## AIDS TO PROCESSSING & CHECKS ON DELAYS, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES etc.

## CHECKS ON DELAYS

#### STANDING GUARD FILE

#### Need:

- > Helps the new-comers;
- Faster disposal of cases;
- Useful for quick reference;
- > Helps locating previous papers.

#### **COMPONENTS:**

- ➤ Running summary of policy, Number & particulars of decisions & orders;
- Copies of decisions & orders in chronological order;
- > Helps using forms of communication.

#### **STANDING NOTE:**

- Continuing note explaining the history & development of existing policy & procedure.
- Complete background material for review of existing policy/procedure;
- **▶** A brief for Parliament Questions;
- **►** Induction Training Material.

#### **PRECEDENT BOOK:**

- Prescribed Register (Appendix 27);
- ➤ Important rulings/decisions for ready reference;
- Entries under appropriate heads, subheads in alphabetical order:
- Numbered pages, allotted to each head.

PRECEDENT BOOK

FORMAT (Appendix 27)

Heading: .....

Decision/ruling in brief File No.

#### **STANDARD PROCESS SHEET:**

- Skeleton Note for repetitive item of work;
- ➤ Indicates predetermined points of check/aspects to be noted upon;
- ➤ Application for leave applications recruitment, GPF advance, license etc.

#### **REFERENCE FOLDER:**

- Copies of relevant rules, orders, instructions on a particular subject issued by various authorities;
- ➤ Arranged in chronological order.

#### WEEKLY ARREARS STATEMENT

- Prepared the 1<sup>st</sup> day of every week (App. 34);
- Separate detail of receipts pending for more than 7 days (Appendix 35);
- Compiled by diarist for entire Section (Ap. 36)
- S. O. to check, scrutinise, give remarks/ instructions and submit it to Branch Officer;
- Branch Officer will watch and give suitable directions if necessary.

## MONTHLY STATEMENT OF PENDENCY

- Dealing Hand to prepare for each case pending for over a month-Case Sheet (Ap. 37)
- The Diarist compiles for the Section, prepares numerical abstracts (App. 38);
- Report with numerical abstracts is put up to the SO latest by 3<sup>rd</sup> day of month;
- SO scrutinises it & submits to the Branch Off. By 5<sup>th</sup> of the month & sends a copy to IWSU;

## MONTHLY STATEMENT OF PENDENCY

- Statement of pendency along with numerical abstracts goes up to the level of JS;
- JS may like to show it to Secretary or the Minister;
- Any level may remark at any stage;
- Work Study/O & M Unit compile this data for the whole department and analyse the trend of pendency.

#### **CALL BOOK**

- When no action can/need be taken for at least six months, enter in 'Call Book';
- Closed cases for which a review is contemplated after six months;
- No mention in monthly Statement of Pending Cases if included in Call Book;
- If retrieved from Call Book, monitoring of cases should go in usual manner;
- SO to scrutinise in last week of every month & submit to Branch Officer once in a quarter;

#### **COMMUNICATION FROM MP/VIP**

- Separate Register should be maintained in the Section for this purpose;
- Should not be diarised in the Section Diary;
- Section should submit the Register on <u>first</u> working day of every month to the Branch Officer;
- Round off the serial number in red ink in respect of disposed off communications before submitting to Branch Officer.

#### **COMMUNICATION FROM MP/VIP**

- Should be attended to promptly;
- If addressed to Minister, reply from Minister
- In other cases, over the signature of an officer of the rank of Secretary;
- In routine matters, minimum rank of US;
- If addressed to Head of Organisation/PSU, reply by the addressee himself;

# HANDLING COURT/CAT CASES

## MONITORING OF COURT/CAT CASES

- Separate Register should be maintained in the Section for this purpose;
- Section should submit the Register on <u>first & 15<sup>th</sup></u> working day of every month to the Branch Officer;
- Any significant development should be brought to the notice of the senior officer immediately;
- Cases should be handled with due diligence and speed;
- Time limits should be strictly followed;

#### HANDLING COURT/CAT CASES

- **NOTICES**
- **✓** Pre-admission stage
- To show cause against admission;
- **✓** Post-admission stage
- Notice after Admission for contesting the case;
- **✓ OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES:**
- Notice meant for the employees working under the respondent department;
- (Private respondents serve immediately and obtain acknowledgement)

#### HANDLING COURT/CAT CASES-ACTION

- > SCRUTINY:
- Check the respondent/s involved;
- Co respondents:
- Where applicant challenged action of department based on guidelines issued by another department;
- Where the facts of the case relate to more than one department.

#### HANDLING COURT/CAT CASES-ACTION

- **COMMON DEFENCE:**
- Defence of the case handled by the department whose order challenged;
- In consultation with other co-respondent/s;
- Obtain comments of other respondents on specific paragraphs;
- Prepare draft reply;
- Inform respondents the progress of case;

#### HANDLING COURT/CAT CASES-ACTION

- **ENGAGE A COUNSEL:**
- As per the practice;
- Before date of hearing as far as possible;
- Contact the Counsel engaged;
- Take care of the interim relief;
- Draft reply ready before the hearing.

- Carefully prepared:
- Averments made in the application are clarified & correct position stated;
- Reply forms the basis of defence;
- If not brought out correctly, difficult to contest the case effectively;
- Final disposal depends on documents on record;
- Filed within the time allowed.

- Common reply on behalf of official respondents;
- Facts stated in the application should be specifically admitted or denied or explained;
- Additional facts, found necessary, may be stated for just decision of the case.

- **▶** Tasks before framing reply:
- Ascertain veracity of facts stated;
- Ascertain correct facts relating to issues agitated in the OA/Petition;
- Explore possibility of raising preliminary objections;
- Collection of related documents in support of the defence;

- **▶** Tasks before framing reply:
- Identify identical cases if filed by other employees for similar relief linking them for disposal together;
- Identify any precedents/reported cases;
- Identify unreported cases, if any, known to the department.

#### STRUCTURE OF REPLY

- > 1. Introductory paragraph
- Identification of official filing the reply;
- Recitation that the officer filing reply on behalf of respondents is competent and authorized;
- Confirm that he has read the OA/Petition and understood the contents;

[Include: 'Except as has been expressly admitted hereunder, all the material averments in the OA are denied.']

#### 2. Second Part:

- ➤ Facts of the case stated in chronological, logical and cohesive manner;
- Advisable to start with 'Brief background of the Case for proper appreciation of case.

#### 3. Third Part:

Preliminary objections, if any.

#### 4. Fourth part

- **▶** Para-wise reply on merits:
- Reply on merits;
- Every averment made viewed in proper perspective;
- Respondent's version of the averments made should be stated clearly.
- Attention drawn to paragraphs in the OA/Petition to avoid repetition;

- State ignorance if facts not known to the respondents;
- State ignorance if respondents not in a position to comment;
- To formal paragraphs '...being formal, does not call for any reply.'
- Mark in the body Annexure enclosed;
- Copies of documents to be attested;

- >Language:
- Names of persons, places spelt in reply accurately;
- Avoid abbreviations;
- Avoid pronouns;
- While quoting statutory provisions, use exact language of the statute/rules;

#### 5. Fifth part

- Prayer:
- State clearly the relief sought;
- ✓ Specimen 'In view of the submissions made hereinabove, in the Brief background of the case, preliminary objections and the para-wise comments, the applicant is not entitled to any of the reliefs sought for and the application is liable to be dismissed with costs.

It is prayed accordingly.'

#### Last part

**Verification:** 

Verification by the officer signing the reply.

Vetting.

Delivery of the reply.

#### **ACTION ON FINAL ORDER**

- Obtain a copy of the judgment;
- Date of receipt of copy of judgment is important for further course of action;
- OA/Petition dismissed & without any observation for respondent – No action;
- OA/Petition dismissed but with observations for the respondents – Identified and pursued.
- OA/Petition allowed- Implement within the time prescribed.

