

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION'S MEETING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2001

**Present in the meeting were:**

1. Smt. Vibha Parthasarathi : Chairperson
2. Smt. Vijay Daksh : Member
3. Dr. Poornima Advani : Member
4. Smt. K. Santha Reddy : Member (Joined the meeting at 10.30 A.M.)
5. Kum. Anusuiya Uike : Member
6. Smt. Nafisa Hussain : Member
7. Smt. Reva Nayyar : Member Secretary
8. Kum. R. Bhama : Deputy Secretary

**Agenda Item No.1**

**Leave of Absence**

This was not required as all Members were present.

**Agenda Item No.2**

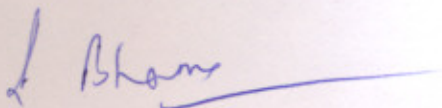
**Confirmation of the Minutes of the preceding meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2001.**

Minutes of the preceding meeting were confirmed.

**Agenda Item No.3**

**List of Studies/Workshops/Conferences recommended by the Screening Committee/Approved by C.P.**

The proposals recommended by the Screening Committee in its meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2001 and approved by the Chairperson were noted by the Commission.



Agenda Item No.4

**Report on Seminar – “Empowering Women for Sustained Development – Forging Urban Local Bodies and Corporate Partnership” – for approval and adoption.**

The Commission noted that the report was badly edited and felt that the report should be sent back to CII for corrections giving examples of glaring mistakes therein.

Agenda Item No.5

**Study on Panchayati Raj and Women – A stock taking in five States – Report Reg.**

The report, which was earlier approved in circulation, was formally adopted. It was proposed to release it in a press conference.

Agenda Item No.6

**Proceedings/Recommendations of a “Congress on Human Ecology for Women” held on 4-5 Feb. – Adoption of by NCW.**

The report was approved and its recommendations were adopted by the Commission with the comment that the content of the report was good although the drafting could be improved.

Agenda Item No.7

**Preparation of report on Future of Print Media.**

It was decided that a draft would be prepared by Member Secretary since the NCW's views should be presented so as to be well reasoned, well argued and balanced. The draft should be circulated within two weeks in order that a decision can be taken before the next meeting.

In the connection of Print Media, CP informed the NCW about an objectionable cartoon appearing in Wahindia “Think Pakistan, Think Prostitute”. This was brought to the notice of the Commission by the Joint Women's Programme and other NGOs. The editor of the magazine was summoned by NCW and as a result their apology has been received, which was also been printed in the March issue of the Magazine. This success story would be included in the Rashtra Mahila and Annual Report.

*ame*



**Agenda Item No.8**

**Proposal for making 45 minute duration documentary on the activities of the NCW.**

In order to decide whether the Commission would like to go ahead with a film documenting the activities of the Commission, it was decided that in early April, the Commission would view the film on NCW – "Tomorrow is Ours".

At this point, Member (K.S. Reddy) joined the meeting.

**Agenda Item No.9**

**Study of displacement of Women and Children – Gujarat Earthquake.**

During the discussion, some suggestions were made:

- (a) Study be given to a local NGO
- (b) That since any disaster has long term effects, the effect of displacement should be studied after a time lag and
- (c) a time frame should be set for completion of the present study.

The Commission decided that at present the proposal for including the effect of displacement of women and children of the Gujarat Earthquake should be approved and additional amount of Rs. 86,000/- be sanctioned, as proposed by the organisation.

After one or two years, another study could be sponsored for studying the long term effects, in which, in addition to the effects of the Gujarat Earthquake, should also be studied the long term effect of the Latur Earthquake and Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

**Agenda Item No.10**

**Proposal for a public hearing of the problems of women affected by factions in six districts of A.P.**

Member (K.S. Reddy) explained the proposal in brief. She said that in six districts of A.P. (specified in the note), there was a law and order problem, the factions were based on caste and political lines. A separate DIG had been posted by the State Govt. to the zone which has been declared as a violence prone zone. The proposal was approved in principle. The budget estimate would be resubmitted after revision and approved in circulation.

