

MINUTES OF THE 27TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN HELD ON THE 10TH SEPTEMBER, 96.

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The twenty-seventh meeting of the National Commission for Women was held on Tuesday the 10th September, 1996 under the Chairmanship of Smt. Mohini Giri, Chairperson, National Commission for Women. The following were present :-

1. Ms. Mohini Giri, Chairperson
2. Ms. Kailashpati, Member
3. Ms. Kokila Vyas, Member
4. Ms. Padma Seth, Member
5. Ms. Nisha Sahai Achuthan, Member Secretary

Sh. S.C. Ghoshal, Pay & Accounts Officer, all Consultants and Counsellors, Section Officer and Assistants-in-charge were in attendance to render assistance as and when required of them.

In her opening remarks Chairperson urged the Members and the staff of the Commission to increase the tempo of the work presently being performed in the Commission so that by 2000 AD the results of the action taken on the thrust areas, which the Commission has identified, are achieved, that is, by the time the third Commission is in position.

The agenda items were taken up for consideration as follows :-

ITEM 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 26th Meeting of the Commission held on the 6th August, 1996

The minutes were confirmed.

ITEM 2 : Action taken statement on the minutes of the 26th Meeting of the Commission

[i] Action initiated on the representation of the IV staff for regularisation of their service
: It was decided that a comprehensive report should be sent to D/W & CD by the Adm. Officer

It was suggested that a D.O. reminder be sent to Joint Secretary (Sh. Sen) for the present position of the draft Recruitment referred to the UPSC by the Deptt. of W & CD of the D/W & CD's letter to the UPSC obtained and put up for the information of the Chairperson, NCW.

[ii] Disribution of "Legal Awareness" material to all the Women's Colleges-both national and regional

It was noted that Member (PS) Consultant(SJ) had identified the need for inclusion in the booklet before compilation printing is undertaken. Director, NLSUI would also be writing to the NCW with regard to inclusion of material in the booklet.

[iii] Pre-Litigation Centre in the NCW

It was noted that the order for the establishment of the Pre-litigation Centre had been issued.

[iv] Appointment of Legal Adviser - to be done on the basis of terms and conditions

Sh. S. Ramaiah to be requested to be Secretary to discuss terms and conditions.

[v] Legal Awareness Programme

It was indicated in the meeting that the dates 7th to 10th October, 1996, have tentatively been fixed for conducting one more Legal Awareness Programme at Bangalore. A communication had been sent to Dr. Madhav Menon of NLSUI to organise programmes. Thereafter Regional Legal Awareness Programmes will be conducted all over the country. To begin with 5 Regional Programmes will be conducted in the selected regions of the country. Member Secretary will give names from the States, with which she is concerned, including Gujarat. Training of Training Programmes at regional levels would be conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam, West Bengal and Orissa so as to cover all regions of the country.

[vi] Publication of Newsletter

Member Secretary, who is in-charge of editing work, indicated that Ms. Gouri Sen, a senior Journalist, had been appointed as a part-time Consultant to do the editing work and that another part-time Consultant would soon be appointed to perform the editing job in place of Ms. Jahnu Wasi, who was unable to accept the assignment. The two part-time Consultants will be the members of the Editing Committee for coordinating and editing the Newsletter. All the Members and subject Consultants will be giving the necessary inputs for the Newsletter.

[vii] Proof reading of the Annual Reports of the Commission

It was noted that Ms. Nag was on the job

It was noted that the printing (both in English and Hindi) on the ST were under progress.

In this context it was noted version of the report on "Sathin" available by the 10th October, 1999. It was informed that a big meeting on "Sathin" has been arranged for 15th at Jaipur.

[xix] Appointment of a part-time Consultant for the morning session in the complaint litigation Cell

After a short discussion it was suggested that a full-time Consultant (Legal) should be appointed and posted in the Complaint and Litigation Unit. It was suggested that any person who could spare time to serve as a part-time Consultant in the Commission should be considered for the appointment.

