.

2. JS (AKG) through a power point presentation gave a brief overview of the project proposals placed before the Committee and the progress of research proposals sanctioned so far during the previous meetings.

3. It was pointed out by Finance Division that expenses on overhead charges indicated by the institute (NALSAR University of Law Hyderabad) for the projects under consideration exceed 15% of the project cost. It was, however, explained that the institute has included the cost of engagement of Research Assistant under Institutional Overhead charges for the proposed research projects. Excluding this item which comes under manpower cost, the overhead charges are well within the limit of 15%.

4. The research proposals to be considered in the meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee were circulated to all members well in advance. The proposals were gone through by the members and the following decisions were taken:

Proposal I – “A Study to create evidence-based proposals for reform of Legal Education in India-suggestions for reforms at National Law Universities set up through State Legislations” from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

NALSAR University of Law Hyderabad has proposed to undertake a research study to provide a set of empirically grounded recommendations for reforms in India's legal education sector-*especially* with regard to questions about the access to it, the socio-economic diversity in faculty / student composition, the quality of academic inputs, the prevalent stress levels for students, the social relevance of its output and the long-term financial viability of the institutions involved in delivering it. The research study proposes to conduct a nation-wide thorough study based on interactions with stakeholders on the state of legal education in India and to give concrete suggestions for reforms in respect of National Law Universities set up through State Legislations. Proposed cost of the study is Rs.13,03,008/- and duration is three months.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

Proposal II - “A Study to create evidence-based proposals for reform of Legal Education in India-suggestions for reforms in law programmes

offered at Central Universities / State Universities / Colleges affiliated to State Universities / Private Universities / Deemed Universities" from NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. 27

NALSAR University of Law Hyderabad has proposed to undertake a study to provide a set of empirically grounded recommendations for reforms in India's legal education sector-*especially* with regard to questions about the access to it, the socio-economic diversity in faculty / student composition, the quality of academic inputs, the prevalent stress levels for students, the social relevance of its output and the long-term financial viability of the institutions involved in delivering it. The research study proposes to conduct a nation-wide thorough study based on interactions with stakeholders on the state of legal education in India and to give concrete suggestions for reforms in respect of Central, State, Private and Deemed Universities that offer legal education in India. Proposed cost of the study is Rs. 18,82,106/- and duration is 6½ months.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

Proposal III – “An Analysis of the functioning of Lok Adalats in the Eastern Region of India” from Odisha Judicial Academy in association with National Law University Odisha, Cuttack.

Odisha Judicial Academy in association with National Law University, Odisha, Cuttack has proposed to study the prevalent state of affairs as regards the functioning of Lok Adalats in the Eastern Region of India; to scrutinise the performance of Lok Adalats in terms of statistical parameters to have a more comprehensive understanding of the structural capacities and deficiencies; to identify the issues and factors which are impeding a more efficient functioning of the Lok Adalats; and to identify the reformative measures through which the functioning of the Lok Adalats can be made more efficient. This project proposal intends to map Lok Adalats and its functioning in four States, *namely*, Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar and to come up with recommendations for reformative measures to improve existing system. Funds would be released to Odisha Judicial Academy which would be responsible for monitoring of the project being done with National Law University Odisha, Cuttack. Proposed cost of the study is Rs.20,34,000/- and duration is eighteen months.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

Proposal IV – “A Study of Courts in the State of Sikkim on major bottlenecks in Service of Summons under Order V of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, through a process server and measures needed to remove such bottlenecks *vis-a-vis* liberal use of alternative modes of service” from Sikkim Judicial Academy.

The main objective of the proposed research study is to ascertain whether or not the process service is one of the major reasons responsible for the delay in dispensation of speedy justice in the State of Sikkim; to identify the process needed

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remove bottlenecks, if any; and to ascertain the possibilities of alternative modes of service, *inter-alia*, prescribed under the Code. The researchers will study relevant laws; collect data from records of subordinate courts in Sikkim; and conduct interviews with Process Servers, Advocates, Judicial Officers and Litigants. The Law Commission's & other Reports on service of summons shall also be studied. Proposed cost of the study is Rs.2,99,640/- and duration is three months.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberation approved the proposal.

Proposal V – “Judicial Information Research System” from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.