*K.S. Reddy*

Agenda Item No.11

Gratuity payment to widows – reference received from Shri Y.P.Laroia, Social Activist.

It was decided that a letter should be sent to LIC, GIC and the Finance Ministry.

Agenda Item No.12

Status of women in prostitution in the Census – 2001 – letter received from SAVERA.

The Commission decided to take up the matter with the Registrar General of Census in consultation with SAVERA, the organisation which had brought to the Commission's notice, the categorisation of prostitutes with beggars, smugglers and drug traffickers.

Agenda Item No.13

Provision of computers and additional telephones at the residence of CP/Members/Officers.

In pursuance of the OM No.7(4)/E(Coord.)/99 dated 1.8.2000 issued by Deptt. of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, the Commission decided that

Internet connectivity at the residence of CP/Members/JS/Any new Member, who joins NCW would be got through NIC as soon as the present period of internet connectivity from VSNL expires.

Since an additional telephone has been installed at the residence of CP/Members/JS along with internet facility, which is not permitted in terms of the Govt. norms, it was decided that Members would have the option of either retaining the second line and making payment of the entire bill of the second telephone including the rental, or, withdrawal of the the second line, w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2001.

CP/Members/Officers, who are entitled and who have availed of the facility of the computers and peripherals would pay an amount of Rs.300/- p.m. w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2001. This amount would be deducted from their salary every month.

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- 4) On handing over the charge of the post, the persons entitled (CP/Members/Officers) may be given the option to retain the computer on payment of book value. For the purpose of calculation of book value, a depreciation of 15% per year may be adopted. Thus, an officer who has had a term of five years will be required to pay 25% of original cost of the computer at the time of handing over charge at the end of the term deducting depreciation of 75%. A circular to this effect would also be circulated.

**Agenda Item No.14**

**T.A. Rules.**

It was decided to follow the TA rules of Central Govt. strictly, which would entail

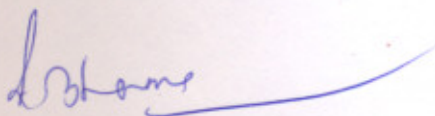
- (a) Road milage would be permissible only as para. per TA Rules, i.e. the person is entitled to TA on tour from duty point/residence at head quarters to duty point at the distant station and vice versa, it comprises of
1. Fare for journeys by rail/road/air
  2. Road milage for road journey otherwise than bus.
  3. DA for the entire absence from head quarters including journey period minus leave taken if any.

The Commission has in the past been following the practice of hiring taxies for the entire days during the period of tour which is not really permissible under the rules. In terms of the rules only taxi expenditure for the actual journeys incurred for official work shall be paid. Special permission would need to be sought from Chairperson for whole day taxi hire.

- (b) Advance of TA on tour would be limited to the road/rail/airfare for to and fro travel (airfare only if booking is not done by the Commission directly) and the DA as has been listed below:

**Amount:** An amount sufficient to cover the official persual travelling expenses Viz. Daily allowance, road/rail airfars for journeys both ways Rules GFR 231-232.

**Condition:** The advance should be adjusted within fifteen days of completion of the tour/rejoining duty if gone on leave immediately on completion of tour. A second advance cannot be sanctioned untill an account has been given of the first except when a second journey is required to be undertaken soon after the completion of the first leaving no time for the employee to prefer his/her TA bill in respect of the first advance (Rule GFR 233).



**Recovery:** By adjustment from the TA bill submitted after completion of the journey.

The present practice of allowing an adhoc amount of advance is not strictly within the rules would need to be discontinued.

- (c) PSs/Peons posted with Members may be allowed to travel with Members when on tour in case of urgent need. Prior approval of Chairperson would need to be obtained and would need to be included in the tour programme of Member sent for CP's approval.

A query was raised regarding the payment for STD calls made by Members while on tour. It was decided that payment would be made for official STD calls, on presentation of bills. The name of the party called on STD and the number would need to be indicated on the bills.

