

**Minutes of the 128th Commission Meeting held on 01.04.2008 at
11.00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Commission**

The following attended the meeting :

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| 1. | Ms.Nirmala Venkatesh | Chairperson |
| 2. | Ms.Yasmeen Abrar | Member |
| 3. | Ms.Malini Bhattacharya | Member |
| 4. | Ms.Neeva Konwar | Member |
| 5. | Ms.Manju S.Hembrom | Member |
| 6. | Shri S.Chatterjee | Member-Secretary |

In attendance were :

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| 1. | Ms.Vijaya Moorthy | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Sh.Abdus Salam | Under Secretary |
| 3. | Sh.Yogesh Mehta | Law Officer |
| 4. | Sh.S.C.Kaushik | Pay & Accounts Officer |
| 5. | Ms.Kareena B.Thengamam | P.R.O |
| 6. | Sh.V.K.Asthana | Section Officer |

In absence of Chairperson and as agreed in the last meeting of the Commission, the meeting would be chaired by any of the Members on rotation basis; the meeting was chaired by Ms. Nirmala Venkatesh, Member, NCW.

The Commission welcomed Shri S.C.Kaushik, who has joined NCW as Pay & Accounts Officer on 24th March, 2008.

Item No.1. Leave of absence.

Nil. All members were present in the meeting.

Item No.2. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 11.03.2008.

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11th March, 2008. was confirmed.

Item No.3. Circulation of ATR as additional agenda.

ATRs of the last meeting which was held on 11.3.2008 will be submitted in the next meeting.

(Action : All concerned)

Item No.4. Judgment of Madurai bench of the High Court in the matter of Ms.G.Kavitha Vs. Union of India and Ors. In Writ Petition No.2949 of 2004.

After deliberations it was agreed that there was no need to intervene into the matter. However, there was a consensus that procedure of serving the summons should be made easy.

Law officer would take action accordingly.

(Action : Legal Cell)

Item No.5. Retainership Fee to the Counsel Shri Sameer Aggarwal and extension of Retainership upto 31st December, 2008.

Approved.

(Action : Legal Cell)

Item No.6. Workshop on the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act at Kolkata.

Approved.

(Action : Legal Cell)

Item No.7. Study of cases registered under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act in the State of Maharashtra.

Approved.

(Action : Law Officer)

Item No.8. Amendment in the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

The Commission was apprised that the amendments have been put on the website Further consultations would be held before finalizing the recommendations.

A copy of draft Broadcasting Code may also be circulated to all Members so that a comprehensive view could be taken, as suggested by M(MB).

(Action : Legal Cell)

Item No.9. Inquiry Report – Rape and kidnapping of a dalit girl (Ms.Rachna Rai) at Bhadoi – UP

Report of the Inquiry Committee is accepted. Reminders to be issued to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Uttar Pradesh Government.

(Action : C&I Cell)

Item No.10. Prevention of offences (by Acids) Act, 2008.

NCW can recommend for payment of compensation to Acid attack victims depending upon the gravity of injury inflicted on the victims. The recommendation may be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Women & Child Development for further action.

(Action : Legal Cell)

Item No.11. Expenditure on the seminar on sensitization of block level functionaries on the PWDV Act at Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Jaipur.

Approved. However, a column of justification may be added for incurring excess expenditure.

(Action : Legal Cell)

Item No.12. Expenditure on the workshop on Protection of Women from Domestic Violence.

Approved. However, a column of justification may be added for incurring excess expenditure.

(Action : Legal Cell)

Item No.13. Proposal to allow one day's leave in a month to the Counsellors.

Approved.

(Action : Administration)

Item No.14.Minutes of the 127th Commission Meeting held on 11.03.2008.

Confirmed.

(Action : Administration)

Item No.15. Action Taken Report of the decision taken in the meeting of the Commission held on 11.02.2008 and 27.02.2008.

Approved.

(Action : Administration)

Item No.16. (a) Enhancement of emoluments of daily-wage workers.

Deferred till next meeting of the Commission.

(Action : Administration)

(b) National Consultation on draft policy on Women in Agriculture

Approved. Consultation would be held in first/second week of May, 2008.

(Action : R&S Cell)

(c) Consultation of Experts on Surrogacy and Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART).

A preliminary Consultation consisting of 30-40 persons shall be held in the Conference Hall of the Commission.

(Action : Legal Cell)

(d) Comment of judge on Shivani Bhatnagar murder case.

It was agreed with voice vote that praising a convict by the Judge of Delhi High Court will send a wrong signal. A copy of judgment shall be obtained and after examining it, the NCW can file an appeal to expunge the remarks with regard to praise of the convict. Legal Cell to take immediate action.

(Action : Legal Cell)

Item No.17. Short film on National Commission for Women.

Approved. A phone-in programme to be restarted by NCW with AIR/FM radios which respond to questions as women's right and laws pertaining to women.

Recommendations of NCW on policy matters may be integrated with a clear cut classifications and it shall be made a permanent record.

(Action : P R Cell)

Item No.18. Seminar at Sikkim.

Approved, Seminar will be held on 19th April, 2008.

(Action : Legal Cell)

Item No.19. Report on implementation of the protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.

A separate meeting may be called for discussing this matter.

(Action : Legal Cell)

Item No.20. Request from Shri Sudhir Yadav (IPS) Jt. Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police regarding assistance in conducting sensitization programmes.

A detailed proposal may be called from Joint Commissioner of Police, Crime against Women Cell (CAWC) for further examination of the request. This should be done expeditiously.

(Action : Administration)

Item No.21. Proposal of Pondicherry Women's Commission for conducting one day programme for various self help group - regarding bringing down the suicide ratio in Union Territory of Pondicherry.

Approved for Rs.1,00,000/- only in favour of Pondicherry Women's Commission.

(Action : R&S Cell)

Item No.22. Closure of Non-mandate complaints.

A meeting of Coordinators and Counsellors of C&I Cell shall be called to brief them regarding the complaints of a woman against another woman (*viz. mother-in-law against daughter-in-law*). These cases should be taken up by the Commission, as these also amount to deprivation of women's rights.

It was decided that even in non-mandate cases, appropriate action will be taken by writing letters to the concerned authorities, enclosing a copy of the complaint. A letter should also be sent to the complainant that they should contact the relevant authority for further action, who have already been forwarded their complaint.

(Action : DS & C&I Cell)

Item No.23. Any other item with the approval of Chair.

- (i) It was discussed that many agenda items are received in the last moment say one day before scheduled date of meeting. It was agreed that agenda items should be sent to the Administration at least one week before the date of the Commission's meeting, so that these are circulated well in time to all concerned and if anybody wants to make any suggestions/amendments the same can be incorporated well before the commencement of meeting.

- (ii) It was also discussed and agreed that proposals for conducting legal Awareness Programme (LAP)/Study etc. shall come through the State Government or be recommended by any Member including Member Secretary of the Commission.
- (iii) It was agreed that the next meeting the Screening Committee and Commission's Meeting shall be held on 28th and 29th April, 2008 respectively in the Conference Hall of NCW.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks.