

**MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION'S MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup>  
JANUARY, 2002.**

**Present in the meeting were:**

1. Smt. Vibha Parthasarathi : Chairperson
2. Smt. K. Santha Reddy : Member
3. Kum. Anusuiya Uike : Member
4. Smt. Nafisa Hussain : Member
5. Smt. Reva Nayyar : Member Secretary
6. Smt. Nita Kapoor : Joint Secretary
7. Kum. R. Bhama : Deputy Secretary

Agenda Item No.1

**Leave of Absence.**

Chairperson informed the Commission that a note was received from PS to M(K.S.Reddy) asking for postponement of the Commission's meeting to the next day, i.e. 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2002. The Chairperson informed that the postponement of the Commission's meeting was not possible on account of pre-engagement, which was already fixed.

## Agenda Item No.2

### **Confirmation of Minutes of the preceding meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2001.**

The Minutes of the preceding meeting were approved and adopted subject to the following :

- i) The Chairperson commented that in the minutes of the Agenda Item No.21, para (e) where it was mentioned that "The administrative officials were invited at last minute on the initiative by NCW", it should be recorded as "invited at the last minute at the insistence of NCW".
- i) With regard to Agenda Item No.24(iii), the Chairperson mentioned that the files have been traced.
- i) With reference to para (iv) of the same agenda, the Chairperson informed that the Commission has taken up the matter with the appropriate authorities.

## Agenda Item No.3

### **Proposals relating to Legal Awareness Programmes approved by the Screening Committee.**

The Legal Awareness Programmes approved by the Screening Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2001 were noted by the Commission.

It was decided that the programmes sanctioned would be mapped and placed on a Bulletin Board in NCW and Members tour programmes also placed there.

#### Agenda Item No.4

### **Proposals relating to Special Studies/Seminars/Workshops/Public Hearings approved by the Screening Committee.**

The proposals approved by the Screening Committee in its meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2001 were noted by the Commission.

#### Agenda Item No.5

### **Functioning of the Commission in the interregnum before the new Chairperson joins.**

It was decided that after completion of the term of the current Chairperson and the appointment of a new Chairperson, the following procedures shall be followed :

- i. All Members may prepare the tour programmes anticipated up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2002 and submit them for the approval of the Chairperson immediately so that there is no problem regarding sanction of tour programmes after 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2002. In the event a new Chairperson joins, during this period, the tour programmes will once again be placed before the new Chairperson for approval/further orders.
- ii. All the Members and Member Secretary shall meet at least once a month to discuss issues and programmes of the Commission. The decision shall be taken on a majority view.

#### Agenda Item No.6

### **Budget Expenditure/Revised Expenditure proposed for the Year 2001-2002 – Review thereof.**

The Commission noted the position of the expenditure incurred up to 31.12.2001 vis-à-vis the Budget Estimates and the Revised Estimates. The Commission was informed that no intimation have been received from the DWCD regarding the budget allocated under the Revised Estimates. Re-appropriation would be carried out towards the end of the year to compensate any excess/shortfalls of expenditure under different heads.

## **Condemnation of Commission's Car No.DL 6C 7302 (NE).**

The Commission approved the proposal for seeking pre-mature condemnation of the staff car. On purchase of a new car against the condemned car, the new car shall be placed at the disposal of the new Chairperson, NCW and the car being presently used by Chairperson would be allotted to JS, NCW.

It was also decided that the drivers would present the log book every evening to the CP/Members/Member Secretary for the signature. Instructions would also be issued to the drivers accordingly. The noting in the milometre as well as the time at which Member has released the car would also be noted and signed by the Members.

### Agenda Item No.8

#### **Observation of Staff Car Rules and payment of OTA to drivers.**

The Commission reiterated that the following rules shall be followed:

1. All the Commission's vehicles shall be parked in the NCW premises after completion of duty. Drivers shall pick up the vehicles from the Commission premises on reporting for duty and also park them here on completing their duties (GOI Decision No. (3) and 4 (viii) under Rule 3 of Staff Car Rules).
2. Drivers shall ensure that the vehicle contains adequate amount of CNG/Petrol, before they finally park the vehicle in the NCW campus on completing the day's duty.
3. Drivers shall mark their attendance on reporting for duty and on completion of duty, indicating the time; overtime attendance shall be allowed accordingly.
4. When the Member/Officers with whom their duty is assigned are out of station on tour/leave, the drivers shall report to

5. Drivers shall not take leave without the prior approval of SO( Admn.).
6. Drivers shall not undertake any repairs/servicing of the vehicles without the prior approval of Member Secretary. If they do so, the amounts shall be deducted from their wages.
7. Overtime allowance shall ordinarily be restricted to 100 hours per month. (GOI order No.(1) under Rule 26 of Staff Car Rules).
8. When Members/Officers are out of station, on tour/leave, the drivers assigned with them shall be allotted duties by Administration. Overtime allowance during these periods, if any, shall be allotted only for work done beyond office hours, at the instructions of Administration.