This Project proposes to develop a prototype database software of judgments in area of criminal law; to provide quick and user-friendly search facilities for latest updates, case summaries, and sentencing patterns; to facilitate judicial officers on issues relating to sentencing; to design a platform, which may be replicated in all types of cases / decisions (civil, criminal) in future. With enhancing the data in the database the efficiency of the system will increase. This research proposal was earlier placed before Project Sanctioning Committee in its second meeting held on 28.01.2015. As per the decision of Project Sanctioning Committee, the institute was requested to revise the proposal by modifying the objective of the study from “*sentence predictability*” to facilitating judicial officers on issues relating to sentencing, limit its budget within prescribed limit of Rs. 25 lacs and that the agency should convey its agreement that the intellectual property rights of the software and other deliverable of the research study shall remain with the Department of Justice. The institute submitted its revised proposal with modified objectives and reduced budget to Rs. 25,71,360/-. With respect to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), the institute stated that the intellectual property of the software and other deliverable of the research study shall be jointly owned by the Department of Justice and IIT Kharagpur on agreed terms. The revised proposal was placed before the PSC in its third meeting held on 21.12.2015. The Committee decided that the institute may be asked to make a presentation before Project Sanctioning Committee in its next meeting. The institute was, accordingly, invited to make a presentation in the meeting. A Power Point Presentation was made by Dr. Indrajit Dube Associate Professor before the Project Sanctioning Committee highlighting the objectives and benefits of the Project *particularly* in reducing time-taken in delivering the judgments in criminal cases.

Decision:

The Committee after deliberations decided to defer the decision as some of the members wanted more time to examine the issues highlighted in the presentation.

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

Fourth Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the 'Scheme of Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' being implemented by Department of Justice. Held on 22.03.2016

List of Participants

1. Ms. Kusumjit Sidhu, Secretary, Department of Justice;	Chairperson
2. Shri Ravindra Maithani, Secretary General, Supreme Court of India;	Member
3. Shri Anil Kumar Gulati, Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice;	Member
4. Ms. (Dr.) Pawan Sharma, Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India;	Member
5. Professor (Dr.) Geeta Oberoi, Acting Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhopal;	Member
6. Shri C. K. Reejonia, Deputy Secretary (National Mission), Department of Justice; and	Member-Secretary
7. Shri K. Suresh Kumar, Deputy Secretary (Finance), Ministry of Law and Justice	Representing AS & FA

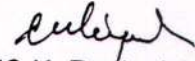
F. No.N-9/19/2016-NM
Government of India
Ministry of Law and Justice
Department of Justice

Jaisalmer House,
26-Mansingh Road, New Delhi- 110011,
Dated: 22nd, May 2017

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- **Minutes of Fifth Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee to consider Research/Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms'- Regarding**

Please find enclosed herewith minutes of fifth meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee chaired by Secretary, Department of Justice on 12th May, 2017 to consider Research/Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' for your kind information and record.



(C.K. Reejonia)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
Tel./Fax No. 011-23072146
E-mail: ckreejonia@nic.in

Enclosures: As above.

o/c

Members of the Project Sanctioning Committee:

1. Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor (Law and Justice), Ministry of Law and Justice, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
3. Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice, Jaisalmer House, 26- Mansingh Road, New Delhi.
4. Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India, 14th Floor, Hindustan Times House Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
5. Director, Indian Law Institute, Opposite Supreme Court of India, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi.
6. Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhadbhadha Road, Suraj Nagar P.O. Bhopal-462044, Madhya Pradesh.

Copy to: P.S.O to Secretary (Justice)



Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the "Scheme of Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms" held on May 12, 2017 in Jaisalmer House, New Delhi

The Fifth meeting of the 'Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC)' to consider research/project proposals received under 'Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' was held on May 12, 2017 at Jaisalmer House, New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Justice), Ms. Snehalata Shrivastava. The list of participants is attached **(Annex- I)**.

