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NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

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MINUTES OF THE 34TH MEETING OF THE NCW HELD
ON 11TH AUGUST, 1997
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The 34th Meeting of the National Commission for Women held on 11.08.1997 was chaired by Dr. V. Mohini Giri, Chairperson, NCW. All Members except the Member Secretary and Member (IB) were present. The Deputy Secretary, P&AO and other Consultants were in attendance.

At the outset the Chairperson thanked all the Members and staff of the Commission for their contribution in making the meetings of the State Commissions for Women, Conference of the State Home Ministers and the Press Conference a success.

With the permission of the Chair the Deputy Secretary, in the absence of the Member Secretary, initiated the proceedings and the proceedings commenced with the confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting held on 4.7.97.

ITEM NO. 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 33rd meeting of the Commission held on 4.7.97.

ITEM NO. 2 : Action take report in respect of decisions taken at the 32nd meeting of the Commission held on 6.5.97.

Action taken report in respect of the 33rd Meeting of the Commission held on 4.7.97 was discussed as follows

- (i) Payment of extra amount of Rs. 800/- for having incurred expenditure on video-taping of the proceedings of the Adalat at, Gaya, Bihar.
- (ii) It was mentioned that action was being taken to make payment to the concerned organisation.
- (ii) Payment of an extra amount of Rs. 5930/- for having incurred expenditure on publication of 1000 copies of Marathi version of booklet on Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat.

Action was being taken on making payment to the concerned organisation. It was suggested that 15 copies of the translated booklets should be obtained for placing them in the library.

- (iii) Proposal for collaboration of NCW with UNDP in various areas of interest to NCW.

Chairperson desired that former Consultant (Ms. Kanak Mittal) may be asked to visit the Commission and report on the items of work, which she had undertaken during the past six months

- (iv) Financial assistance from NCW to State Commission for Women.

It was decided that the Consultant (RNB) and the P&AO should submit a proposal with regard to the NCW's assistance to the State Commission through project based approach. The provision be made in the supplementary/revised estimates.

(Action : C(RNB)/P&AO)

- (v) Study entrusted to Dr. Veena Majumadar - Status of the Study.

It was decided that another meeting with Dr. Veena Majumadar be called to consider the issues involved.

(Action : A(PS)/MS/DS)

- (vi) Conference at Goa on 23-24 July, 1997 on Child Prostitution.

It was suggested that pending posting of a Consultant in place of Consultant (Shri Vaidya), who has resigned, Consultant (Shri Madan) would take necessary follow-up action on miscellaneous matters relating to the conference held at Goa on Child Prostitution.

(Action : C(Madan))

- (vii) Conference of State Home Ministers - 31st July, 1st August, 1997.

It was mentioned that the verbatim report on the Conference held on 31st July, 1997 was awaited. However, it was decided that pending receipt of verbatim report, the recommendations made in the conference should be circulated to all concerned for follow-up action thereon. Necessary action may also be taken to get the report (Duly edited) printed.

(Action : C(PSKM))

- (viii) Consolidation of work done by the Commission during its two years tenure in July, 1997.

It was decided that the proposed pamphlet and Calender of Events might be released by 8th March, 1998.

(Action : M(SSH))

- (ix) Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Indian Independence : Year long celebrations from 15.8.97 to 15.8.98 programme to be organised by NCW.

After a brief discussion Chairperson suggested that Member (KV) would coordinate with Member (SSH) to convene a meeting to discuss the agenda relating to the participation of NCW in the Republic Day Parade, 26th January, 1998 with a Tableau depicting the progress of women in 50 years. Chairperson also suggested that films on "Women Freedom and Anti-liquor programmes" should be made.

(Action : M(KV) & M(SSH))

- (x) Work Distribution-Review for Consultants.

A comprehensive note of the work distribution amongst the Consultant be prepared.

(Action : DS)

- (xi) Audit para 9 of 95-96 : Half-pay leave granted/availed by Consultants - audit objections regarding.

It was mentioned that the NCW rules do not allow sanctioning of Half-Pay leave to the Consultant. Granting of HPL to consultants has since been withdrawn.

- (xii) Appointment of a Public Relations Officer in the NCW.

It was mentioned that the Order had been issued designating Shri P.S. Madhawan as Public Relations Officer. NCW has a sanctioned post of Under Secretary-cum-Public Relation Officer. Efforts be made to fill up the post.

- (xiii) The deployment of Stenos and Typists.

Chairperson decided that a meeting of all typists and steno-typists should be arranged to streamling the work, given the constraints deployment is to be made with a view to get optimum results.

(Action : DS)

- (xiv) Arrangements for the Members when they go for on-the-spot investigation.

Administration Section should take up with the State Governments for arranging board/lodge, police escorts to the Members, when they go for on the spot investigation, into the cases relating to the atrocities committed against women.

(Action : Admn.)

- (xv) Visit to Uttar Pradesh to investigate into serious cases of atrocities committed against women in that State.

Chairperson suggested that member (KP) should take immediate action to investigate into serious cases regarding atrocities occurring in Uttar Pradesh.

(Action : Member (KP))

- (xvi) Appointment of more Counsellors and one or two Junior Advocates as Legal Consultants.

Chairperson desired two more Counsellors/Junior Advocates be appointed in the Pre-litigation and Complaints Cell.

(Action : DS)

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(xvii) Stripping and parading of Dalit Women in Meerut.

Chairperson desired that Member (SO) should immediately visit Meerut for investigation into the case.

(Action : M(SO))

(xviii) Ex-post-facto approval of NCW in respect of its sponsored projects.

The approval of the Commission was given.

With the aforesaid suggestions, the minutes of the 33rd Meeting of the Commission was confirmed.

ITEM NO. 3 : Proposal for media coverage for NCW by a team-headed by Ms. Akhila Shivdas.

At the outset Ms. Akhila Shivdas explained the salient features of the proposal for media coverage for NCW. These are as follows :-

1. The main objective of the proposal is to project the activities of the NCW.
2. It would pay great attention to the timing of the publicity.
3. The media would be used as a platform to project Chairperson's views.
4. It would ensure that the discussions in the Parliament about NCW appear in the Press.
5. It would also reflect what others are saying about the NCW.
6. There should be unity within the Commission while communicating with the Press and the leaks should be prohibited.
7. The media strategy would be sorted out so that the Commission gets reflected at all levels. A paper on the strategy will be given to the NCW.
8. The interaction with the Press may be had on day to day basis.
9. A person from the Media Advocacy Group will be deputed to the Commission.
10. The NCW should give free access to its phones to the Media Advocacy Group and that there should be their own commercial FAX system.
11. It would be ensured that there are "retrospect" spaces in all newspapers about the activities of the NCW; this would cover nitty gritty exclusively about the NCW.
12. Due publicity will be given to the programmes like parivarik mahila lok adalat, Legal Literacy Programmes etc.

As for the budget, after short discussion, the Commission gave its approval to the first part of the budget which is as follows :-

Media Relations for three months 15th July-15th October, 1997.

Items	Amount (Rs)
Personnel cost for two	25,000/-
Administrative costs (Courier, telephone FAX, internal travel photocopying)	25,000/-
Sub Total :	50,000/-

It was also decided that the terms and conditions of the media coverage will be on monthly basis for a period of three months. Payments will also made on the monthly basis. Commission could not take a view on the 2nd part of the proposal which it was decided to be discussed in the light of the NCW's experience with the 1st part of the scheme.

ITEM NO. 4 : Proposal of a National Seminar on transfer of technology in farming practices for women Sept., 8.9.97, at Chennai.

With regard to the budget of the Conference, the Commission gave its approval for Rs. 2 lacs as against Rs.6.5 lacs indicated in the proposal.

ITEM NO. 5 : Meeting with all Women & Child Welfare Ministers.

It was suggested that the date for the meeting should be fixed for the last week of October, 1997. In the meantime materials required for the meeting should be collected. Consultant PSKM will be preparing background paper for the meeting. All the secretarial work for organising meeting would be done by the Administration. Chairperson suggested that a team should be constituted to handle all the logistics relating to holding of the meeting.

(Action:M(KV), C(PSKM),&Admn.)

ITEM NO. 6 : Meeting with all the labour Ministers and labour Commissioners of India.

It was decided that Consultant (PSKM) will take necessary action to collect all materials for the meeting also prepare a background note for the meeting. Consultant (PSKM) will be assisted by Consultant (MKM) Consultant (Madan)

(Action : C(PSKM), C(MKM), C(Madan)

ITEM NO. 7 : Meeting of Health Ministers of States

Advisor (PS) would take necessary action to collect all materials for this meeting and also prepare a background note for this meeting.

(Action : A(PS))

ITEM NO. 8 : Planning for functions to be held during the first week of March, 1998.

This item was later discussed with reference to item relating to celebrations of 50th Anniversary of Independence

ITEM NO. 9 : Meeting with Rural Development Ministers.

It was decided that Member (KP) will take necessary action to collect all materials for the meeting and also prepare a background note for the meeting.

(Action : Member (KP))

ITEM NO.10&11 Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats in J&K State Legal Awareness programme for the women in J&K.

It was suggested that above matters (10&11) should be taken up with the J&K State Government. Law Officer (SJ) would write to the State Govt. on both these items.

(Action:Law Officer(SJ))

ITEM NO. 12 : Purchase of 100 cassettes of film on NCW for distribution to the Ministries, Departments, States, Organisations.

The Commission decided that 200 copies of the NCW's film 'Tomarrow is Ours' be prepared. The best quality of the cassette to be procured @ of Rs. 150/- (as against quoted Rs. 200) for distribution to all concerned by Ms. Sehjo Singh.

ITEM NO. 13 : Selection of slogans of prevention of child exploitation and printing of posters.

The various slogans (both in Hindi and English) circulated in the meeting were discussed. Following slogans were selected numbers :- 5,12,13,14 & 15. It was suggested that a small committee of Member (SSH), Member (KV), -Consultant (MJ) and another Consultant, may consider/final selection of these slogans.

ITEM NO. 14 : Making of film on women freedom fighters by Sh. Girish Karnad.

The group was apprised that Sh. Girish Karnad's response in this regard is awaited. However, it was suggested that Rs. 15 lacs be made available for making the film.

ITEM NO. 15 : Issues relating to Muslim women Minorities falling within the purview of NCW-discussion thereon.

It was noted that Member (SSH) would circulate draft background paper on issues relating to Muslim women, minorities to all the Members of the Commission. The paper will identify issues viz. customary laws, Religious and customary practices, marriage and divorce, property matters varying from region to region. Member (SSH) also mentioned that an expert committee will be formed to discuss the background paper.

(Action : Member (SSH))

ITEM NO. 16 : Discussion on the outcome of State Home Ministers Conference held on 31st July, 1st August, 1997 at New Delhi.

It was decided that all recommendations made in the State Home Ministers Conference should be called out in the first instance. A separate meeting of the Commission will be held to discuss the recommendations.

(Action : C(PSKM))

ITEM NO. 17 : Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Independence year-long programmes from 15.8.97 to 15.8.98.

The number of Conferences proposed Film to be produced and to be shown and other items to be included for the celebration as sent to Department of Women & Child Development was placed before the meeting.

Sl.	CONFERENCE	SCHEDULED FOR	FUNDS REQUIRED	MEMBER
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- (a) State labour Ministers September, 97 Rs. 1 lac. Chairperson Member (SO)
- (b) State Health Minister October, 97 Rs.1 lac Advisor(PS)
- (c) State Minister for Women and Child Development November, 97 Rs. 1lac Member (KV)
- (d) State Ministers for Rural Development December, 97 Rs. 1 lac Member (KP)
- (e) Women NGOs January, 98 Rs. 1 lac Member(SSH)
- (f) Regional meet of SAARC Countries Women nodal agencies March, 98 Rs.15 lac Member(SSH &A(PS))

- (g) International Women's Day preparation and Screening of film on Women freedom fighters. 8 March, 98 Rs.15 lac
- (h) Meet of Women MLAs & MPs June, 98 Rs. 1 lac
- (i) Four regional meets (South, East, West & North) of Women Panchayats & Urban local bodies functionaries. July, 98 Rs. 4 lac
Can this be through at Comudex
- (j) Tableux of fifty years progress of women 26th Jan. 98 Rs.10 lac Member(SSH)
- (k) March of Women of India representing all walks of life at Red Fort August, 98 Rs.5 lac
- (10) Pledges by Women Panchayats Members on 15 August, 97
15 August, 98
- 1) Every girl child will attend school

Action to be taken for SAARC CONFERENCE ;

- (a) Accommodation arrangements/to be made for the participants in the meeting.
- (b) The Vigyan Bhawan Main Hall has been booked.
- (c) Rooms in the Ashoka Hotel have been booked: it was suggested that some rooms in the IIC might be booked for accommodating the delegates of the meeting.
- (d) It was suggested that collaborative sessions with NHRC should be arranged during the meeting.
- (e) It was decided that slogans and insignia of the NCW should be printed on the bags to be distributed in the meeting.

