

Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on
13.10.1999&14.10.1999

Date 13th October,1999

Time: 10.00 A.M

Venue: Chairperson's Chamber

Present in the meeting were :-

- Smt.Vibha Parthasarathi : Chairperson
- Kum.Sukeshi Oram : Member
- Dr.S.S.Hameed : Member
- Smt.Vijay Daksh : Member
- Dr.Poornima Advani : Member
- Smt.Binoo Sen : Member Secretary

(attended only on 13th Oct.,99)

- Smt.Leena Mehendale : Joint Secretary
- Kum.R.Bhama : Deputy Secretary

At the outset Chairperson welcomed all present.

- (i) Since Member (S.Oram) is to complete her tenure on 31st October, 1999, and this was her last Commission meeting, the Commission placed on record the special contribution of Member (S.Oram) and her tremendous growth profile over the 3 years.
- (ii) A special welcome was accorded to Member (P.Advani) who was attending a Commission meeting after a long leave of absence (on medical grounds).

Agenda Item No.1Confirmation of the minutes of the preceding meeting held on 15.09.99

The minutes were confirmed with the following corrections:-

- i The name of Member (V.Daksh) which was inadvertently missed out as present in the preceding meeting was to be rectified. The error was regretted.
- ii At page 6, last line, the sentence would read as "The press conference would be held at India International Centre".

Agenda Item No.2Actions by the Screening Committee for scrutinizing proposals for research studies, conferences, seminars, workshops etc.

It was decided that the heading would read as "Research Studies, Conferences, Seminars, Workshops Approved". It was clarified that No.(4) and No.(11) of the list should not have been included in the agenda as they have not been approved. It was also noted that one of the Members of the Screening Committee for scrutinizing proposals for Research study, Conference etc. namely, Member (I.Basavaraj) has relinquished office, another Member would need to be nominated.

The Commission noted the list of proposals recommended by the Screening Committee.

Agenda Item No.3Actions by the Screening Committee for scrutinizing proposals for legal awareness programmes/legal literacy

Agenda Item No.2, the heading of this agenda item should read "Legal Awareness/Legal literacy programmes approved".

It was decided that in the Screening Committee for scrutinising proposals for PMLAs, Shri G.R.Taneja would complete the primary screening under the overall guidance of the Law Officer.

Agenda Item No.4

Report on the Sanhauhi case of gang rape and brutal atrocities on Harijan women in Bihar.

The Commission approved references of the report of the Central and State Government under Section 10(2) and 10(3) of the NCW Act. The Commission agreed that in order to generate awareness about NCW, a periodic meeting would be held with MPs during the Parliament Session or a session on NCW could be incorporated in the training programme of MPs. Each Member could give a presentation of about 5-8 minutes.

Agenda Item No.5

International Women's Day (8th March, 2000)

Suggestions for the celebration of International Women's Day/Women's week were as follows:-

- (i) Theme could be centered on the girl child. A visual presentation could be done.
- (ii) A book on inputs from women who got married without dowry could be released.
- (iii) A programme named "Kal Aaj Aur Kal" could be held. (Member (V. Daksh) to be in charge)
- (iv) NGOs interface with MPs on dowry laws could be organised. (Member (P. Advani) to be in charge)
- (v) Report on status of minority women would be released. (Member (S.S Hameed) to be in charge).

It was also decided that a calendar could be issued for the year 2000. Photographs of NCW's activities, and award winning posters on dowry could be shown in a diffused form, on which could be superimposed the calendar dates. If possible, quotations/quotes on women would be added.

It was also approved that NCW could have its own greeting card printed on recycled paper. The card would contain a line drawing on the cover with a simple greeting message inside.

Shame

255

Agenda Item No.6

Contribution of women to the establishment of a new global, financial and economic model--for the use of women MPs attending 102nd IPU Meeting in Berlin.

Since the IPU Meeting in Berlin was concluded the response of NCW was infructuous. However, minutes of the meeting could be obtained.