Secretary Justice welcomed all the members of the Committee present at the meeting and requested Joint Secretary & Mission Director of National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms (Joint Secretary (MD)) to initiate discussion on the proposals that were short-listed for the consideration of the P.S.C. Before reviewing the proposals, it was discussed whether the scheme would fund conferences, seminars, workshop etc. as the guidelines provided for the same. It was clarified that the P.S.C. had already taken the decision that if conferences, seminars, workshops etc. were part of the larger research proposal then they could be considered and proposal for conducting stand-alone conferences would not be considered. The seminar, conferences etc. can be allocated a certain portion of the funds and limited to a certain percentage of the maximum budget. However, Secretary (Justice) and Chairperson, PSC was of the view that such proposals should also be considered as it is so provided in the guidelines of the Scheme.

List of 9 proposals for consideration of the meeting was shared beforehand and the Integrated Finance Division of Legislative Department(Ministry of Law and Justice) had made certain observations. The observations of the Integrated Finance Division was circulated in the meeting along with views of the administrative division thereon. The main concerns were regarding overlapping topics and part of topics and same institutions being awarded more than one research project. The Deputy Secretary (NM) apprised the committee that out of the 18 approved projects, second installments have been paid to 11 projects and final installments in 3 cases and it is only in 4 cases where the first installment has been given. The nine proposals were gone through by the members and the following decisions were taken:-

Proposal I- "A Study On Role Of Judges, Lawyers And Prison Authorities In Mitigating Delay In the Trial Of Under Trial Prisoners with Special Reference To Odisha" from Odisha Judicial Academy, Cuttack in Association with National Law University Odisha, Cuttack.

The research study proposes to conduct a statistical analysis of case records and data collected through interviews and survey with the stakeholders and come up

with recommendations on structural changes and clear roadmap to mitigate the delay in the trial of under-trial prisoners at all levels. The total project cost is Rs. 18.32 Lacs and duration 18 months.

Since there was no other sanctioned project on the topic so far, the P.S.C. considered the proposal. It was, however, felt that the scope of the research should be expanded to include interaction with under-trial prisoners and personal interviews with stakeholders. The research should also focus on understanding the cause for the delay and provide implementable recommendations to mitigate not only delay but also ensure the faster release of under-trials.

Decision: The Committee decided to defer the project proposal at present. The Organization would be asked to review the proposal to include the observations of the P.S.C. and submit a revised proposal for consideration at the next meeting of P.S.C.

Proposal II-“Optimization Of Functional Efficacy for Lok Adalats” from National Judicial Academy, Bhopal

The research study proposes to analyse the functioning of the Lok Adalats, and report on the problems faced by Lok Adalats and suggest solutions to such problems. The total cost of the project is Rs. 25 Lacs and total duration is One Year .

While large figures are quoted for disposal of cases through Lok Adalats, no analysis has been provided on the quality of the decisions delivered and whether the applicants have been satisfied with the decisions. Therefore, it is essential to study the quality of such decisions and take feedback from the litigants. The project proposal was found to be in line with the themes identified under the scheme. The proposal suggests that the study is conducted in 5 States, it was decided that the 5 States should be decided in consultation with the Department of Justice to avoid duplicacy and may be approved after that.

Decision: The Committee approved the project subject to the condition that the 5 States where the study has to be conducted will be decided in consultation with Department of Justice.

Proposal III- “Evaluation Study For Effective Functioning Of Lok Adalats And Gram Nyayalayas” from National Law University Odisha, Cuttack.

This project proposal intends to carry out research on Lok Adalats and Gram Nyayalayas in the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha (two districts from each State) with a view to improving access to justice framework in these States and will prepare a Handbook/Compendium and Final Report with recommendations for

future research on the subject. The total cost of the project is Rs. 24.70 Lacs and total duration are 18 months.

A similar study is already being conducted by the Odisha Judicial Academy on Lok Adalats under the present Scheme.

Decision: Given the above, the Committee did not approve the project proposal.

Proposal IV: "Bottlenecks In Disposal Of Civil Cases: A Study with Special Reference To Subordinate Courts at District Shimla, Solan And Kinnaur in State of Himachal Pradesh" from Himachal Pradesh Judicial Academy.

The cases of more than two years upto the oldest cases will be studied and stakeholders shall be interviewed. A Final Report containing suggestions to streamline the procedural and legislative changes to speedy justice as well as recommendations for developing curricula for the training of judges, staff, Advocates, litigants will be submitted. Total cost of the project is Rs. 22.75 Lacs and total duration are 20 months.

It was highlighted that the number of civil cases pending in the three districts identified in the proposal was only 6530.

