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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Minutes of the 40th meeting of the Commission
held at 10.00 AM on 5-5-98 in NCW.

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At the outset, Chairperson welcomed all Members and gave a brief on her visit to Ethiopia.

Chairperson brought to the notice of the Commission the misinformation on NCW published in the document "Mapping Progress" - Assessing/Implementation of the Beijing Platform 1998" and circulated at the Conference. It was decided to take it up with the Department.

ITEM NO 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 39th meeting.

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Minutes of the 39th meeting of the Commission were confirmed.

ITEM NO.2 : Action taken report in respect of decisions taken in the 39th meeting of the Commission and action taken on the items discussed in the meeting.

Action taken report in respect of decisions taken at the 39th meeting of the Commission were approved with the following modifications and additions.

Sub-Section No.8 - To strengthen the NCW Act it was decided to call a meeting with Ms Maya Daruwala, Ms Veena Majumdar and Mr. Ramaiah the next day.

Sub-Section No.9 - Format for acknowledgement was discussed and it was decided to print the acknowledgement on post cards.

Sub-Section No.12 - Effective steps have been taken for storage of publications of NCW. Check list of material to be issued being processed.

Sub-Section No.15 - The Commission discussed strategies to proclaim 1999 as the "Dowryless Year". It was decided to focus on college going students. It was decided to request UGC/CWDS to organise poster competition in colleges in every State. On January 1st an advertisement in major national dailies would be brought out on the subject.

It was also proposed to write to the Honourable Prime Minister and Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of all States to appoint Dowry Prohibition Officers to declare 1999 as the Dowryless Year.

ITEM NO.3 : Consideration of the Budget Estimates for three months of the financial year 1998-99 (from 5/98 to 7/98) with reference to the grant of Rs.50.00 lakhs received from the Department of Women and Child Development.

Budget allocation proposed in Agenda item was approved by the Commission.

Member (SSH) drew attention to the minutes of the Steering Committee on Budget regarding the conduct of Panchayat Training Programmes. She sought to know whether no more training programme would be held and whether this could be modified. Adviser(PS informed the Commission that the NCW had in the past organised training programmes. It was pointed out by the Member Secretary that there is no module for training unlike Legal Literacy. In the absence of such a module, at present in the name of training gatherings of 200 women are being held and termed as training. It was felt that no single module could be applicable all over the country. It was again pointed out that the training module prepared by Mrs. Anita Das is proposed to be used in Bangladesh,

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It was therefore, decided to draw up a training module for Panchayat Training taking into consideration the modules of the Government of India, Anita Das, Rajmal Devdas, Gujarat and of the NCW, so that NCW can sponsor practical meaningful training for elected Panchayat members.

ITEM NO.4 : Consultant Shri D.P. Sethi presented the Budget and staff requirements for organisation of the SAARC Conference in June 1998. The Commission discussed the Calendar of activities for the SAARC Conference.

After the Agenda items were discussed the following were taken up for discussion:

(i) It was decided to raise the emoluments of Ms Jaya Lakshmi to Rs.1500/- per month.

(ii) Chairperson brought to the notice of the Commission the fact that a donation was made by her of Rs.2000/- to the Red Cross School for the Blind at Ambapua, District Berhampur, Orissa. It was stated by MS that there is no provision in the Financial Rules for giving donations.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.