[x] Review of project proposals (as submitted by Chairperson and as circulated by Member on 01.08.96)

At the outset it was suggested that a separate meeting should be convened to discuss project proposals only.

In the meantime, it was decided that a Committee should be set up to study the proposals and give its opinion. Any project should be handled either by (i) Ms. Poonam Sahi or (ii) P.S.K. Menon till such time as more part-time Consultants are appointed to cover the

- [xi] Grant of Honorarium to Sh. S. Ramaiah, Adv
for drafting an ordinance on prevention of
punishment for Child Rape

It was decided that the payment should be expedited and the matter closed.

- [xii] Payment of allowance to Prof. P.M. Bakshi Adv

After some discussion it was decided that a letter should be sent to the former Deputy Secretary requesting her to meet the Member Secretary and explain where the file relating to the payment of allowance to Prof. P.M. Bakshi could be traced.

- [xiii] Money to be paid to Dr. Chakravarty
preparing "Sathin's" Report :

It was mentioned that the payment had been made through cheque.

- [xiv] Release of grant of Rs. 50,000/- to KARI
for organising workshop on Panchayat
Training Programme :

It was mentioned that Member (KV) had finalised the proposal but the file relating to the proposal was not traceable. It was decided that the Section Officer, Admn. and Consultancy (RNB) should make efforts to trace the file. In addition, Consultant (RNB) would report in due course on the progress made in making payments in respect of all sanctioned projects.

- [xv] Follow-up action to be taken on the Chart
of Demands/Reports :

It was decided that a letter should be sent to the Prime Minister requesting him to...

- [xvi] Letter from Deptt. of W.&C.D. request Commission to (a) review all laws discriminate against women (b) orders regarding recommendations already and (c) take up new ones for review :

After a short discussion it was decided the Commission's Expert Committee on Laws conduct a review of all those laws discriminate against women, in respect of which no review been conducted so far by the Committee. those laws in respect of which recommendations already been made by the Expert Committee for the Department of W. & C. D. to take necessary action for the implementation of recommendations. Member (PS) sought for more to take up new ones for review.

- [xvii] Proposal of NILPA for organising Training for Women in Panchayats :

Member (KV) stated that the proposal being processed.

- [xviii] Project for Women's Development in the region : empowerment of women in related activities in Kumaon region :

Member Secretary explained in brief project and stated that a detailed proposal be submitted for the approval of the Commission after a discussion with the Members of the Centre for Technology (Bangalore) and Kumaon Development Centre (New Delhi) under the Chairmanship

(a) Recruitment of Consultant :

A detailed letter from the Commission to the Deptt. of W.&C.D. should be sent answering the objections raised by the Subordinate Committee on Legislation concerning recruitment of Consultants from among the retired Government employees.

(b) Setting up of Computer Cell :

Member Secretary indicated that much progress had been made in the setting of the Computer Cell. Training classes were being conducted by the Instructors from NIC for the benefit of all the categories of the staff of the Commission and that 3 batches of the staff had been imparted training. It was decided that all the computers would be installed in the Computer Cell.

(c) Proposal for Hindi Cell :

It was indicated that bio-data of prospective candidates for appointment in Hindi Cell were being obtained.

(d) Proposal for up-grading Reception-cum-Visitor's Room :

An omnibus renovation was being planned for the up-grading of Reception-cum-Visitor's room.

(e) Proposal to buy a motor cycle/three wheeler for the Despatch Section :

The case has already been processed.

(f) The upgradation of the Inter-com system :

(i) PBX should be installed in the Chairperson's Personal Section's room.

(ii) All the Members should also have PBX systems installed for their telephones.

It was noted that letters had already been sent to UPTRON for the upgradation of Inter-Com system.

(g) Deployment of Sr.P.As attached to the Members during their absence from Head-quarters for a long period

In addition to the Sr.P.As. being deployed to their services are needed, it was suggested that each would be responsible for maintaining the attendance register in respect of her Sr. P.A.

(h) The room Occupied by Adviser (DJ) should be renovated

This was being done and some furniture was purchased from Super Bazar were placed in the room. Other matters relating to renovation are being attended to.

