**Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee held on September 30, 2013**

The Executive Committee of Common Cause met on September 30, 2013 at 4.00 P.M. at Common Cause House. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) J. P. Gupta, Shri Kamal Jaswal and Shri Surjit Das attended the meeting.

**Muzaffarnagar riots**

The Director apprised the Committee about the Intervention Application filed by Common Cause on the reported sting operation conducted by Headlines Today on the Muzaffarnagar riots. The application sought an order from the Court seeking an investigation into the veracity of the sting report and a full probe into the events and matters referred to in the tapes recorded by the said T.V. Channel. The main petition had been filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association. The case has been listed for October 17, 2013.

The Director also mentioned about the Press Release issued by Common Cause, FRNV and CHRI after a joint Press Conference on the findings of the Sting Operation which was widely covered by the media.

**New Broadcast by Private Radio Stations**

In the matter pertaining to News broadcasts by private radio stations, a PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court on September 6, 2013 with a prayer to quash the unreasonable and unconstitutional provisions in the extant government policy that bars news reportage by private radio stations and further, to grant permission agreements.

**Appointment of CAG**

In the PIL pertaining to the appointment of the CAG (where Director, Common Cause and Shri B.P. Mathur are individual petitioners), the hearing could not be taken up on the scheduled date by the Delhi High Court. The hearing has now been fixed for October 3, 2013.

**K.G. Basin/RIL : PIL matter**

The Director mentioned that the presiding judge of the Supreme Court Bench which was to hear this case had recused himself. The Chief Justice of India then headed this Bench on a subsequent hearing and has directed that notices should be issued to Union of India, DGH, CBI and RIL and Niko to file their responses within 4 weeks.

**Intervention Application in Ashok Chavan’s Case**

The matter is listed for further hearing on October 22, 2013.

**Coal Block Allocations**

After our counsel Shri Prashant Bhusan, had made a spirited argument that the entire allocation was non-transparent, unfair and had resulted in windfall profits to a few private firms and also that it was violative of Artcle 14 of the Constitution, several other private parties represented by their counsel, had sought to be impleaded but their application was effectively opposed by our counsel.

The affidavit of the Union of India had stated that 172 coal blocks had been identified for allocation but could not provide clear details regarding allocations made separately to government and private companies. The Supreme Court then asked the Union of India on September 25, to clarify as to who had the power to allocate coal blocks-the Centre or the states and other details. The AG informed the court that all coal mines after the 1973 Act belonged to the states and the recommendation for their allocation came from the concerned states. The AG further argued on September 26, 2013 that the allocation letter was only the first step but did not by itself confer any right to operate the mine and that under the Mines and Minerals Act, the allocation letter was only a letter of intent and its issuance did not in any way impinge on the rights of the state governments.

After protracted arguments, the Supreme Court has issued notices to the state governments of Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, A.P., M.P. and West Bengal to explain their position. The matter has been listed for October 29, 2013.

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

Maj. Gen. J P Gupta

( in the chair)