



भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग (स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय)
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH (MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE)
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No. 6/2/2012-Admn.-II (Pt.II)

Dated :22.5.2017.

To

The Director/Director-in-Charge of all
Permanent Institutes/ Centres of the Council.

Sub:- Constitution of Internal Complaints Committee in all the Institutes of ICMR as per Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013- regarding.

Sir/Madam

I am directed to refer to the above mentioned subject and to say that the Competent Authority in ICMR has decided that all the Institutes/Centres of ICMR may constitute Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) as per section 4 of Chapter II of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. The said Act specifies the constitution of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at workplace which is reproduced below:-

"CHAPTER II

CONSTITUTION OF INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

4 (1) Every employer of a workplace shall, by an order in writing, constitute a Committee to be known as the "Internal Complaints Committee".

Provided that where the offices or administrative units of the workplace are located at different places or divisional or sub-divisional level, the Internal Committee shall be constituted at all administrative units or offices.

(2) The Internal Committee shall consist of the following members to be nominated by the employer, namely:-

(a) a Presiding Officer who shall be a woman employed at a senior level at workplace from amongst the employees.

Provided that in case a senior level woman employee is not available, the Presiding Officer shall be nominated from other offices or administrative units of the workplace referred to in sub-section (1):

Provided further that in case the other offices or administrative units of the workplace do not have a senior level woman employee, the Presiding Officer shall be nominated from any other workplace of the same employer or other department or organization;

(b) not less than two Members from amongst employees preferably committed to the cause of women or who have had experience in social work or have legal knowledge;

(c) one member from amongst non-governmental organizations or associations committed to the cause of women or a person familiar with the issues relating to sexual harassment.

Provided that at least one-half of the total Members so nominated shall be women.

(3) The Presiding Officer and every Member of the Internal Committee shall hold office for such period, not exceeding three years, from the date of their nomination as may be specified by the employer.

(4) The Member appointed from amongst the non-governmental organizations or associations shall be paid such fees or allowances for holding the proceedings of the Internal Committee, by the employer as may be prescribed.

- (5) Where the Presiding Officer or any Member of the Internal Committee;
- (a) contravenes the provisions of section 16; or
 - (b) has been convicted for an offence or an inquiry into an offence under any law for the time being in force is pending against him; or
 - (c) he has been found guilty in any disciplinary proceedings or a disciplinary proceeding is pending against him; or
 - (d) has so abused his position as to render his continuance in office prejudicial to the public interest,
- such Presiding Officer or Member, as the case may be, shall be removed from the Committee and the vacancy so created or any casual vacancy shall be filled by fresh nomination in accordance with the provisions of this section."

2. It is further to be noted that the recommendations of the Internal Complaints Committee at work place shall be delivered under sub-section (2) of section 13 or under clause (i) or clause (ii) of sub-section (3) of section 13 or sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 14 or section 17. Determination of compensation and prohibition of publication or making known contents of complaint and inquiry proceedings are dealt under section 15 and 16 of the said Act. The relevant sections are reproduced below:-

"13.(1) On the completion of an inquiry under this Act, the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be, shall provide a report of its findings to the employer, or as the case may be, the District Officer within a period of ten days from the date of completion of the inquiry and such report be made available to the concerned parties.

(2) Where the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be, arrives at the conclusion that the allegation against the respondent has not been proved, it shall recommend to the employer and the District Officer that no action is required to be taken in the matter.

(3) Where the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be, arrives at the conclusion that the allegation against the respondent has not been proved, it shall recommend to the employer or the District Officer, as the case may be-

(i) to take action for sexual harassment as a misconduct in accordance with the provisions of the service rules applicable to the respondent or where no such service rules have been made, in such manner as may be prescribed;

(ii) to deduct, notwithstanding anything in the service rules applicable to the respondent, from the salary or wages of the respondent such sum as it may consider appropriate to be paid to the aggrieved woman or to her legal heirs, as it may determine, in accordance with the provisions of section 15:

Provided that in case the employer is unable to make such deduction from the salary of the respondent due to his being absent from duty or cessation of employment it may direct to the respondent to pay such sum to the aggrieved woman:

Provided further that in case the respondent fails to pay the sum referred to in clause (ii), the Internal Committee or, as the case may be, the Local Committee may forward the order for recovery of the sum as an arrear of land revenue to the concerned District Officer.

(4) The employer or the District Officer shall act upon the recommendation within sixty days of its receipt by him.

14. (1). Where the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be, arrives at a conclusion that the allegation against the respondent is malicious or the aggrieved woman or any other person making the complaint has made the complaint knowing it to be false or the aggrieved woman or any other person making the complaint has produced any forged or misleading document, it may recommend to the employer or the District Officer, as the case may be, to take action against the woman or the person who has made the complaint under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 9, as the case may be, in accordance with the provisions of the service rules applicable to her or him or where no such service rules exist, in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided that a mere inability to substantiate a complaint or provide adequate proof need not attract action against the complainant under this section:

Provided further that the malicious intent on part of the complainant shall be established after an inquiry in accordance with the procedure prescribed, before any action is recommended.

(2) Where the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be, arrives at a conclusion that during the inquiry any witness has given false evidence or produced any forged or misleading document, it may recommend to the employer of the witness or the District Officer, as the case may be, to take action in accordance with the provisions of the service rules applicable to the said witness or where no such service rules exist, in such manner as may be prescribed.

15. *For the purpose of determining the sums to be paid to the aggrieved woman under clause (ii) of sub-section (3) of section 13, the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be, shall have regard to –*

(a) the mental trauma, pain, suffering and emotional distress caused to the aggrieved woman;

(b) the loss in the career opportunity due to the incident of sexual harassment;

(c) the income and financial status of the respondent;

(d) feasibility of such payment in lump sum or in instalments.

16. *Notwithstanding anything contained in the Right to Information Act, 2005, the contents of the complaint made under section 9, the identity and addresses of the aggrieved woman, respondent and witnesses, any information relating to conciliation and inquiry proceedings, recommendations of the Internal Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be, and the action taken by the employer or the District Officer under the provisions of this Act shall not be published, communicated or made known to the public, press and media in any manner.*

Provided that information may be disseminated regarding the justice secured to any victim of sexual harassment under this Act without disclosing the name, address, identity or any other particulars calculated to lead to the identification of the aggrieved woman and witnesses.

17. *Where any person entrusted with the duty to handle or deal with the complaint, inquiry or any recommendations or action to be taken under the provisions of this Act, contravenes the provisions of section 16, he shall be liable for penalty in accordance with the provisions of the service rules applicable to the said person or where no such service rules exist, in such manner as may be prescribed.*

18.(1) *Any person aggrieved from the recommendations made under sub-section (2) of section 13 or under clause (i) or clause (ii) of sub-section (3) of section 13 or sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 14 or section 17 or non-implementation of such recommendations may prefer an appeal to the court or tribunal in accordance with the provisions of the service rules applicable to the said person or where no such service rules exist then, without prejudice to provisions contained in any other law for the time being in force, the person aggrieved may prefer an appeal in such manner as may be prescribed."*

3. As per Section 18 (1) of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 there is no provision to re-conduct an enquiry on the same grievances which has already been examined by Internal Complaints Committee and Report submitted at the workplace. Any person aggrieved from the recommendations or non-implementation of the recommendations may prefer an appeal to the court or tribunal. The specific provision of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 is reproduced below:-

"18 (1) Any person aggrieved from the recommendations made under sub-section (2) of section 13 or under clause (i) or clause (ii) of sub-section (3) of section 13 or sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 14 or section 17 or non-implementation of such recommendations may prefer an appeal to the court or tribunal in accordance with the provisions of the service rules applicable to the said person or

where no service rules exists then, without prejudiced to provisions contained in any other law for the time being in force, the person aggrieved may prefer an appeal in such manner s may be prescribed.”

4. With reference to the above proposition of law, all the Institutes of ICMR may be requested to constitute Internal Complaints Committee as per the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 and conduct the proceedings as per the provisions of the said Act.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,



(Bharat Bhushan)
Administrative Officer
For Director General

Copy to:-

1. PS to DG/PS to Sr. DDG(A)

✓ IRSM - To upload on ICMR website.