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MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN HELD ON THE 3RD AUGUST, 1993

The Eighth Meeting of the National Commission for Women was held at New Delhi on August 3, 1993, under the chairmanship of Ms. Jayanti Patnaik. The following were present :-

1. Ms. Jayanti Patnaik : Chairperson
2. Ms. Monika Das : Member
3. Ms. B. Senapati : Member
4. Ms. Ganga Potai : Member
5. Ms. Annie Prasad : Member Secretary

Ms. Anna R. Malhotra, Hony. Advisor attended the meeting as a special invitee.

Dr. K.K. Kirty, Deputy Secretary, Shri R.P. Madan O.S.D. to Chairperson, and Consultants Shri B.K. Samaddar, Shri D.K.D. Chaudhari, Shri K.M. Kamboj, Mrs. R. Nag, and Shri P.S. Ravindra were also present for rendering assistance.

After Chairperson's introductory remarks, the agenda items were taken up for discussions :-

Item No.(1) : Confirmation of the minutes of the Seventh Meeting of National Commission for Women held on the 14th June, 1993

- (i) Ms. Veena Verma's "The Married Women's (Protection of Rights) Bill".

The Commission noted that the Expert Committee had decided to keep in view Ms. Veena Verma's Bill while drafting a new legislation on matrimonial property.

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(ii) Questionnaire for visits to States

It was noted that part information had been received from some of the States and that the remaining States were reminded to furnish the required information with reference to the Questionnaire - Chairperson desired that full information be obtained from the States concerned before tours are undertaken in those States, and that the information so far received be analysed, and gaps, if any, taken up with the concerned Governments.

(iii) Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Feeding (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1963
Convening meeting with the UNICEF to discuss the provisions of the Act with a view to suggesting amendments, if any required

(a) It was noted that a joint workshop with the UNICEF should be held after further discussions with UNICEF officers.

(b) Ms. Swaminathan has invited Chairperson to be Guest at the Seminar on Maternity and Child Care organised by Ms. Swaminathan, Research Foundation, to be held in Madras on 31.08.1993.

(iv) Proposal for setting up of Sub-Committees in the States for collecting information regarding rape cases of women and children all over the country

The Commission noted that six women social workers held discussions with the Chairperson on the 6th August, 1993, and chalk out an action plan for gathering information from the States.

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information regarding various aspects of the rape cases of minor girls before constituting an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of M(MD).

(v) Monthly review of all the complaints should be conducted on the first Tuesday of every month

(a) After some discussion it was decided that the status of the complaints should be reviewed once in two months and that the review should be placed as a permanent agenda item of the meeting of the Commission once in 2 months.

(b) It was also decided that the Member of the Commission should inform well in advance the items they would want to be discussed in the meeting.

(c) Meeting of all the "Crimes against Women's Cell" in Delhi convened on 30.06.1993

It was noted that the meeting was held on the scheduled date and that the minutes thereof would be issued shortly.

(vi) Consideration of the report of the Expert Committee with regard to custody and guardianship of minors

The Commission noted that the report of the Expert Committee was being sent to the Voluntary Organisations concerned for their comments.

(vii) Training programme for elected representatives of Panchayats in West Bengal

It was noted that a copy of the Training Module received from the Government of West Bengal. It was decided that a copy of the module would be circulated among Members before the next meeting of the Commission.

(viii) Consideration of the report of the Expert Committee to examine the existing laws on the sale of minors etc.

It was noted that a copy of the report was forwarded to the Government for necessary action.

(ix) Staff of the Commission

It was mentioned in the meeting that the proposal for the creation of 80 temporary posts in various grades in the Department of Women and Child Development in December, 1992 and the proposal for creation of the following posts: (a) Public Relations Officer and (b) Cashier (UI) on priority basis was sent to the Department on 09.07.1992. These are yet to be cleared by the Department. It was decided that a personal approach should be made to the Department to get the proposal cleared by the Department at an early date. (ANM) offered her services for getting the proposal cleared at Joint Secretary's and Secretary's levels.

(x) Proposal regarding studies by the Council for Child Development

The Commission noted that the Council for

Development had submitted their findings after analysing the press clippings relating to women ; It was decided that a workshop should be organised by the NCW jointly with CSD on "Women and Print Media" and that the Member Secretary would pursue the matter after consulting Shri Muchkund Dubey.

(xi) Meeting of the Women's Studies Centres

Regarding networking between NCW and UGC sponsored Centre for Women's Development Study Centres, it was suggested that as a first step Chairperson and Members may meet Chairman of the UGC in this regard for a discussion. This was agreed.

(xii) High Powered Committee to suggest reforms in the Insurance Sector

The Commission noted that a meeting was convened by Member (PS) to give suggestions to promote and safeguard the interests of women in the Insurance Sector and that follow-up action had been initiated as a result of the meeting. It was decided that material should be prepared urgently, for presentation during the hearing of the Committee.

(xiii) Proposal for appointing a Commissioner for Women's Rights

The Commission was informed that a note on the subject was received from the Department of Women and Child Development on 28.07.1993 and was being examined. After some discussion it was proposed that in its reply to the

Department of Women and Child Development the should take a stand that no action should be taken its (NCW's) powers and functions. Moreover, c different bodies would create confusion in the minds as to the functions of the Commission. In additic felt that the mechanism for fighting atrocities aga will mainly form part of the functions of the NC State level Commissions. As such, any other functioning independent of the NCW may create co the minds of the law enforcing agencies also. With the Parliament assurance given in respect of the Co of Women's Rights, the Department of W&CD, it was might be informed that the said assurance had been fulfilled seeing that a more powerful organi safe-guard the interests of women and their rights created under an Act of Parliament. However, an expressed in the meeting was that the setting Office of the Commissioner for Women's Rights i districts of India, would go a long way to p interest of women at the District level all over th Finally, the view that emerged was that if the Commissioners are to be created, they should for NCW's set up.

(xv) Workshop to be held on the 30th September October, 1993 to decide about the issues to before the Fourth World Conference on Wc organised by the UN in Beijing, China in 1995.

It was decided that in the first instance the

should write to the Government to include it in the Indian Delegation for attending the Conference. The date for the workshop will be decided after preparatory work is done.

Item No.(3) Draft of the Annual Report

At the outset the Chairperson observed that the Annual Report should show that within a short span of time the Commission had done considerable work and suggested that a Committee should be set up under Member Secretary to study each Chapter of the draft report and make amendments, if any, and suggest improvements in presentation, language etc., wherever required.

It was also decided that Member Secretary should draw up a schedule of dates for scrutinising each chapter by discussion with the Members and the Officers concerned for making necessary amendments in the draft report. Thereafter the revised draft report would be considered by the Commission.

Item No.(4) Any other item with the approval of the Chairperson

- (i) Training of Jailors in Charge of Prisons, where women prisoners are lodged

It was stated that the training programme for Jailors would be organised by the NIPCCD and funded by the NCW and that the proposal to this effect would be submitted to the Commission very shortly. It was tentatively agreed that the Commission should fund to the tune Rs.35,000/- for organising each programme.

(ii) Development of Data Base in respect of items of work handled by the NCW

It was agreed in the meeting that a Data base development in respect of the various work/programmes/research work handled by the It was pointed out that the Commission's office started corresponding with the NIC for the Dev Data Base.

(iii) Appreciation of services rendered by Ms. Hony. Adviser

The Commission placed on record its deep a of the valuable services rendered to the Com Ms.V.S. Rama Devi, in the capacity of Hony. Advi Commission.