#### **CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS**

- Failure to comply with the orders within the prescribed time;
- Same jurisdiction, power, authority as High Court;
- If extension of time for required, separate application should contain:
- o Efforts made to implement;
- Difficulties faced in implementation;
- o Justification for additional time.

### HANDLING PARLIAMENT **QUESTIONS & ASSURANCES**

#### QUESTIONS

- **▶**To obtain information;
- Notice of not less than 10 days;
- ➤Three types –
- ✓ Starred Answered orally by Minister;
- Supplementary questions by 2 members;
- ✓ Unstarred Written answer placed on the Table of the House;
- ✓ Short-notice matters of public importance with short notice;

#### **ASSURANCES**

- Undertaking by the Minister during a reply to a question or debate which involves further action by the Govt.;
- o 'the matter is under consideration';
- o 'I shall look into it';
- 'Enquiries are being made';
- o 'I shall inform the Hon'ble member';
- Statistics are being collected';

#### **ASSURANCES**

- Sent to the Ministry by Department of Parliamentary Affairs;
- Entered in the Section in the Register for Parliamentary Assurances;
- > Fulfilled within 3 months;
- >Extension if necessary;
- Extension should be sought before the expiry of time limit of 3 months;
- Scrutiny by Committee on Government Assurances;

## REGISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY ASSURANCES

- Each Section should maintain a Register separate for each House [Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha];
- SO should scrutinise it once in <u>every week;</u>
- He should ensure necessary follow up and put up to BO <u>fortnightly</u>;
- BO should bring it to the knowledge of higher officers, if so desired.

# PERIODICAL REPORTS/ RETURNS

## CHECKLISTS OF PERIODICAL REPORTS

- Each Section should maintain 2 checklists one for incoming and other for outgoing returns;
- Checklists should be prepared at the commencement of each year;
- Approved by SO, shown to BO;
- Should be displayed prominently;

## REVIEW OF PERIODICAL REPORTS/RETURNS

- All periodical reports & returns are reviewed at the level of JS once in every 3 years;
- The objective is to:
- **✓** Rationalise, Simplify, Revise, redesign;
- **✓** Eliminate if required;
- Yearly report of this review sent to Work Study on 7<sup>th</sup> April every year;
- A report in respect of whole department sent to D/AR & PG by 30<sup>th</sup> April every year.

- > ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE
- Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAR&PG);
- Public Wing in Rashtrapati Bhawan Secretariat;
- Public Wing in Prime Minister's Office;
- Directorate of Public Grievances in Cabinet Secretariat (DPG);
- Department of Pensions & Pensioners' Welfare.

- Director of public grievances JS/Director/DS level officer;
- Name, designation, telephone number displayed prominently;
- Wednesday should be a meeting-less day;
- Hours to be specified to hear public grievances;

- Members of public should be allowed to meet Director of Public Grievances on Wednesdays;
- Locked complaint box to be opened regularly;
- Director of public grievances can call for cases for over 3 months and dispose them off with the approval of secretary;
- Citizens' Charter of the Ministry/Department/ other authorities should be up-dated and displayed on the website;

- Each grievance should be acknowledged within 3 days;
- Fixed time limits for disposal of each type of grievance;
- If not, within 2 months;
- If likely to take longer, interim reply must;
- Reasons/rules should be communicated in case a grievance is rejected;
- Publicity will be given about the grievance redressal machinery;

- If case to be closed, intimation with reasons must be given;
- Organisation should identify grievance-prone areas;
- Reports/returns on redressal of grievances should be sent to Dept. of administrative reforms and public grievances;
- The machinery & work relating to this aspect should be a part of annual report & annual action plan;
- Record of grievances should be retained in the computer for 1 year after final disposal.

- **ONLINE SYSTEM**
- PG Portal-Centralised Public Grievance Redress & Monitoring System (CPGRAMS);
- Lodging of grievances from anywhere anytime 24x7;
- Enables Organisations' close monitoring of grievances for expeditious disposal and up-load Action Taken Report;
- Citizens can view status of action taken;
- Feedback mechanism;

- > PUBLIC GRIEVANCES APPEARING IN COLUMNS OF NEWSPAPERS
- Ministries/Departments to regularly examine the Grievances column of Newspapers;
- Pick up cases & take expeditious action to redress the grievances in 'time bound manner'
- Action to be taken within 2 months;
- If likely to take longer, send interim reply;

- ➤ Following steps to strengthen Grievance Redress mechanism
- ✓ Careful analysis of grievances;
- ✓ Decision taken at a fairly senior level;
- ✓ Forwarding grievances to concerned departments for prompt redress;
- ✓ Reply to complainant informing details of authorities settling grievances;
- Obtaining reply/report from concerned Dept.;
- ✓ If grievance cannot be settled, reasoned reply.

#### > PUBLIC GRIEVANCES COMMISSION

- Comprehensive mechanism for the effective redress of grievances from members of public;
- Different departments under GNCT, Delhi, Local Bodies, Undertakings/other organizations substantially financed by Govt. of Delhi;
- Functions exercised in the same measure of functional autonomy and independence as that of UPSC;

- **COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE FOR**
- Speedy redressal of complaints of the public;
- Taking action against acts of omission or commission on the part of public officials working in organisations of Delhi Govt.;
- Recommending such action as considered necessary for removal of such grievance;
- Takes suo moto cognizance of matters coming to its notice through newspapers/magazines/other media channels or verbal complaints.

- > POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION
- Examines complaints by public against acts of omission and commission including cases of
- **✓** Inaction;
- **✓** Harassment;
- **✓** Extortion;
- **✓** Corruption;
- **✓** Abuse of power or authority;
- Ensure publication of information as required under the Act.

- > PROCEDURE FOR FILING COMPLAINTS
- Complaint in writing to the Secretary of the Commission giving details supported by the following:
- ✓ Supporting documents like the application made to the concerned Dept. /public body indicating inaction/wrong action by such body;
- ✓ Copies or orders passed by Dept./bodies (except judicial/quasi judicial bodies);
- ✓ Sworn affidavit on plain paper & declaration that it is not sub-judice;

- > PROCESS FOLLOWED BY THE COMMISSION
- Calls for records;
- Summons concerned officials;
- Hears the complainant;
- Emphasis on speedy disposal of complaints;
- Passes speaking order;
- Recommends action against concerned officers if allegations made against the officers are prima facie established.

- > CASES NOT TAKEN UP BY COMMISSION
- Complaints which are Anonymous or contain vague and superfluous allegations;
- If the mater is sub-judice;
- Where the complainant has not exhausted the channel available to him within the concerned department/organisation;
- Complaints by serving govt. servants against their department;
- Complaints pertaining to service matters;

# HANDLING AUDIT PARAS

#### **HANDLING AUDIT PARAS**

- >TYPES OF AUDIT
- Internal Audit conducted by Internal Audit Wing of Controller of Civil Accounts/Controller of Accounts;
- Statutory Audit conducted by C & AG;
- Local Audit conducted by Audit parties inspecting the office of the organisation to be audited;

#### **HANDLING AUDIT PARAS**

- BROAD PROCEDURE
- Issue of Inspection Notes/Memos by Audit Party during inspection;
- Reply to Inspection Notes/Memos by organisation during inspection;
- Draft Audit Paras in respect of Notes/Memos not satisfactorily replied to during audit;
- Draft Audit Paras sent by Audit to organisation for reply within 6 weeks;
- Paras not satisfactorily replied to appear in C & AG Report;
- PAC examines the Report & draft PAC Paras;
- Action Taken Note on PAC Paras/Recommendations.

## THANK YOU