#### Agenda Item No.15

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

It was decided that following instructions should be issued:

- (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 Administration at 9.00 A.M./or at the time as directed by SO(Admn).
- (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 the Member Secretary. If they do so, the amount shall be deducted from their wages.

*Done*



- (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 allocated duties by Administration. Overtime allowance during these periods, if any, shall be allowed only for work done beyond office hours, at the instructions of Administration.

It was also decided that names would be called from the Employment Exchange and an independent selection made for recruitment against the five sanctioned posts of drivers. The persons presently driving for NCW shall be allowed to take part in the selection process, age relaxation would be allowed in their cases.

It was decided that Members should check the log books periodically so as to ensure correct reporting of mileage and time for reporting or completing duty.

Further, in respect of drivers, who are required for work on Saturdays for six days would be paid the daily wage for the sixth day.

It was also decided that a Punching Card Machine would be installed in the office, which will be used by all persons required to sign the Muster Roll.

#### Agenda Item No.16

**Organisation of protest march to Parliament under the leadership of NCW to protest against the inaction of Central Govt. in not moving the Women's Reservation Bill.**

The organisation of a protest march was not approved. The Commission would examine organising a signature campaign if it is permitted within the mandate of the NCW Act. The signature of Women Panchayati Raj Leaders could be taken.

A meeting may also be organised with Parliamentarians to push for presentation of the Reservation Bill in Parliament.

#### Agenda Item No.17

**Reference from PMO regarding violation of Fundamental Rights and other Constitutional Provisions.**

Draft letter in response to the letter from PMO on the above subject circulated with the agenda was approved.

*d. B. K. S.*

Agenda Item No.18

**Recommendations of NCW on the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, arising out of workshops held in 20 States.**

The recommendations on the ITP Act proposed in the agenda note were approved, with the following comments:

Regarding recommendation No.12 that punishments should be enhanced to be deterrent, specific examples should be given.

With regard to recommendation No.13 suggesting provisions against sex tourism, also specifications were required.

With regard to recommendation No.21, suggesting that the crime of sexual exploitation resulting from trafficking should not be treated under the provisions against rape under the Indian Penal Code, specific examples need to be given.

Regarding recommendation No.29 for appointing an IAS level officer to monitor the functioning of the Juvenile Welfare Board, the officer should be at the *district* level, instead of at the state level.

Regarding recommendation No.34, it was decided that Special Judges with special sensitivity should be appointed in the existing courts to handle the cases under the ITP Act. Honorary Women Magistrates may be appointed.

With regard to recommendation No.38, it should be added that if a convict is found HIV +ve and knowingly infects a victim, his punishment must be enhanced.

With regard to recommendation No.43 suggesting special measures to supervise disaster affected areas, the onus of supervision should lie with the Vigilance Committee.

Agenda Item No.19

**National Policy for Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and National Blood Policy.**

It was decided that a meeting would be called of some experts in the last week of March, 2001. Member (K.S.Reddy) would be In-charge.

*K.S.Reddy*



**Agenda Item No.20**

**Proposal to organise seminar/workshop to popularise PMLAs and make them more effective.**

The proposal was approved in principle. The meeting could be clubbed with the Commission's annual meeting with State Commissions, which could be then of two days. For the second day, NGOs could be invited, five from each State, where State Commissions are in place, and in respect of those States, where State Commissions confirm their own participation on the meeting. Those NGOs who have conducted successful PMLAs could be called as Resource Persons. Registrars of High Courts could also be invited.

It was also decided that the amount for holding a PMLA would be enhanced to Rs.30,000/-. The number of cases to be considered in each PMLA must not be less than 50 and not more than 60. At least 50% of the cases should be disposed of.

It was also decided that funding for legal awareness programmes would be reduced to Rs.10,000/- per programme.

**Agenda Item No.21**

**Maternity benefit to daily wagers engaged by NCW**

It was decided that the facility of Maternity Benefit would be extended to the women engaged in the Commission on daily wages also with effect from the date of the judgement, that is, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2000. Payment would be made in terms of the provisions of Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and to those ~~will~~ entitled under this Act.

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

