

MINUTES OF THE 21ST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN HELD ON 9-4-96 IN THE CHAMBER OF CHAIRPERSON, NCW

The 21st meeting of the National Commission for Women was held on Tuesday, the 9th April, 1996, under the Chairpersonship of Mrs. V. Mohini Giri, Chairperson, NCW. The following were present :-

- 1. Mrs. V. Mohini Giri, Chairperson
- 2. Mrs. Kailashpati, Member
- 3. Shri T.N. Srivastava, Member Secretary

Ms. Savita, Deputy Secretary, Dr. P.S.K. Menon and Mr. P.S. Ravindra, Consultants were in attendance to render assistance.

2. The Chairperson welcomed the participants. It was decided that a congratulatory letter may be sent to the two former Members; Mrs. Ganga Potai and Mrs. Manorama Singh on their contesting the Lok Sabha elections and wishing them success. Thereafter, agenda items were taken up for consideration.

Agenda Item 1 : The item of confirmation of minutes was not in the agenda as the file was under submission to Chairperson. However, Chairperson started reading the minutes as it was not circulated earlier. It was pointed out by the Chairperson that considerable changes have been effected by the Member Secretary in the minutes. She observed that some of the corrections made reflected the views of the Member Secretary rather than what transpired in the 2nd April meeting. She felt that some of these were even faulty and derogatory. She stated that she has approved the minutes as originally put up before the Member Secretary incorporated some changes.

The Member Secretary stated that the minutes are prepared by the Member Secretary and are submitted by him. It is only after he has submitted that these can be circulated and approved. The minutes which the Chairperson says that she has approved were not submitted by the Member Secretary. He is therefore, not bound by them, as these do not correctly reflect the proceedings, especially what was stated by him. He further stated that he is entitled to record his views though he may be overruled on that by the Commission. He reiterated that he is, apart from being the Secretary, also a Member of the Commission. What he had stated in some paragraphs of the minutes in relation to expenditure on printing etc. were a statement in time with the financial rules..

Agenda Item 2 : Use of Private Airlines.

The Chairperson observed that while use of official airlines will be the first preference, when in emergency and in the interest of work and where official airline services were not available the Commission Members would continue to use private airlines. She felt that this cannot be treated as irregular.

Agenda Item 3 : Celebration of International Women Day on 8-

The expenditure as proposed was approved.

Agenda Item 4 : Any other item with the permission of C.P.

(i) Tour of Chairperson to Uttar Pradesh.

Chairperson visited Banaras with Member (KP) and an NGO in connection with holding of Parivarik Mahila Adalat and looking into the problems of widows. She suggested that financial assistance to NGOs as agreed to should be released in time. It was clarified that release of money to agencies in Gujarat for Mahila Adalats already held is being released.



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## (ii) Procurement of Office Equipments.

Acquisition of office equipments like fax machine computer, video camera etc. was reviewed. It was agreed that appropriate trade enquiries will be made with Kendriya Bhandar, DGS&D contract rate firms etc. to conclude expeditious purchase of office equipments needed for the Commission. It was also noted that inspite of best effort the Deputy Secretary could not contact Mr. Murthy of NIC. It was suggested that Ms. Devaki Jain, Adviser will extend help in contacting Mr. Seshagiri to expedite the installation of computers in the Commission office.

## (ii) Payment of bills for electronic typewriters supplied by Network.

The Chairperson intimated that a representative of Network has been contacting her at residence and office alternatively even at odd hours demanding settlement of firm claim for supply of typewriters to the Commission. It was ascertained that Network had supplied three electronic typewriters on the basis of an order placed by the Commission which had the approval of the then M.S. in August 1995. It was further elaborated that the circumstances that led to placing of orders for the typewriters with the Network were that the Commission had earlier purchased electronic typewriters through Kendriya Bhandar. Within six months of their purchase the typewriters have broken down. When the case for purchase of new typewriters was presented for approval of the then Member Secretary, it was clarified that the rates of Kendriya Bhandar and Network were same at that time because the typewriters supplied by Kendriya Bhandar happened to be of the same make as those supplied by Network.

Member Secretary stated that the item could be brought up before the Commission through an agenda item indicating the full position. He is not in a position to react until all the facts in the form of an agenda item are placed before the Commission.

(iv) Continuance of the tenure of Ms. Nivedita, Consultant.

Chairperson stated that the tenure of Ms. Nivedita must be extended as her services are necessary for the Commission. In this connection she also directed that proper communication may be addressed to Ms. Anne Mathew, Consultant to be present in the office every day in the afternoon not later than 2.30 p.m.

(v) Posting of personnel with Member(KP)

Smt. Kailashpati explained the difficulties in attending to official work without the assistance of a person conversant with the subject, she is dealing with. It was pointed out that earlier Ms. Santosh Khanna, Consultant was to be attached to her. Since she has left the Commission it would be necessary to post someone else in her place.

It was decided that the Member Secretary will sort out the issue.

(vi) Expert Group on Economic Affairs

Recalling that the issue of setting up of an expert

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group on economic affairs in the Commission was discussed in the earlier meeting held on 2 April, 1996, Chairperson stated that Mrs. Devaki Jain, Adviser has now drawn up the composition, terms and conditions etc. of the proposed Expert Group to be chaired by Smt. Padma Seth, Member, NCW.

The constitution of the Expert Group, as proposed, (Annex I) was approved.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.