**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee held on July 26, 2013**

The Executive Committee of Common Cause met on July 26, 2013 at 11.30 A.M. at Common Cause House. Shri Vikram Lal, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) J. P. Gupta, Dr. Divya Jalan, Dr. Ashok Khosla, Shri Kamal Jaswal and Shri Surjit Das attended the meeting.

It was observed that since the last meeting of the Committee on January 6, 2013, three meetings of the Governing Council had been held. Also, the guidance of the members on specific issues had been sought from time to time. Nevertheless, efforts would be made to hold meetings of the Committee at regular intervals.

Pursuant to the discussion in the last meeting, the project proposal of Centre for Food Security and Environment was approved for a total assistance of Rs. 6,96,000 to be released in two half-yearly instalments. The final instalment of assistance was due for release. Director, CEFS, had indicated that it would enable the organization to take its ongoing PIL in the Supreme Court to its logical conclusion.

The PIL on Internet Freedom, which was in the pipeline at the time of the last meeting, was filed in the Supreme Court. It is now at the stage of arguments.

In accordance with the decision of the Governing Council on Shri Paranjoy Guha Thakurta’s proposal for challenging the ban on news broadcasts on private FM and community radio, the preparatory work for filing a PIL has been completed.

The Committee was informed of the developments in a PIL which had been decided in December 2002. Disposing of our writ petition for mitigation of the hazard posed by stray cattle on the roads and the dairies located in residential areas, the Delhi High Court had directed the Delhi government, the MCD and the NDMC to shift all illegal dairies outside the urban areas. Non-compliance of these orders was brought to the notice of the Court, which directed the MCD in May 2007 to ensure the shifting of the illegal dairies by August 2008. The matter has, however, yet to reach closure. As per the latest status report of MCD, 1432 out of the 1435 dairies in the city have been removed and are being rehabilitated in Ghogha Colony at the city outskirts. The remaining 3 are covered by interim stay orders. In the last hearing on April 29, 2013, the Society has undertaken to verify the tall claims made in the status report.

The Director apprised the Committee of the impasse in the roll-out of the social media campaign on police reforms, which was to be launched from an enlarged civil society platform comprising 16 organizations and activists, including the original coalition partners, viz. Common Cause, CHRI and FRNV. The campaign aims at creating a strong constituency for police reforms among the youth and the sections of society bearing the brunt of police excesses. In spite of the enthusiasm generated by the initial meetings of the sponsors, the campaign was foundering on the issues of steerage, coordination, assignment of roles and fidelity of the record of decisions. The Committee felt that while a sincere effort should be made to iron out the problems that had cropped up, one could not allow the common objective to be compromised by idiosyncrasies and should be prepared to put in place an alternate dispensation for the conduct of the campaign.

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

(Vikram Lal)