Agenda Item No.7

New ideas of improving/strengthening interface between administration and general public.

The draft response was approved.

Agenda Item No.8

Annual Report of the Commission for 1997-98

CP/Members/Officers were allocated specific chapters of the Annual Report to correct and forward to Member Secretary. The allocation was as follows :-

- Chapter - I : Introduction - Joint Secretary
- Chapter- II :Legal Infrastructure and Women - Member (P.Advani)
- Chapter-III :Violence against Women- Member (V.Daksh)
- Chapter IV : Women & Children in the vortex of Prostitution
- Member (S.S.Hameed)
- Chapter V : Special Groups - Member (S.Oram)
- Chapter VI : Political Participation , the Key to Empowerment
Of Women - Member (S.S.Hameed)
- Chapter VII: Socio Economic Development of Women
- Member (V.Daksh)

ksname

-- 5/-

W
on
ar
er
W

13th

- 9/

- 256
- Chapter VIII: Women in custody - Member (P.Advani)
- Chapter IX : Reaching out - Chairperson
- Chapter X : Recommendations - Chairperson

It was also decided that the Annual Report should have a plain cover and graphics should be included inside.

Agenda Item No.9

Publication of Report on "Rape; A Legal Study"

Member (P.Advani) had circulated a copy of the report to CP and Members. CP requested all Members to circulate all reports to the officers (JS and DS) as well, so that the greatest possible inputs could be obtained.

The response of MS had already been received by Member (P.Advani) and would be incorporated. Other suggestions w

- (a) a list of participants with the names of the participating organisations, date and venue of each workshop should be added .
- (b) Formatting is to be in a consistent font.
- (c) Some land mark cases handled by NCW, for example, J.C.Bose Hostel rape case, rape case of Smt. Bhanwari Devi could be considered for addition.
- (d) Conclusions should be made more forceful.
- (e) Sweeping statements should avoided.

It was decided that the revised report incorporating the suggestions would be circulated and approved in circulation. Thereafter the issue of publication would be put up to CP for approval.

Since time was running short, items requiring less discussion were taken up on a priority basis.

[Signature]

Agenda Item No.13Enquiry Report on the case of child sexual abuse in Karvi, and targetting of NGOs

Member (S.S.Hameed) mentioned the salient recommendations of the enquiry report, (which was still to be finalised), in brief:-

- (a) Special provisions for child rape.
- (b) Regarding targetting of NGOs, the State should have a sympathetic attitude and provide protection.
- (c) It was also brought to the notice of the Commission that allegations had been made against the Members of the NCW who were part of the investigation team and cases are also being filed in Court. It was decided that Shri Rakesh Prasad would be asked to take necessary action and also to find out whether permission of the Government is required before a Member of the Commission can be sued. Member (S.S.Hameed) said that one recommendation is to demand a judicial enquiry by a sitting judge on this point which is for the Commission to consider for inclusion or otherwise in the Court.

It was decided that the Report could be adopted by circulation.

Since MS had to proceed on tour and would not be available on the following day, (14.10.99), the programme of Commission's visit to the North East was discussed in brief. It was decided that Commission could leave on 21.11.99 and the visit would conclude on 28.11.99. Member (P.A) who was otherwise engaged on 21st would join the Commission on its visit later.

The meeting was adjourned to 14th October, 1999 at 10.00 A.M.

S. Hameed

--7/-

Date: 14th October, 1999

Agenda Item No.10

Workshop on Gender Sensitization of Police Officers to be held in New Delhi.

It was felt that the schedule was very tight and if each State/Union Territory was to give a presentation it could not be finished within the scheduled time. The budget needed to include the cost of 2 teas. It was decided that the existing modules of training institute already running such training (for example Dr. Kiran Bedi (PTC), Delhi) and Dr. Ranjana Kumari (Gender Training Institute) should be obtained. A few should be called for interaction with NCW, as for example, Mysore Academy and others. Only after a preliminary interaction is held should the final shape of the programme be worked out.

