

Proceedings of Executive Committee of IRCS – Odisha State Branch

The Executive Committee meeting of Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch, was held on 13th February, 2019 at 11.30 A.M. in Raj Bhawan, Bhubaneswar. Hon'ble Governor of Odisha presided over the meeting as the President of Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch. The list of members present in the meeting is at Annexure-1.

1. In her welcome address, Maj. (Dr.) Kalpana Das, the Honorary Secretary narrated the brief activities and achievements of the State Branch and welcomed all participants to the meeting.
2. Mr. Madhu Sudan Padhi, Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Governor, discussed in brief about the objectives of Red Cross and about the agenda of the meeting. He explained the difficulties in implementing the Uniform Rules 2009 and Branch Committee Rules 2017 due to some procedural infirmity in these rules.
3. Subsequently, Mr. Chandan Kumar Mohanty, the Legal Advisor of Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch explained in detail the provision of State Rule 1990 vis-à-vis the Uniform Rule 2009 and Branch Committee Rules 2017. He also discussed about the provision of Indian Red Cross Society Act 1920 in respect of framing of rules for the State and Union Territory branches. He explained in detail the difficulties and anomalies present in the proposed two rules framed by National HQ in 2009 & 2017. Besides the legal issues, he also mentioned few technicalities involved in the suggested Branch Committee Rules 2017 regarding formation and functioning of the District as well as State Branches which inter-alia include the following:

- (258/2021)
- The provisions laid down under Sec-5(2) of IRCS Act 1920 have not been followed while framing the Uniform Rules 2009 and the Branch Committee Rules, 2017.
 - The National HQ has not clarified as to whether the Branch Committee Rules 2017 has been approved by both Houses of Parliament to make it mandatory for the States to implement despite several correspondences from our State.
 - New 2017 Rule is silent on the involvement of Govt. machinery in the policy making body which is the prime stakeholder in the process of implementation.
 - As per the new 2017 Rules, the State and District level Managing Committee are to be constituted with elected representatives which in turn will elect its Chairman and appoint the CEO & Treasurer of the State Branch. The modality for implementation has not been spelt out in the new rules which has made it unimplementable.

He further elaborated that under the existing State Rules 1990, representatives from Civil Society, Industry, Academician, Govt. Officials etc. have been included in the Executive Committee making it pro-people oriented so as to achieve philanthropic objectives of Red Cross.

4. The matter was then placed before members of the Executive Committee for open discussion. Several members gave their considered opinion on the matter:
 - a) The Principal Secretary, Dept. of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water, Govt. of Odisha opined for re-adoption of Odisha State Branch Rule 1990 and expressed his concerns in respect of non-involvement of Government functionaries under proposed Branch Committee Rules 2017. He further stated that the State Branch has never implemented the proposed Uniform

257-1250

Rules of 2009 and the same has not been adopted by the Executive Committee till date.

- b) Dr. Jagannath Mohapatra, Honorary Secretary cum Commissioner of St. John Ambulance, Odisha State Centre opined for re-adoption of Odisha State Branch Rules 1990.
- c) The Collector and Chairman of District Red Cross, Nayagarh while expressing his views in favour of re-adopting Odisha State Branch Rule 1990, shared his concerns about the provisions of Branch Committee Rules 2017 regarding formation of District as well as State Management Committees and the process of holding election to these bodies.
- d) The Principal Secretary, Dept. of Finance, Govt. of Odisha opined strongly to continue with the Odisha State Branch Rules 1990.
- e) The Vice-Chancellor of Utkal University also spoke in favour of re-adoption of Odisha State Branch Rule 1990. He mentioned that although in the year 2012, the then Honorary Secretary of Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch issued a notification on implementation of new Rules in the State, but the decision to implement the Uniform Rules, 2009 has not been placed before the Executive Committee till date. Therefore, the Uniform Rules 2009 cannot be stated to be in force at any point of time. Further, the same has actually not yet been implemented in the field.
- f) Hon'ble Minister, School and Mass Education gave his considered opinion in favour of re-adoption of Rules 1990 and expressed that as the Branch Committee Rules 2017 is silent on any role for the Collectors in the District Branches, adopting it will lead the Red Cross Organization to suffer irreparably.

5) Hon'ble Governor and President of Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha

256 19

State Branch gave his concluding remarks on the discussions held in the meeting. He agreed to the consensus in the Committee and opined for re-adoption of State Committee Rules, 1990. Hon'ble President of the State Branch has also advised that in case it becomes necessary for better and smooth management of the State Branch, then few amendments may be made in future in the State Branch Rules 1990 with the approval of Executive Committee.

6) It was unanimously resolved to re-adopt the existing State Branch Rule 1990 with immediate effect. Further, it was resolved that the Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch, all the District Branches and the City and Regional branches shall operate and function as per the provision of Odisha State Branch Rule 1990 with immediate effect.

7) Thereafter, with the permission of the Chair, the Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor mentioned that 55 Blood Banks started by Red Cross have been taken over by Government in Health & Family Welfare Department recently. There have been several opinions against removal of the name of "Red Cross" from the Blood Banks established by the Red Cross organization in the past. The Commissioner cum Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha, responding to it clarified that in order to bring uniformity and parity in the management of Blood Banks throughout the State, the State Government has taken over the management of these Blood Banks and they are now being called as "Odisha Blood Bank".

After due deliberation, the Executive Committee unanimously agreed that, taking over of the management of the Blood Banks by the State Government is a right decision. But as Red Cross had substantially contributed towards formation of these Blood Banks in the past, the Committee suggested to reflect the name and symbol of Red Cross on the

name of Blood Bank, viz. "Odisha Red Cross Blood Bank, (*name of the location*)" instead of just "Odisha Blood Bank (*name of location*)".

19
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The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair & all participants by the Disaster Management Coordinator of Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch.



**Honorary Secretary
Indian Red Cross Society
Odisha State Branch
Bhubaneswar**

Ganeswar
25/02/19