

Report on the Mid-Year CPA Executive Committee Meeting held in London from 5 to 9 November, 2018

The Mid-Year CPA Executive Committee was held in London from 5 to 9 November, 2018. Following two Members (Regional Representatives) attended the CPA Executive Committee:

- (i) Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly
- (ii) Shri Prem Chandra Agarwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha

Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi, MP (Lok Sabha) withdrew at the last minute (on 5 November, 2018) therefore, it was not possible to submit a file for nomination for replacement.

2. A Copy of each of the agenda of the CPA Executive Committee and it is two Sub-Committees viz. (i) Planning and Review Sub-Committee; and (ii) Finance Sub-Committee is placed below.

3. Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly participated in the Finance Sub-Committee and Shri Prem Chandra Agarwal, Speaker, Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha participated in the Planning and Review Sub-Committee.

Major points of discussion in these Meetings were as follows:

CPA Office Premises

CPA Secretariat has been shifted temporarily to Richmond House after its lease at 7 Millbank was over. CPA Executive Committee had constituted a Working Group on the CPA HQ Office Premises. The Working Group has analysed various options for CPA HQ Secretariat office Premises viz. Staying longer at Richmond House, which is the property of UK Parliament, getting an accommodation inside the Royal Estate. In case, these two options (most economical) are not feasible. CPA HQ may work out leasing / purchasing of property in London.

Chairperson, CPA Executive Committee gave thrust to find out a long-term solution to this office premise issue and stressed that CPA should have its own accommodation so that movement of Members in the CPA Officer is not decided by any other agency.

CWP Vice-Chair

The Executive Committee was informed that CWP Steering Committee has elected Hon. Michelle O' Byrne, MP (Tasmania, Australia) as the Vice – Chairperson through a teleconference on 5th November, 2018. It may be mentioned that Smt. Kirron Kher, MP (Lok Sabha) and CWP Steering Committee Member from CPA India Region had earlier expressed her inability to participate in the teleconference on that date.

10th Commonwealth Youth Parliament

The CPA Executive Committee was informed that 10th Commonwealth Youth Parliament (CYP) would be hosted in CPA India Region during the second half of the year 2019.

Reduction in Printed copies of "The Parliamentarian"

Executive Committee has approved 20% reduction of printed copies of the CPA Quarterly Journal "The Parliamentarian" to save cost. The journal is now available online. CPA India Union is now getting 960 copies in place of 1200 copies received earlier.

(A separate file is being submitted to revise our check list.)

Formation of a Working Group to review CPA Programme activity

A Working Group will be formed to review all CPA Programme activity. Besides having representation in Co-ordinating Committee all other Regions viz. India, Pacific Regions will be requested to nominate a member to this Working Group. The Working Group will prepare a Report and Submit it to the next Executive Committee Meeting.

CWP Alumni Association

CPA had formed a CWP Alumni Association, which gives opportunity to former Legislators active in the field of women centric issues to be active in CPA. CPA Secretariat was of the view that through this the knowledge of former Members may be utilized in the Association.

CPA members expressed concern regarding cost issues of representation, the lack of accountability etc. in the meeting in dealing with former Members.

CPA India Region had not nominated any such Member when we received the offer on similar grounds.

CPA Budget

Members expressed concern about the increasing defaulters list of Branches (mostly provincial Branches from Nigeria) who are not paying their annual contribution to the CPA Secretariat. Defaulters are suspended after 12 months non-payment of dues. It was agreed that CPA would request Regional Representatives to pursue the matter with such defaulting Branches.

About CPA India Region Branches the Committee was informed that 4 Branches indicated in the 2018 defaulter list have despatched their fee and is in the process of settlement.

Members also agreed to increase the annual fee w.e.f. 2020 to meet the ever increasing expenditure of CPA in its various programme activities.

CPA Secretariat also taking various measures for cutting expenditure viz. by reducing copies of printed documents, increased digitization and modified Travel Policy.

CPA also working out formula to receive financial support from Private / Corporate sector. This will be discussed further as there was an overwhelming concern regarding dealing with private sector organisation.

CPA Resolution on Sri Lanka

CPA Executive Committee was requested to make a public statement on the problem in Sri Lanka by the Speaker of the Parliament. CPA Executive Committee passed a Resolution on the development in Sri Lanka. This was on similar lines with the statement issued by the Secretary-General, Commonwealth.

CPA Status

The Executive Committee at its Meeting in Mauritius had constituted a Working Group to prepare a 'Business Case' for submitting to UK Government to change the status of CPA from a Charitable Organisation to an International Parliamentary organisation.

The Working Group submitted its report 'Business Case' at the CPA Executive committee which was considered at the London meeting. It was agreed that the 'Business Case' will be submitted to the UK Government by the end of this year (2018).

Further, a Governance Working Group will be constituted to meet in 2019. The modalities of Working Group will be discussed in the mid-year CPA Executive Committee meeting to be held in 2019. By that time it is expected that UK Government will give their comments on the 'Business Case' being submitted by the CPA so that a clear picture emerge for submission to the CPA Executive Committee.

Future Programme

The CPA Mid-Year Executive Committee meeting will be held in one CPA Branch in Canada in April – May, 2019. The exact venue will be informed by the CPA Secretariat after getting feedback from CPA Canada Region.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha had kindly agreed to the proposal of Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly who had submitted a proposal of Zone-3 Executive Committee to host the Mid-Year CPA Executive Committee in 2020.

The offer was made by Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly in the meeting. A formal letter from CPA India Region Secretariat to Secretary General, CPA was also sent and Secretary General, CPA informed the Committee that Pacific Region and India Region had offered to host the Mid-Year CPA Executive Committee Meeting. India Region has given the offer in writing.

The Annual CPA Conference of 2019 will be held in Kampala, Uganda from September, 2019 (dates to be confirmed). Canada has proposed to host 2020 CPA Conference in Halifax in January, 2021. It was decided that offer from any other Branch who may be able to host the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in 2020 will be considered along with the offer from Canada.

The meeting of Regional Secretaries held on 6 November, 2018 was attended by Shri S.R. Mishra, Additional Director (CPA).

In the meeting, Secretary General, CPA requested all Regional Secretaries to invite Chairperson, CPA Executive Committee to the Regional Conferences and invitation in this regard may be sent well in time to complete necessary formalities.

All the Regional Secretaries were informed about the zonal activities initiated by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha. To conduct more and effective programme within CPA India Region 3 Zonal activities have been conducted within a short period of time.

Regional Secretaries were also informed that CPA India Region has organised CWP Steering Committee Meeting at the Regional level and worked out future plan for the region.