ITEM NO. Proposal for organising joint workshop on

national alcohol policy by Ministry of Health & family welfare, AIIMS & NCW.

- (a) The proposal was perused. It was suggested that the films Division should be contacted for making a film on the Workshop.
- (b) the Director, AIIMS, to be asked to give its resource commitment to this Joint Workshop.

ITEM NO. Seminar on Prohibition - Proposal from Haryana State Social Welfare Advisory Board.

The proposal was approved in the meeting. -It was suggested that the Commission should write to the Chief Minister, Haryana requesting him to indicate a day convenient for him to attend the Seminar.

ITEM NO. Discussion on purchase of Computers.

- (1) Agenda papers of the meeting indicated that discussion on this item be deferred. However, photo-copy of the concerned file was made available during the meeting and as desired by CP, this item was discussed in the last.
- (2) At the outset, Chairperson expressed displeasure in the matter of purchase of HCL computers and suggested that the Deputy Secretary should go through the current files relating to the purchase of computers and submit in writing her comments. Chairperson desired to be informed in writing why HCL computers were purchased when Zenith Computers were available. At this stage, member (SSH) expressed her dissatisfaction with the performance of the HCL computers. Chairperson therefore wanted to know whether the Member (SSH) was consulted before the purchase of the computers, whatsoever be the configuration. Chairperson also wanted to know whether payment was made to HCL more than what has been quoted. It was also observed that HCL agents were corresponding with the NCW in hand-written letters; and that too in bad hand-writing. Lastly, Chairperson desired to be informed whether Deputy Secretary approached the senior officers of the HCL before purchases were made.
- (3) The discussion referred to the points circulated earlier regarding the purchase of HCL Computers which referred to selection of HCL, Configuration of the computers purchased, over-pricing and performance guarantee etc.

- (4) As desired, Dy. Secretary clarified the situation under which immediate requirement of computers desired by Member (SSH) was met. As regards the dissatisfaction of Member (SSH) for the configuration of the computers purchased, it was stated that the configuration of the system required was discussed and finalised by Data Consultant (KM) with Member (SSH) and given to the Administration.
- (5) CP asked the Dy. Secretary whether the deal was finalised in the house of the Data Consultant (KM). DS clarified in the meeting that no such thing has come to her notice. DS further clarified that the rule of the Data Consultant (KM) in this order was the same as that of Consultant (Vaidya) in the preparation of Film on Child Prostitution. Data Consultant (KM) was involved in the purchase of the computers because she was the 'Data Consultant' handling all computer-works in the NCW.
- (6) DS informed that reply to the above comments would be given in writing and requested for making available the other relevant file to her.

**FUNCTIONING OF THE CONTROL ROOM ROUND THE CLOCK :
SUGGESTIONS REGARDING :**

Chairpeson observed that the functioning of the Control Room was quite unsatisfactory. She felt that it needs some restructuring. A review of working of Control Room, the number of cases received and handled in the Control Room since inception need to be reviewed for streamlining. Keeping the aforesaid in view it was suggested a review be made of its functioning; this was decided to be done at A(PS)/M.S. level. It was suggested that efforts be made to post a women constable.

PROPOSAL FOR SANCTIONING OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF Rs. 4915/- TO BRAJ BHOOMI SANSTHAN FOR HOLDING PARIVARIK MAHILA LOK ADALAT ON 25.3.96.

The proposal was approved.

(Action : C(PSR))

TRANSPORT ENCHANCEMENT OF ALLOWANCE FOR USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLE ;

It was decided that till such time sanction for purchase of additional vehicles is procured from the Deptt., Member (SSH) be paid Rs. 8000/- per month with effect from 15.7.97 as conveyance allowance which includes (Mintenance/Drivers salary etc.)

(Action: Admn.)

SANCTION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS FROM MEMBER (KV)

The Commission gave its approval to all the proposals referred to this meeting of the Commission vide agenda item No. 25 (copy enclosed for ready reference). Annexure.