Agenda item No.11

Amendments to various Laws

Suggested amendments were approved, that is,

Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 -- In case of dowry death, the accused should get the same punishment as prescribed under section 302 of IPC.

Indian Evidence Act --

(a) Section 155(4) - should be deleted.

(b) Sections 53 and 54 -- Section 54 should be amended such that, in cases of rape, the past character of the accused should be put into question to provide justice to the victim.

Agenda Item No.12

National level conference for rights of Muslim women at SNDT Women's College at Pune - 20th/21st November, 1999 - request for financial assistance from All India Progressive Muslim Conference.

It was decided that the proposal could be seen by the Screening Committee.

Agenda Item No.14

DPS Sexual harassment Cases

The status report was noted. Member (S.S. Hameed) gave a summary of the current status of various writ petitions in brief.

Agenda Item No.15

Sanction of project on amendment of Criminal Laws and co-related notification/order/recommendations-part(2)-Immoral Traffic Prevention Act.

Member (P. Advani) had suggested 9a) discussions with National law School of India, Bangalore and (b) taking the suggestions to the Expert Committee.

The suggestion on interaction with the National Law School was not approved. It was further decided that the Commission would withdraw its earlier sanction for codification of laws for women as the Law School had taken an inordinately long time.

It was further decided that before the matter could be sent for consideration of the Expert Committee, an in house brain storming within NCW was necessary. A special meeting would be held on the morning of 4th November, 1999 to discuss the issues involved.

Agenda Item No.16

Commissioner for Women's Rights

Member(P.Advani) explained the background and the decision taken by NCV earlier. After discussion it was decided the response of the first Commission (letter of Smt. Jayanti Patnaik, then CP, NCW) would be repeated on similar lines. The Commission did not favour an independent body of Commissioner for Women's Rights. A similar function can be performed within the NCV without the label of a 'Commissioner for Women's Rights'.

Agenda Item No.17

Meeting of Women Candidates from Delhi State who contested for the 13 Lok Sabha

It was decided that the following would be issued

- 1) Letter to Prime Minister from Chairperson
Appreciating the inclusion of women ministers
- 2) Press Note on the appointment of women ministers.

Sharma

- (3) Letters to women ministers
- (4) List of all women MPs elected to 15th Lok Sabha

It was decided that 2 meetings would be held. One would be held on 15th November in the NCW Conference Hall in which all women candidates who contested the Lok Sabha elections from Delhi and neighbouring states would be invited to share their experience with the Commission.

Another meeting will be held on 18th November, 1999 at India International Centre in which all the 47 newly elected women MPs would be invited to brief them about NCW and women issues.

Member (S.S.Hameed) would take action on the above.

Agenda Item No.18

Inquiry into the Muzaffarnagar incident

It was clarified the incident related to Muzaffarnagar, U.P and not Muzaffarpur.

Member (V.Daksh) said that the incident was not of much relevance as the alleged victim had since then, withdrawn her statement. It was decided that a copy of the victim's statement made before the Magistrate would be obtained.

Agenda Item No.19

Sanction of project for amendment of Criminal Law and Co-related notification/orders/recommendations Part 3 -Dowry Prohibition Act.

It was suggested that detailed questionnaire should be sent which could be evaluated and assimilated. The project would be discussed in the meeting on 4.11.1999.

S. Hameed

26/

10 :

Agenda Item No.20

Report of the Inquiry into the nun's case at Chhapra, Bihar

Members (S.S Hameed) and (P. Advani) gave a brief report on the enquiry. The Report would be prepared and adopted by circulation.

Agenda Item No.21

Short video film on "Rural Women's double burden"

The request was not approved.

Agenda Item No.22

Any other items with the permission of the Chair

Member (V. Daksh) wanted to know details of the computer training as was requested by her earlier. CP directed the administration to prepare a note.

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