(i) Corridor in the second floor to be utilised to the maximum extent to accommodate Complaint Cell :

It was indicated that a Carpenter was being appointed on a daily-wage to erect partitions in the corridor to construct a waiting room for the clients visiting the Complaint Cell.

(j) Each Member to be provided with STD facilities

It was decided that each Member should be provided with STD facilities (with code Nos. and locking facilities). Each Member should also be provided with PBX systems.

I was noted that a letter had been sent.

(n) Library Room :

The Library room to be re-arranged to make more space for the steel book almirah, shelves and catalogue drawers. separate photo-copier to be provided for the Library.

(o) Temporary occupation of Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, which is to be vacated by Jain Commission, till such time the NCW gets regular accommodation :

The Directorate of Estates has informed that space in Vigyan Bhawan Annexe is not allotted for accommodating any offices. As such no further action is called for on this item.

(p) Purchase of land for the NCW :

Reminder has been issued to the Land and Development office for expediting allotment of Central Government land to the NCW.

(q) Follow-up action on the week-long Seminars/Workshops in July, 1996 :

(a) Chairperson wanted all the reports released on the 30th July to be sent to her by the 11th September, 1996.

(b) Consultant (MJ) will be in-charge of the Rapporteurs' reports and Consultant (PSKM) will be in-charge of the Stenographers' reports.

(c) Consultant (PSKM) and Consultant (Thakare) will, among themselves compile and consolidate the report on the week-long annual function of the

will edit the consolidated report before published as the NCW's report. Member will take a meeting before the consolidated report is approved for publication.

[II]

NCW PROJECT PROPOSALS AND STUDIES TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE COMMISSION DURING THE ENSUING MONTHS

Chairperson desired that a separate meeting should be held for a discussion on this item. In the meantime efforts should be made to trace the files, in consultation with the former Secretary. Consultant (RNB) will be the official for according sanctions to the release of funds for the implementation of new project proposals. All new project proposals and studies should be submitted to Consultant (PSKM) and Ms. Poonam Saxena for processing, before approval is given. A circular to this effect should be issued by the Administration Section.

'AWARE' proposal for a seminar on "Anti-Corruption Movement" at Berhampur, Orissa, should be submitted to the Administration Section under the supervision of Consultant (RNB).

Member (PS) would take up the Chairperson's proposal for constituting Gram Panchayat Nyaya Samitis and recommend it to the Government for implementation.

ITEM NO. 3: Parivarik Mahila Adalat :

The status report on the Parivarik Mahila Adalat circulated in the meeting was taken into consideration and the Chairperson desired that the Commission should achieve a target of 5 lakhs of women beneficiaries through the Mahila Adalat by the Middle of 1997.

women held at Beijing-meeting
Chairperson on 19.08.96

It was decided that Consultant (MJ) would prepare a note on the follow-up action taken in the matter.

Item No. 5: Harassment of women - status report

It was decided that all cases relating to harassment of women employees at work-place would be dealt with by Ms. Chibber, the visiting Counsellor. Chairperson desired that a Researcher should be identified to conduct a study on harassment of women at work-place.

Item No. 6 Distribution of work and staff position in the Administration Section.

The statement showing the staff position in the Administration Section was noted in the meeting. Chairperson suggested that the staff in Administration should be augmented in order to cope with the heavy load of work.

Item No. 7 : Registration of Newsletter of the Commission.

It was indicated in the meeting that the Department of Licensing had been approached for registering the Newsletter of the Commission as a periodical newspaper. The work is being attended to by Consultant (Kohli).