Decision: The Committee after deliberations did not approve the project proposal. It was suggested that the research organization maybe asked to submit a proposal on another topic.

Proposal V: "Reasons for Delay in Disposal of Disputes in Civil Matters through Civil Courts and Tribunals, v/z, Consumer Forum, Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals: Developing a Case Flow Mechanism and Court Management Techniques" from National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.

This research proposal focuses on the comparative analysis of court management and a case flow management in the States of Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. The data will be studied to determine percentage disposal after the introduction of court managers. Deliverables of the Study would include a mechanism for Court and Case Flow Management with use of IT, Human Resource Development, the process of developing effective court managers and course outline for court management programme. Total cost of the project is Rs.24, 93,775/- and total duration is Two Years.

A similar study has already been conducted by NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. Also, the research organization has already been granted two projects and submission of the final report has been delayed in one of the projects.

Decision: Given the above, the Committee did not approve the project proposal.

Proposal VI: "An Analysis Of Continuing Legal Education For practicing Advocates in India With a Comparative Study Of International Best Practices" from Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar.

This research study will identify the downsides of the existing system of legal education and continuing professional development in India and suggest reforms. The study will help design specialized courses for the practical legal training of advocates practicing in various courts and tribunals. Total cost is Rs.10 Lacs and total duration is Thirteen months.

A similar study is already being carried out by National Law School of India University, Bengaluru.

Decision: Given above, the Committee did not approve the project proposal.

Proposal VII: "A Study on Court Management Techniques for improving the efficiency of subordinate courts" from Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar

The researcher shall conduct this study in all subordinate courts of twenty districts in the State of Gujarat and will give a draft report with proper conclusion and suggestions towards requirements of suitable court management and administration. The total cost of the project is Rs. 4.14 Lacs and total duration are Two Years.

The proposal provides a comprehensive study of subordinate courts in various districts of the Gujarat. While NALSAR has conducted a similar study, its main recommendations are based on findings from two states. Also as the study aims to reach out to subordinate courts at the Judicial Magistrate First Class and Chief Judicial Magistrates/Chief Metropolitan Magistrates, it may provide a thorough understanding of the areas where court management techniques could be utilized to improve efficiency.

Decision: The Committee approved the project.

Proposal VIII-"Examining the Effectiveness Of Gram Nyayalayas and accelerating the implementation Of Gram Nyayalayas Scheme" from Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar

The Gram Nyayalayas are presently not established in the State. The study would explore the possibility for the seat of Gram Nyayalayas at the level of intermediate panchayat, village. Total cost is Rs. 9.70 Lacs and the total duration is Two Years.

Considering that there are no Gram Nyayalayas in Gujarat, the committee did not find the project proposal useful.

Decision: The Committee did not approve the proposal.

Proposal IX-"A Study On ADR mechanisms for speedy and effective resolution of civil disputes with special reference to Lok Adalat in Manipur, Tripura And Nagaland" from Manipur Judicial Academy.

The study will analyse the implementation of ADR mechanisms in the resolution of civil disputes in Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland. The constraints and challenges in the implantation of ADR and success and failure of Lok Adalats in Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland shall be assessed and identified. Suggestions will include effective use of ADRs in general and Lok Adalat in particular in resolution of civil disputes. Total cost is Rs. 14,38,400/- and duration are 23 months.

Considering that there are no other projects on this topic and that following an initial review two more States have been added to the proposal, the Committee was of the opinion that the project could be approved. The project also aims to suggest ways for faster resolution of disputes.

Decision: The Committee approved the proposal.

The Committee also considered various aspects of the implementation of the Scheme and decided the following:

- It was suggested that if a research organization is being granted more than one project, the research team of subsequent projects should preferably be different so that more people get the opportunity to participate in the project.
- Regarding final reports that have been submitted, it was decided that a meeting of the P.S.C. may be convened to discuss the recommendations and way

forward. It was decided that the meeting may be convened on 23rd June, 2017 at 12 Noon.

- It was suggested that under the Scheme for action research and studies on judicial reforms, an exercise to verify the data provided in National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) and study corresponding physical files to ensure the accuracy of information could be carried out through National Judicial Academies. Considering that National Judicial Academies may be in a better position to access data from the High Courts, this could be proposed as a pilot study under the scheme. It was decided that a meeting with Judicial academies be convened to invite proposal from them in this regard.

