

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION'S MEETING HELD ON 4TH APRIL, 2003

Present in the meeting were:

Dr. Poornima Advani	:	Chairperson
Smt. Baby Rani Maurya	:	Member
Dr. Sudha Malaiya	:	Member
Smt. Sunila Basant	:	Member Secretary
Smt. Nita Kapoor	:	Joint Secretary
Shri S.K. Garg	:	Under Secretary
Shri H. Kumar	:	Sr.Research Officer
Shri T.N. Sabharwal	:	Consultant

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed all the Members to the Commission. Before agenda items were taken up, Member (SM) pointed out that agenda for the Commission's meeting should be circulated timely so that Members could get sufficient time to go through the same. Chairperson stated that Administration may submit the file well in time even if no item for the agenda is received by them.

It was also decided that the minutes will be recorded very briefly containing only the decision on the agenda items and in case, there is any dissent then the reason for dissent should also be recorded in brief.

Agenda Item No.1

Leave of absence

Member(N.Hussain) was granted leave of absence.

Agenda Item No.2

Adoption of the Minutes of the special meetings of the Commission held on 4th & 13th March, 2003 as well as the Commission's meeting held on 5th March, 2003

Minutes of the Special meeting of the Commission held on 4th & 13th March, 2003 were adopted. In the Commission's meeting held on 5th March, 03.

M(SM) pointed out that the decisions on items No. 11 & 12 have been reversed, therefore, the observation against Agenda Item No.12 may be read against the Agenda Item No.11 and the observation against the Item No.11 read against the Item No.12. The points raised by M(SM) were noted. Minutes were adopted with these changes.

Agenda Item No.4

Proposals relating to Legal Awareness Programme approved by the Screening Committee in its meetings held on 31st January, 2003

Noted by the Commission and it was decided that the meeting of Legal Awareness Programme should be held every month. It was also decided that the antecedents of the NGOs before awarding the programme should invariably be checked from the State Commission for Women/Members of the Commission and only on obtaining a written recommendation should the project be sanctioned.

Agenda Item No.5

Problem of Female Foeticide

It was decided that the Commission will launch a campaign against Female Foeticide by holding awareness camps. For holding camps, 5 or 6 states will be identified based on adverse sex ratio. In the campaign, the representatives of Indian Medical Association, Sonologists and NGOs working in medical field should also be involved. An Expert Committee on Gender & Health shall be constituted. These campaigns will be held in identified states. Campaign against the Female Foeticide will be launched at three levels – at college level, at district level and finally at state level.

For College level, campaign will be held through a lead college who will coordinate with ten colleges, including the lead college. For this, a sum of Rs.25,000/- per state will be paid by the Commission in total for all the ten colleges. Each Lead college would be required to give a report of the proceedings of the camps.

For District level programmes, four Gramin Camps will be held in one district in a state, for which Rs.20,000/- will be sanctioned per state by the Commission @ Rs.5,000/- per camp to the State Commission for Women. The concerned SWC would be required to give a report on the campaign carried out in the state.

And finally, in every identified state, there will be state level programme. For carrying out the campaign and implementation of the project and for collating and analysing the reports received from the Lead colleges and the State Women's Commissions and for compiling a final report on the results of the campaign. one coordinator and one researcher will be engaged by the Commission for a period of 6 months. The date of the State level Meeting could be either before or after the district meeting. The date would be finalised in consultation with chairperson and the State officials should be involved at this meet.

Agenda Item No.6

New Year Message of the Hon'ble President to the women in the country

The Chairperson and the Members of the Commission had met the President of India and apprised the President of the functions and activities of the Commission. The President agreed to address the women of the country on New Year's day from the platform of NCW. It was decided that the Commission will organise an event in Vigyan Bhawan inviting young girl students.

Agenda Item No.7

Interaction session of the President with students of Bihar or UP under the banner of NCW

Approved. However, the same will be held through the State Commission for Women. Both states i.e. UP and Bihar will be involved for this purpose. A meeting will be called to work out the modalities in which the Chairperson and Member Secretary of both the States Commission for Women will be invited.

Agenda Item No.8

National Commission for Women (Recruitment to Group 'A' and 'B' officers) Rules 2002 – Approval/adoption by the Commission

The Draft Recruitment rules were approved. It was decided that the administration may make necessary technical corrections and send the proposal to the Deptt. of WCD without coming again to the Commission.

Agenda Item Nos.9,10,11 & 12

These items were deferred and it was decided that these will be discussed in a special meeting of the Commission.

Agenda Item N o.13**Report of XXIV Biennial Conference, Golden Jubilee Celebration held on October 3-5, 2001 – approval/adoption by the Commission**

The Report was considered unsatisfactory and it was decided that the organisers will be asked to send the recommendations and then report will be circulated to all Members.

Agenda Item No.14**Holding of Workshop on Women in Industry**

The Commission approved the holding of 3 regional workshops.

It was decided that henceforth projects will not be approved as projects for individual Members. All projects will be that of the Commission.