Item No. 8 : 9th Five Year Plan : proposals for :

Agenda note circulated in the meeting concerning the 9th Five Year Plan proposals in respect of NO. 1, essentially the proposal for creation of posts of (i) Advisors (ii) Consultants and (iii) Counsellor to cope with the increasing work-load in the Commission in the

Agenda Note gave a clear picture of the staff the Commission. Chairperson desired that should work for a future plan for 20 years. Expert Committee should be set up for this purpose suggested that Advisor(DJ) should suggest the Expert Committee and that a letter should be issued to Chairperson to Ms. Maja Dharuwala and issued at the meeting. It was also suggested that Mr. and Ms. Maya Dharuwala might be asked to discuss on a back-ground paper for the Expert

Item No. 9: Meeting with the Dalit Organisations

After a short discussion it was decided that Consultant (PSKM) would help Member(KP) for the Expert Committee for organising a function at Sabar. The meeting will be confined mainly with Dalit women. Some of the names for the Expert Committee were those of (i) Ms. Nirmala Deshpande (ii) Narayan (iii) Ms. Devaki Jain (iv) Mr. P.S. K. More names are required to be suggested for the Expert Committee. Chairperson desired that the proceedings of the meeting with Dalit Organisations be reflected on the 8th March, 1987 function on the 50th year of Independence, Chairperson desired that there should be a spurt in the active implementation of Gandhian ethics and ideas which these relate to welfare and development of Dalits. Finally, it was suggested that 4 Regional Workshops be conducted and the main one should be conducted on 8th March, 1997. The 8th March function should reflect on the essence of all the regional functions previously in other parts of the country.

Item No. 10: Forces-Forum for creches and services.

young child and the (working) mother, was circulated in meeting. It was suggested that Ms. Poonam Sahi process the proposal. Chairperson suggested that Brinda Singh of the FORCE might be requested to visit Commission on the 11th September, 1996 for a discussion the details regarding the proposed Seminar. It suggested that pending detailed examination of the proposal the Commission might communicate tentative approval of proposal.

In this context it was suggested that the proposal for a Meeting to discuss the curbing of the social evil of child trafficking to be held in Kerala should be approved and the funds to the tune of Rs.45,000/- to meet the cost of holding the meeting should be disbursed.

In the same context it was also agreed that proposal for NCW's funding of the ICCW's project for education of the prostitute's children should be approved.

Item No. 11: Review of the progress of setting up Computer Centre in the Commission.

It was noted that quotations had been called for the purchasing of 6 Personal Computers for use by Chairperson (ii) Members (iii) Member Secretary and Advisor and 4 Desk Tops for use by the various Units of Commission. It was decided that Sr. PAs would assist Members to operate the Commission.

Item No. 12 : Two day Seminar on Media and Women to be held at Ahmedabad in September/October, 1996

The proposal submitted by Media Women's Forum holding a two-day Seminar on "Media and Women" at Ahmedabad in September or October, 1996 was considered in the meeting. It was noted that the Organisation desired to organise

might be held at BARODA instead of Ahmedabad. The proposal will be processed C(PSKM).

Item No. 13 : Problems of SATHIN, in Rajasthan

It was decided that action, as indicated in Agenda note, should be taken and the expenditure incurred thereon should be borne by the NCW.

Item No. 14 : Re-imbusement of medical bills in respect of Chairperson and Members.

The note circulated in the meeting was perused and it was decided that the matter should be pursued with DGHS. Till such time as the Rules relating to the reimbursement of medical expenses in respect of Chairperson and Members are finalised, they should be reimbursed medical bills subject to a ceiling of Rs.150/- per month. It was also decided that if efforts failed at DGHS' level, the matter should be referred to the Minister of State Health at Chairperson's level.

Item No. 15 : Payment of an amount of Rs.96,000/- to State Legal Aid and Advice Board, Gujarat in connection with 32 Mahila Adalats organised by the Board; proposal for the diversion of this fund for meeting the expenditure on the production of video-cassettes on Mahila Adalats by the Board; approval of Commission for :

The Gujarat State Legal Aid and Advice Board proposal for the production of video-cassettes on Mahila Adalats was approved in the meeting subject to the following

- (ii) while making video films on the Mahila Adalats in Gujarat, the Board would also incorporate coverage of Mahila Adalats held in Tenali (in respect of which cassettes are available to the NCW) with the Gujarat coverage so as to make one comprehensive film and that too in Hindi. (This should not be difficult as it will involve the incorporating of the coverages of Tenali (Andhra Pradesh) with that of the Gujarat films; this can be dubbed in Hindi).