In the event that Members retain the cars till late at night or need it at very early hours in the morning to catch flight etc. and for this purpose the car is required to be parked at the residence, Members would themselves so indicate in the log book.

Regarding leave applied for by drivers, Members will forward the application with their recommendation to Member Secretary and thereafter Administration will issue sanctions.

Instructions would be issued to this effect.

#### Agenda Item No.9

#### **Staff Car Rules – Usage of Staff Cars on tour by road – outside HQs – by Members/Officers.**

It was decided that Rule 9 of the Staff Car Rules that staff cars shall not be used for official journey outside Headquarters except on the written sanction of the Secretary of the Ministry (Chairperson, NCW) would be strictly followed.

take staff car outside New Delhi/Delhi would seek the prior permission of Chairperson along with their request for to the tour programme.

#### Agenda Item No.10

#### **Economy in Expenditure – on domestic travel/on telephone bills/on petrol (mileage).**

The Commission decided the following:

- i) No tour for attending one programme only shall be proposed; as it does not justify expenditure on travel, which is very expensive especially for journeys over 500 Kms. A cluster of programmes should be planned whenever a Member plans a tour.
- ii) The ceiling for bills for telephones of Members installed at the office and the residence would be Rs.15,000/- per month combined. Since the call rates are expected to be revised downwards, the ceiling would be reduced proportionately to the reduction effected by MTNL.
- iii) The Commission would also make effort to reduce excessive travel which was reflected in the mileage of each car. The position would be reviewed by the new Commission at the end of 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2002.

#### Agenda Item No.11

#### **Engagement of Advocate Shri Subrat Birla as Attorney on Retainership for NCW.**

The Commission noted the engagement of Advocate Shri Subrat Birla.

## **Research and Documentation of the Complaints & Counselling Unit – Project of PRAJA.**

The Commission noted that PRAJA had been granted extension of a further period of 6 months to complete the documentation of the Complaints and Counselling cell of NCW. It was also decided that a meeting of PRAJA with Members of NCW would be fixed to update the Members on the action taken.

The Chairperson informed the Commission about the changes in the newly engaged counsellors working in the Complaints Cell and about the mode of recruitment.

Chairperson also apprised the Commission that the new counsellors would be given an induction training by experts at two levels from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2002 by SANJEEVANI and thereafter by SOSRAC.

Members (A.Uike) and (N.Hussain) complained about the behaviour of Smt. Sangeeta Sharma, Receptionist on two counts. One in not dealing with complainants at the reception in a fit manner and two, in denying access to Member (N.Hussain) when Member (N.Hussain) had already agreed that the receptionist should send the complainant to see her. Since several complaints had been received against Smt. Sangeeta Sharma in the past too, it was decided that Smt. Sangeeta Sharma would be immediately shifted from the Reception Desk.

### Agenda Item No.13

#### **Suggestions forwarded to the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution.**

The Commission noted the suggestions forwarded by NCW to the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution.

## Celebration of Foundation Day – 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2002.

The Commission noted the following that

- i. The Commission's Foundation Day would be organised on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2002 at the Indian National Science Academy (auditorium), Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.
- ii. The Commission would organise a panel discussion on the work of women activists, who were part of the Freedom Movement as well as doyens of the post-Independence Women's Movement, many of who have since passed away. While paying tribute to their work, the discussion would focus on how to carry the torch forward. The names of some stalwarts were suggested:
  - (i) Ms. Geeta Mukherjee
  - (ii) Ms. Vimla Farookhi
  - (iii) Ms. Sushila Gopalan
  - (iv) Ms. Pramila Dandavate

Members were requested to suggest both names of such women activists who were to be remembered for the achievement along with names of women who had worked with such doyens, and those who may be invited to speak on them.

A meeting of a committee comprising the following would be called for consultation:

- (i) Ms. Sushila Kaushik
  - (ii) Ms. Vinay Bharadwaj
  - (iii) Ms. Sujata Madhok
  - (iv) Ms. Andal Damodaran (ICCW)
- iii. Release of the Publication "A Decade of Endeavour" Vol.II in case it is complete and has been printed before 31.1.2002.



**Proposed programme for International Women's Day – 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2002 : Honouring organisations, who have done outstanding work on women's issues.**

Members agreed to the proposed programme and would give names of organisations for selection by a Jury to be set up by the Commission to ensure an unbiased selection by a set of independent experts.

Agenda Item No.16

**Project proposal from Penal Reform and Justice association, Gurgaon on Mental Health and care of Women and Children in Prison in the State of Rajasthan.**

Chairperson informed the Commission that she had a discussion with PRAJA on the project on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2002. It was decided that Members will first look the report of PRAJA's work on the Andhra Pradesh experience, understand and then send their comments on the present project.