It was also decided to hold the meeting of the Expert Committee on Women in Industry as early as possible.

Agenda Item No.15**Constitution of Expert Committee for the North Eastern States**

The Commission approved the relaxation in the ratio of 30:70 (outside Delhi : within Delhi) for constitution of the Expert Committee for North Eastern States

Agenda Item No.16**Launch of Empowerment Camps in Rural areas at the hands of Hon'ble Prime Minister**

The Commission approved the proposal to launch the rural District Empowerment Camps for women by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. This programme would substitute the present Legal awareness camps programme by enlarging the scope of the programme. The objectives of the District Empowerment Camps which would be held for one day, would be two-fold -- (a) To provide information of Central/State Govt./Banks schemes and procedure to be adopted for gaining access to the facilities/benefits being provided and also to impart legal awareness (b) To obtain feed back from these camps of the difficulties and obstacles faced by women in obtaining justice and to identify gaps in the present system.

It was decided that the State Women's Commissions would be involved in the implementation of the programme in as much as they would be associated in

holding of camps as far as possible and they would be given Rs.5000/- to prepare the State specific core-content for the camps in regional languages. It was further decided that the NCW would select the NGOs' for conducting the camps. The NGOs' would be required to give a report on the proceedings of the Camps. It would be necessary to collect and collate all these reports, make an analysis and prepare a report for consideration of the Commission. For this purpose, a coordinator and a researcher be engaged by the Commission on contract basis as per guidelines issued by the Deptt. of WCD.

Agenda Item No.17

Decision of Core Committee on Women in Governance regarding "Collection of data"

Approved. The Chief Secretaries and the State Women's Commission would be requested to ensure compilation of data.

Agenda Item No.18

State level consultations on National Policy on Empowerment of women

It was decided that state level consultations on National Policy on Empowerment of Women to develop State Policies and action plan and to identify gaps in the National Policy will be held in 10 states, in addition to the North Eastern States. Number of North Eastern States will be decided in the North East Expert Committee's meeting. The consultation will be through State Commission for women involving women study centre/university or some other institutions.

Agenda Item No.19

Regional Consultations with State Women's Commissions and Jan Samwad / a collaboration between UNFPA and National Commission for Women on the subject of Health Governance and Gender.

Approved in principle. A meeting with UNFPA will be fixed for working out the modalities and selection of Pilot projects. The funding for these consultations and pilot projects should be done by UNFPA directly to the State Women's Commission. In the case of Regional Consultation for the North East Region, the National Commission for Women could provide the financial assistance.

Agenda Item No.20**Any other item with the permission of the chair****(1) Payment of TA/DA**

Payment of TA/DA to the Members of Expert Committee was approved. Payment may be made to experts coming from outside Delhi – IIInd Class Rail fare plus DA as admissible to Group ‘A’ officers of the Central Govt. In the case of experts from North Eastern Region, travel may be allowed by air in (Y Class) plus DA. The resource person who usually prepare background papers and/ or make presentations during the expert committee meetings would be allowed travel by air in Y Class plus DA. The rates of DA will be uniform for all the experts.

(2) All India Convention of Women’s Chairperson of Panchayati Raj Institutions

Holding of All India Convention of women’s Chairperson of Panchayati Raj Institutions was approved in principle. It was decided that the Commission should hold the convention in collaboration with Ministry of Rural Development and also find out which other Ministry can be involved. Since holding of such a convention would involve large scale administrative arrangements it may be necessary to engage an event manager. It would also be necessary to set up a Core Committee to oversee all the arrangements and also a Committee for the academic inputs.

(3) Core Committee on Women in Media

It was decided that NCW should have a Media Watch Group and State Commission for Women should also constitute their own Media Watch Group. On the basis of the recommendations of Chairperson’s meeting held on 28-29th March, 2003, Media Watch Group will monitor the advertisements. Members were requested to send the names for Media Core Committee within 15 days i.e. by **20th April, 2003.**

It was also decided that representatives from Press Council, Ministry of I & B, ASCE should be involved.

(4) Jail Visit Report

It was decided that Members who go on a jail visit will give a brief analysis of the report in a separate sheet to be attached with the report with their specific recommendations.

(5) Suggestions for making investigation more effective

It was decided that investigation should be more effective. First of all, the investigation team should meet the victim, victim's relative, locals and then district/state officials. A standard format should be prepared to take depositions of victims/witnesses and concerned offices. The Report should be prepared by the team immediately. On culmination of the investigation and be adopted by the Commission thereafter. The adopted report should be sent to the concerned officials/department at the earliest. Administration to determine precedence with regard to TA/DA of coopted Members. Signed copies of the report should be only for official circulation. A separate report without depositions to be for public consumption.

(6) Appointment of coordinators

It was decided that coordinators will be engaged for projects as per the guidelines of the Department of WCD.

- (i) The coordinators will not be attached to Members. They will work directly with the Cell Incharges who would be dealing with various research/study projects.
- (ii) Grouping of research & study projects be made.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.