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

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Annexure-I

List of Participants of Fifth Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee held on 12.05.2017

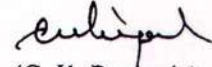
1. Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava, Secretary(Justice), Chairperson.
2. Shri G.R. Raghavendra , Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice
3. Ms. Pawan Sharma, Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India
4. Shri Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute
5. Shri K. Suresh Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Finance, Legislative Department.
6. Shri C.K. Reejonia, Deputy Secretary, Department of Justice.

File No. N – 9/19/2016 - NM
Government of India
Ministry of Law and Justice
(Department of Justice)

Jaisalmer House, 26-Mansingh Road,
New Delhi - 110 011.
Dated: 30.6.2017.

Subject: Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) to consider Research/Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' - Regarding.

Please find enclosed herewith minutes of sixth meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) chaired by Secretary, Department of Justice on 23rd June, 2017 (Friday) at Jaisalmer House, 26-Mansingh Road, New Delhi to consider Research/Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' for your kind information and record.


(C. K. Reejonia)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
Tel. / Fax: 011 - 23072146
E-mail: ckreejonia@nic.in

Enclosures: As above.

Enclosures: As above.

Members of the Project Sanctioning Committee:

1. Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor (Law and Justice), Ministry of Law and Justice, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
3. Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India, 14th Floor, Hindustan Times House Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
4. Director, Indian Law Institute, Opposite Supreme Court of India, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi.
6. Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhadbhadha Road, Suraj Nagar P.O. Bhopal-462044, Madhya Pradesh.
7. Deputy Secretary (Finance), Ministry of Law & Justice.

Copy to:

- (i) P.S.O to Secretary (Justice)
- (ii) Joint Secretary (GRR)

Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms held on June 23, 2017

The Sixth meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) was held on June 23, 2017 at New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (Justice), Ms. Snehalata Shrivastava. As decided at the previous PSC meeting, presentations were made by Daksh and Jharkhand Judicial Academy who had submitted the final reports of their projects completed under the 'Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms'. A list of participants of the meeting is at **Annexure I**.

Secretary (Justice), welcomed all the members and initiated the proceedings. The first presentation was made by the Director, Judicial Academy, Jharkhand on their Study regarding Major Bottlenecks in Procedural Laws affecting expeditious conclusion of Criminal Trials and Measures needed to remove such bottlenecks. Mr. Gautam Kumar Choudhary, Director, Judicial Academy, Jharkhand started the presentation by sharing the main findings from the study which indicated that one of major causes for delay was non-appearance of the accused. He also shared major recommendations from the report which mainly included amendments to the Cr.P.C. to introduce the concept trial in absentia in the light of similar international practices, fixing timelines for completion of investigation and integrate police and prosecution. The PSC deliberated upon the findings and recommendation presented before them. Mr. Maithani, the Secretary General, Supreme Court of India stated that while the study was comprehensive and relevant, a micro level inspection of the day to day hurdles in different court and investigation processes that contribute to the overall delay would have been beneficial to map areas for intervention. The presentation is attached as **Annex II**

A presentation was then made by the Co-Founder of Daksh highlighting their findings and recommendations made in their study titled Comparative Analysis of Causes for Pendency in Six High Courts and Six District Courts in India. Mr. Harish Narasappa, Co-Founder Daksh shared that according to the data that they collected from the High Courts and District Courts showed that maximum delay occurred as a result of adjournments at the stage of argument. He also stated that while case flow management rules have been adopted by about 15 High Courts the implementation remains weak. Main recommendations included i) listing of fewer matters ii) standardization of daily order sheets iii) ensuring data completeness iv) implementing case flow management rules v) delegation of judges duties vi) informing parties of hearing in advance. Expanding on the recommendations, he suggested that retired judges could be appointed or their term extended to handle administrative matters at the subordinate courts and/or exclusively hear pending cases. He cited the example of Delhi Pilot Courts where certain courts in each district were assigned to hear new cases. Further, the study recommends that

subordinate judiciary must be provided with necessary support and tools to improve their efficiency and optimize judicial time. The presentation is attached at **Annex III**.