(Action : Member(KV))

ITEM NO. 26 : PROVISION OF A SMALL GENERATOR.

It was informed that the possibility of installing a generator was looked in the past but it was not found to be feasible . It was decided that 20 more exide batteries be purchased. Member (KP) will be a member of the purchase committee.

(Action: Admn.)

ITEM NO. 27 : ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR .

(i) The Chairperson desired that all the Members should visit Tihar Jail for conducting investigation into the case of women inmates committing suicide, which of late has become quite common.

(Action : All Members)

(ii) It was decided that a Cord-less telephone be purchased for use by Chairperson.

(iii) It was decided that Chairperson, all Members and Advisor (PS) be provided with the Camera and a Tape-Recorder.

(iv) Chairperson desired that letters should be addressed to all political leaders to seek their support for the passing of the bill for reservation of 33.3. per cent of seats in the Parliament.

(v) EXPERT COMMITTEE ON PANCHAYATI RAJ.

It was proposed that the functioning of Panchayati Raj in the 4 regions should be reviewed and as a first step in this direction Member (KV) should meet Minister for Rural Development to discuss about the present status of the functioning of the Panchayati Raj in the various states. Thereafter the matter be placed before the Expert Committee.

(vi) Advisor (PS) mentioned that out of the 29 acts referred to by the Deptt. of WCD for review, 16 acts/laws have been reviewed and sent to the Deptt./WCD. The remaining 9 acts are being reviewed and will be forwarded to the Deptt. of WCD in due course.

Advisor (PS) suggested that Prof. Bakshi be paid a fee for conducting the proposed review of the acts at the rate of Rs. 3000/- per Act. The proposal was approved in the meeting.

(vii) With regard to the expenditure incurred on the Conference at Goa (held on 23-24th July) on Child Prostitution, the Commission gave its post-facto approval to the expenditure incurred for the Conference.

(viii) NEW DIARY - 1998

It was decided that while considering this item, proposal received from Women's groups in Gujarat be considered for the printing of Diaries.

(ix) ANNUAL REPORTS :

Consultant (RN) mentioned that the Annual report for the year 1994-95 was under print and the report for the year 1995-96 was near completion.

(x) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE CONVENED BY "WOMEN'S POLITICAL WATCH" MS. VEENA NAYAR'S PROPOSAL :

Chairperson explained in brief the agenda and tentative programme in respect of the Conference as contained in letter dated 8.7.97 from Ms. Veena Nayar, President. These are briefly as follow :-

(a) The issue of the delay in introducing Bill in the Parliament for the reservation of 33.3. per cent of seats in Parliament for Women.

(b) The working of the Panchavati Raj system and the representation of Women thereon.

Chair of Women Mayors (c)
(c) 25 Women Mayors from this country and abroad will be attending the Conference. The Mayors will be explaining to us about the Urban problems.

(d) Political activists and Nagarpalikas will be involved in the Conference.

(e) The Government and the UN will collaborate with the NCW in organising the Conference.

(f) The Conference will be held in Vigyan Bhawan.

(g) The Budget for the Conference will be Rs. 7 Lakhs out of which the NCW's contribution will be Rs. 2.00 Lakhs. The bilateral fundings for the foreigners and for Indian participants the funding is to be done by UN, NCW and the Association.

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- (h) The Conference will be held from the 28th September, 1997 to the 1st October, 1997.
- (i) 125 persons will be attending the Conference out of which 1/3rd will be International and 2/3rd National.
- (j) P.M. will inaugurate on the 29th September, 1997.

The proposal was approved in the meeting.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks.

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ANNEXURE

SANCTION OF PROJECTS - PROPOSALS FROM MEMBER (KV)

In the month of June , I had submitted the following projects but on my proceeding on leave I could not get the same cleared and the programmes could not be done at the prescribed time and date

1. Grameen Bank Project at Vrindaban.
2. Seminar on Child Prostitution - at Surat.
3. Seminar on Muslim Women at Surat.
4. Seminar on Child Prostitution - at Ahmedabad.
5. Legal issues of Muslim Women at Ahmedabad.
6. Legal Literacy for elected Panchayat women at Kutch.
7. Muslim Women and Legal Awareness Programme at Kutch.
8. Muslim women and Legal Issues at Junagarh.

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