Ministry of Home Affairs may also be approached for part funding of the project.

Chairperson dissented from the Members' view and felt that the project should be sanctioned.

Agenda Item No.17

**Proposed project on Tribal's Rights on Land: Problems and Remedies.**

The proposed project for six public hearings of two days each at Rs.20,000/- per camp (totalling Rs.1,20,000/- for 6 camps) was approved.

Engagement of the services of a coordinator and subject consultant was not approved.

The public hearings would be completed within two months in two trips.

**Proposal for holding six public hearings on the problems of divorced Muslim Women in the States of Bihar, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.**

The proposal moved by Member (N.Hussain) to hold six hearings at a total budget of Rs.1.20 lacs @ Rs.20,000/- per hearing in the above said States was approved by the Commission.

Also to be invited to the hearings would be the State Wakf Boards and Muslim Personal Law Boards.

**Agenda Item No.19**

**Preparation and printing of Compendium on Impact of Globalisation on Women.**

The proposal for publishing the compendium was approved at a total estimated budget of Rs. 1 lac. for preparation. Printing would be at the cost of NCW at the approved rates.

At this point, Member (K.S.Reddy) joined the meeting at 3.20 P.M.

**Agenda Item No.20**

**Study on Globalisation, Electronic Media and Cultural Invasion : Its implications for Indian Women and the Girl Child – Report for approval/adoption.**

The report was approved and adopted.

**Agenda Item No.21**

**Report on two-day Seminar on Legal and Judicial Empowerment of Women held on 2-3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2001, at Kurukshetra – Report for approval/adoption.**

The report was approved and adopted. The report would be forwarded to DWCD.

**Agenda Item No.22**

**Public hearing on Muslim women held on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2001 at Latur – report for approval/adoption.**

The report was approved and adopted.

**Seminar on Strategies for the Effective Implementation of the Judicial Legal System with regard to the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women 2001 held on 29-30<sup>th</sup> September, 2001 at Ahmedabad – report for approval/adoption.**

The report was approved and adopted and it would also be sent to the DWCD.

Agenda Item No.24

**Workshop on Control and Elimination of Female Foeticide held on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2001 at Ahmedabad – Report for approval/adoption.**

The report was approved and adopted. The Commission, however, noted with regret that religious leaders did not attend the workshop.

Agenda Item No.25

**Any other item with the permission of the Chair.**

Agenda Item No.25(1)

**List of proposals relating to Special Studies/Seminars/Workshops/Public Hearings approved by the Screening Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2002.**

A list of the proposals approved by the Screening Committee in its meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2002 were circulated for information and noted by the Commission.

Agenda Item No.25(2)

**Conceptual Design of the NCW's building.**

The Commission had availed the consultancy services of HUDCO for architectural planning. A preliminary draft of the conceptual design of the

...ing submitted by HUDCO were circulated to the Commission for th information.

Agenda Item No.25(3)

**Holding a National Workshop on Family Courts.**

A proposal for assessing the work of the Family Courts was submitted to the Commission. The Workshop would be of a full working day and divided into two parts. The morning session would consist of a closed door meeting with the judges of the Family Courts. The afternoon session would be an interaction between the judges of the Family Courts, the NGOs who are working on with the Courts, legal academics, lawyers, State Women Commissions etc. It was suggested that Stree Adhar Kendra should be invited to the workshop.

The proposed budget of Rs. 4 lacs (estimate) was approved.

The Legal Unit of NCW would coordinate and organise a workshop under the supervision of Member Secretary and Member (K.S. Reddy).

Agenda Item No.25(4)

**Workshop on Tribal Women.**

Member (A. Uike) apprised the Commission that three workshops had earlier been approved. Member proposed two more workshops – one in the South (in Mangalore, Karnataka) and a second in the North-East, in a place to be decided in consultation with Joint Secretary, NCW – perhaps Tripura and Meghalaya. The proposal was approved by the Commission.

Agenda Item No.25(5)

**One-day Seminar on the Impact of Globalization on Self Help Groups.**

The proposal earlier moved by Member (K.S. Reddy) was approved by the Commission for holding it in fifteen locations. Member (K.S. Reddy) said that National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD) had been contacted for conducting and coordinating the seminars. It was now proposed by her that the seminars would be concentrated in five places with representation from the nearby areas and a revised budget would be submitted.

Agenda Item No.25(6)

**Booklet on Ayurved Remedies.**

Member (K.S. Reddy) said she would be circulating the revised booklet for approval of the Commission.

On the completion of the meeting, Chairperson thanked all the Members and Officers for their support and expressed her view that working in the Commission was a varied and interesting learning experience.

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

\*\*\*