As a follow up from the Fifth PSC meeting where a decision was taken to invite proposals from Judicial Academies on physical verification of case files with data available on NJDG to assess causes for pendency, a short presentation was made on the two proposals received from Delhi Judicial Academy and J&K Judicial Academy. The first proposal was from Delhi Judicial Academy, however, it was noted that there were certain requirements that were incomplete and therefore the PSC deferred the proposal and suggested that a revised project proposal may be considered in the subsequent PSC meeting. Similarly, the second proposal submitted by Judicial Academy, Jammu and Kashmir was also deferred for some clarity which was required about the proposed sample size and budget. The PSC decided that this proposal could also be considered after revision. Regarding the other proposals that were to be presented, the PSC suggested that they should be brought for consideration only after revision. It was decided that the next meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee may be convened on **11th July, 2017 at 12 Noon**.

The meeting concluded with a Vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure-I

List of Participants of Sixth Meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee held on 23.06.2017

1. Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava, Secretary(Justice), Chairperson.
2. Shri Ravindra Maithani, Secretary General, Supreme Court of India.
3. Shri G.R. Raghavendra , Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice.
4. Ms. Pawan Sharma, Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India.
5. Shri Manoj Kumar Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute.
6. Prof. D.P. Verma, Additional Director (Research & Training), National Judicial Academy India.
7. Shri K. Suresh Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Finance, Legislative Department.
8. Shri C.K. Reejonia, Deputy Secretary, Department of Justice.
9. Shri Harish Narasappa, Co-founder, DAKSH, Bangluru.
10. Shri Gautam Kumar Choudhary, Director, Jharkhand Judicial Academy.

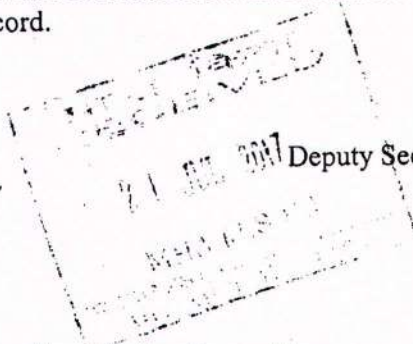
File No. N-9/13/2017-NM
Government of India
Ministry of Law and Justice
(Department of Justice)

Jaisalmer House, 26-Mansingh Road,
New Delhi - 110 011.
Dated: 21.7.2017

Subject: Minutes of the seventh meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) to consider Research/Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' - Regarding.

Please find enclosed herewith minutes of seventh meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) chaired by Secretary, Department of Justice on 13th July, 2017 (Thursday) at Jaisalmer House, 26-Mansingh Road, New Delhi to consider Research/Project Proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' for your kind information and record.

Enclosures: As above.



Signature

(C. K. Reejonia)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India
Tel. / Fax: 011 - 23072146

E-mail: ckreejonia@nic.in

o/c

Members of the Project Sanctioning Committee:

1. Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor (Law and Justice), Ministry of Law and Justice, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary General, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
3. Ms. Varsha Chandra, Additional Law Officer, Law Commission of India, 14th Floor, Hindustan Times House Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
4. Director, Indian Law Institute, Opposite Supreme Court of India, Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi.
5. Director, National Judicial Academy, Bhadbhadha Road, Suraj Nagar P.O. Bhopal-462044, Madhya Pradesh.
6. Deputy Secretary (Finance), Ministry of Law & Justice.

Copy to:

- (i) P.S.O to Secretary (Justice)
- (ii) Joint Secretary (GRR)

Signature

Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the 'Plan Scheme of Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' being implemented by 'Department of Justice' held on 13.07.2017.

The Seventh Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) to consider research / project proposals received under 'Plan Scheme for Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' was held on 13th July, 2017 at Jaisalmer House, New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava, Secretary (Justice). The list of the participants in the meeting is attached (*Annexure*). Secretary-General, Supreme Court of India and Director, National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal have intimated that they are not in position to attend the meeting due to pre-occupation with some urgent work. Secretary (Justice) welcomed the members present and requested the Joint Secretary (GRR) / Deputy Secretary (NM) to initiate the proceedings.

2. Deputy Secretary (National Mission) *through* a PowerPoint Presentation gave a brief overview of the project proposals approved so far, progress of research proposals sanctioned by the PSC during the previous meetings, financial implication involved, funds released to the research projects and project proposals being placed before the Committee during the present meeting.