As for the funding of the project by the Board, it was suggested that the unutilised amount of Rs.48,000/- with the Board, might be utilised for meeting the expenditure incurred on the project. In this context, it was mentioned in the meeting that the Commission had committed itself for the payment of Rs.96,000/- to the Board having organised 32 Adalats at an expenditure of Rs.3,000/- for each Adalat. As such it was suggested in the meeting that the balance amount of Rs.48,000/- might be paid to the Board in respect of the entire video-cassette project when the Board produced an audited statement of expenditure actually incurred on the entire project.

Item No. 16 : Meeting with women and girl child victims of trafficking and who are facing the consequences thereof.

The proposal submitted by SALT for a meeting at Bhubaneswar, ORISSA, on the 5th October, 1996, with NCW participation therein, was approved. It was also decided to give financial assistance to the tune of Rs.11,000/- to the Organisation for holding the meeting. It was also suggested that the

Item No. 17 : Any other item with the
Chairperson.

- I.(i) Appointment of a Consultant in place of who had resigned, was approved in the meeting.
- (ii) It was decided that Member Secretary would collect all the reports (distributed during the meeting) held in Vigyan Bhawan on the 30th March. Member Secretary, Deptt. of W & CD.
- (iii) It was suggested that Consultant (MJ) would follow up ^{on} the follow-up action taken on the recommendations in Beijing Conference held in September, 1984.
- (iv) Consultant(MJ) would contact Doordarshan for preparing a tele-film for the 8th March, 1985.
- (v) It was decided to form a Core Group with Dr. Chair and Dr. Veena Mazumdar as one of the members to conduct a study on the status of women in India since independence. In this connection a seminar would be organised on the status of women in India.
- (vi) The P & AO and the Consultant (SJ) are to contact NLSUI, Bangalore, for making on the spot payment of expenditure incurred by the Institute for conducting Classes for the selected students of the Women's Education in India.
- (vii) It was suggested that in connection with the visit to North-Eastern States, the Commission

- II. Member(KV)'s visit to Taipei, Taiwan, for participation in the Asian International Conference of Women's Federation, World Peaceheld on 23rd August to the 27th August,

Member(KV) briefly narrated the agenda discussed in the conference. Member(KV) mentioned that she presented a paper on "Marriage and family values - a woman's perspective" in the Conference. She had explained to the Conference the meaning and genesis of the dowry system prevailing in India. Member(KV) was happy to note that the participation of the delegates to the Conference, in particular the US and Singapore delegates, was a source of praise for the culture and demeanour of Indianwomen. The Indian delegation to the Conference was the smallest in the world. Ms. Girija Vyas, former Union Minister was one of the members of the Indian delegation.

- III. Member(PS)'s visit to Islamabad from August 24, 1996, for participation in "SAARC Ministerial Conference on the Child".

Member(PS) gave a brief resume of the proceedings of the Conference. India was made the Chairperson of the Conference on the hazardous child labour and child trafficking. The Indian delegation could get their recommendations, regarding the elimination of hazardous child labour and child trafficking, incorporated in the draft policy resolution. All the SAARC countries agreed to bring about suitable legislation for the elimination of child labour in their respective countries.

- IV. Chairperson's visit to Stockholm for the period 31 August, 96 for participation in the SAARC Ministerial Conference on the prohibition of commercial exploitation of children.

Chairperson referred to her visit to Stockholm

children from entering into India for earning livelihood through immoral trafficking. It was decided that a meeting of these two countries be called in India to discuss various strategies for prevention. Chairperson also desired that a letter be addressed to the Ministry of External Affairs ascertaining from them as to how the Commission should be sending Newsletters to all the Women Organisations in the world.

V. In conclusion, the Member(PS) read out the report made in the implementation of the ongoing program concerning (i) Panchayati Training Program conducted by ACCORD (ii) by KARUNA and (iii) project SATHIN report.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Chairperson.