3. The research proposals to be considered in the present meeting of Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) were circulated to all members well in advance through e-mails as well as through hard copies. Integrated Finance Division (IFD) have already examined the proposals and sent their recommendations / observations. The recommendations / observations of the IFD were circulated during the meeting as well as duly incorporated in the PowerPoint Presentation made before the Committee. The proposals were gone through by the members of the PSC one by one alongwith the recommendations / observations of Integrated Finance Division (IFD) and the following decisions were taken:-

Proposal I – “To identify the ‘Reasons’ for the delay in disposal of cases and evaluation ‘Capacity Gap’ to manage the Pendency of Cases in District and Subordinate Courts of Delhi, proposed by ‘Delhi Judicial Academy (DJA).’

Delhi Judicial Academy (DJA) has proposed the above Research Study. The objectives of the Study is (i) to collect the data of pendency in District and Subordinate courts and subject it to preliminary analysis; (ii) to categorise pending cases into broad subjects and to subcategorise them to facilitate study; (iii) to verify physically 7%-10% of pending cases in the sub-categories; (iv) to verify the correctness of the data on pendency available on the website of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) by comparing it with the data collected by physical verification; (v) to undertake process-study to find out the reasons for delay, identification of bottlenecks and capacity-gap to address the problem of pendency *in general* and in sub-categories *in particular*; and (vi) to bring in the best practices from States with minimal pendency and also take help of research done in other jurisdictions of common law countries to enhance efficiency in accordance with the nature of identified bottlenecks and capacity-gaps. Proposed cost of the study is Rs.25,00,000/-, and duration of the Study is twelve months.

Decision:

The Committee after detailed deliberation approved the above proposal "*in-principle*" subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) The project may be monitored by the Department of Justice at regular intervals (monthly basis) *particularly* at data collection stage by the Academy.
- (ii) The time period for completion of the Project may be reduced to 10 months so as to complete it *preferably* in the current financial year (2017-18), number of workshops may be reduced from three to one, and, accordingly, financial assistance / project cost may also be reduced proportionally by the Delhi Judicial Academy (DJA).

Proposal II – "Physical Verification of Case data available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) by studying the corresponding physical file data of two districts Udhampur and Budgam in to order diagnose the causes of delay while collecting the primary data and conducting research on systemic delays and actual pendency and to verify the correctness of National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) which is available on the official website of the Supreme Court of India with regard to State of Jammu and Kashmir, submitted by Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy.

Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy has proposed the above Research Study (i) in order to improve data collection and management by collecting and recording accurate data to overcome gaps by moving beyond pendency and disposal statistics, giving the true picture of trial court functioning and the adjournments granted and organising the data in a scientific way; (ii) to identify the nature and extent of reasons that commonly contribute to delay in disposal of cases; (iii) to address inefficiencies of court side, counsel side and litigant side; (iv) to classify the data subject-wise; and (v) to suggest measures and way forward by relying upon the accurate primary data collected during the Research. Proposed cost of the Study is Rs.25,00,000/-; and duration is twelve months.

Decision:

The Committee after detailed deliberation approved the proposal "*in-principle*" subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) The time period for completion of the Research Study may be reduced to 10 months so as to complete it *preferably* in the current financial year (2017-18), number of workshops may be reduced from four to one, and, accordingly, financial assistance / project cost could also be reduced proportionally by the Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy.

- (ii) The project may be monitored at regular interval (monthly basis) by Department of Justice, *particularly* at the stage of data collection and its verification by the Academy.

Proposal III – "Integrations of Principles of Management in Court and Case Management: An Exploratory Study" submitted by Kerala Judicial Academy and Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode.

Kerala Judicial Academy has proposed the above Research Study. The objectives of the Study is (i) to explore court and case management systems and deliver some tenets for

Integrating principles of management into the judicial system for better justice delivery; (ii) to observe the problems plaguing the Indian court systems and determine which management principles can be imparted in the judiciary; and (iii) to explore the interventions needed to impart management principles so that the same do not conflict with the theoretical foundations of the judiciary. Proposed cost of the Study is Rs.25,00,000/-; and duration is nineteen months.

Decision:

The Committee after detailed deliberation on the subject and contents of the proposal observed that a proposal on similar subject has already been conducted recently under the Scheme. It was, therefore, felt by the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) that Kerala Judicial Academy may be informed of the same and may also be requested to submit their proposals on some other subjects.

Proposal IV – Analysis of functioning of Legal aid cells in various law school and impact of digitization of legal aid on access to justice submitted by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi.

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi has proposed the above Research Study (i) to analyse the functioning of legal aid cells with respect to framework improvement of access to justice; (ii) to look into the impact of digitization on the framework mechanism; and (iii) to look into the feasibility of mandatory certification process for law schools by the regulatory authority. Proposed cost of the Study is Rs.25,00,000/-; and duration is twelve months.

Decision:

The Committee after detailed deliberation approved the proposal "*in-principle*" subject to the following condition:-

(i) The time period for completion of the Research Study may be reduced to 10 months so as to complete it *preferably* in the current financial year (2017-18), and, accordingly, financial assistance / project cost could also be reduced proportionally by the University.

Proposal V – To study the number and nature of final orders passed with respect to Community Service, Group Counselling, Supervision and Section 16 of the JJ Act by JJBs and cases of Juveniles in Conflict with Law (JCL) registered under Section 375, 509 and 302 IPC in Maharashtra in the past 3 years submitted by Maharashtra State Judicial Academy & Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Maharashtra State Judicial Academy & Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) has proposed the above Research Study (i) to document the nature of community orders, group counselling and supervision orders passed under Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act; (ii) to document best practices and case studies for future reference and training purposes; (iii) to document success stories of rehabilitation; (iv) to document the nature of orders passed under relevant section of the JJ Act (2006) (section 18(3) JJ Act (2015); (v) to study the cases in which compensation under Section 357-A of Cr.P.C. was directed; (vi) to design steps to improve the scope for better implementation of section 15 of the JJ Act, 2006 in the best interest of the children; (vii) to study the cases which have been transferred to the children's Court (Section 18(3) of the JJ

Act 2015); (viii) to study the profile of juveniles and nature of offences who were given community service, group counselling, supervision orders and section 16 orders; and (ix) to study the profile of cases registered under Section 375, 509 and 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and subsequent orders passed. Proposed cost of the Study is Rs.17,47,881/-; and duration is eight months.

Decision:

The Committee after detailed deliberation on the subject and contents of the proposal observed that after enactment of POCSO Act, the relevant provision of Juvenile Justice Act has become redundant. As the Research Proposal does not include the relevant provision of POCSO Act, the Committee did not agree with the proposal.

Proposal VI – Study of the Case Flow Management Rules in India in Providing Timely Delivery of Justice submitted by National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

National Law School of India University, Bengaluru has proposed the above Research Study (i) to identify and study the challenges faced by members of judiciary, the infrastructural and human resource limitations in implementation of case management rules; (ii) to study the significance of Case Flow Management system in ensuring timely disposal of cases and compare case flow management rules framed by the High Courts in Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar; and (iii) to evaluate critically the role of High Courts in monitoring and implementation of the case management norms and evaluating the mechanisms adopted by subordinate courts for complying with the rules. Proposed cost of the Study is Rs.24,98,950/-; and duration is twenty five months.

Decision:

The Committee after detailed deliberation on the subject and contents of the proposal observed that a proposal on similar subject has already been conducted recently under the Scheme. It was, therefore, felt by the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) that the University may be informed of the same and may also be requested to submit their proposals on some other subjects.

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

Annexure

Seventh Meeting of the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC) of the 'Scheme of Action Research and Studies on Judicial Reforms' being implemented by Department of Justice. Held on 13.07.2017

List of Participants

1. Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava, Secretary, Department of Justice;	Chairperson
2. Shri G. R. Raghavender, Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Department of Justice;	Member
3. Shri. Manoj Sinha, Director, Indian Law Institute;	Member
4. Ms. Varsha Chandra, Additional Law Officer, Law Commission of India (attended the meeting in place of Joint Secretary, Law Commission of India, who has recently retired)	Member
5. Shri C. K. Reejonia, Deputy Secretary (National Mission), Department of Justice; and	Member-Secretary
6. Shri K. Suresh Kumar, Deputy Secretary (Finance), Ministry of Law and Justice	Representing AS & FA
