

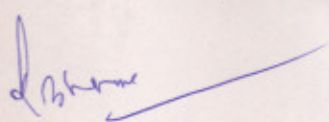
MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION'S MEETING HELD ON 14TH
FEBRUARY, 2002.

Present in the Meeting were:

1. Dr. Poornima Advani : Chairperson
2. Smt. K. Santha Reddy : Member
3. Kum. Anusuiya Uike : Member
4. Smt. Nafisa Hussain : Member
5. Smt. Reva Nayyar : Member Secretary
6. Smt. Nita Kapoor : Joint Secretary
7. Kum. R. Bhama : Deputy Secretary

At the outset, the new Chairperson, Dr. Poornima Advani, welcomed all Members. She said that women of the country had great expectations from the Commission after 10 years of its functioning. A vision plan should be thought over by Members and all should work together. The work of the Commission is a "mission". An effort would be made to have regular meetings every month. Territorial allocations to Members would be declared shortly.

Member(N. Hussain) said that it is necessary for new Members to be aware of their rights and responsibilities. So they should be briefed about the rules and procedures of the Commission, and also regarding exercise of judicial powers. Perhaps, a training could be taken from a retired judge. Member (K.S.Reddy) agreed.



Agenda Item No.1

Leave of Absence.

Chairperson informed that Member (A.Uike) would be joining the Commission later as she was on her way back from a tour.

Agenda Item No.2

Confirmation of minutes of the preceding meeting held on 9th January 2002.

The minutes were adopted with the following comments:

Regarding Agenda Item No.12, where a noting was made about the behaviour of Smt. Sangeeta Sharma, Receptionist, Member (N. Hussain) said that the discussion was informal and should not be included in the minutes.

Regarding Agenda Item No.25(5), Member (K.S.Reddy) clarified that the proposal approved earlier was for holding "one-day Seminar" on the Impact of Globalization on Self Help Groups and **not** "Public Hearings" as was recorded. The minutes would be amended accordingly.

Agenda Item No.3

Presentations by Chairperson, Members and Member Secretary.

It was decided to taking up this agenda item after Member (A.Uike) joined the meeting.

Chairperson clarified that the presentations by Chairperson, Members and Member Secretary should not be taken to mean that the proposed course of action is sanctioned. Formal proposals would still have to be put up for any proposed projects. The presentations are only to keep

P. Sharma

the Commission informed and for better reflection of the activities of the Commission in the Monthly Reports.

Agenda Item No.4

Proposed programme for International Women's Day – 8th March, 2002: Honouring organisations who have done outstanding work on women's issues.

The programme was approved with the comment that it need not necessarily be organised on 8th March, 2002.

Chairperson invited suggestions from Members on the kind of workshop to be held and the issues to be taken up in the discussion. Some issues suggested in the meeting were education, health, economic empowerment and social empowerment.

It was also felt that, to collect data from the NGOs participating in the workshop, a questionnaire may be issued to elicit information on the focus areas of the organization, their source of funding and statistics on actual work done by them.

It was felt that some of the organizations honoured by NCW should also speak about their experience. One of these could be '*Mangalam*'. Member (K.S. Reddy) could initiate the discussion on her experience with '*Mangalam*' in the Tirupathi District. ROPE, the implementing organization could also be invited to participate.

Chairperson also said that a report on work done by NGOs, which was included in the agenda as Item No.9 may also be brought out on this occasion if ready by this time. Member (K.S. Reddy) could give a report on her experience with '*Mangalam*', which could be included in the report.

It was decided that each Member would send names of 10 invitees so that invitations could be sent to them.

Shame

Agenda Item No.5

Proposals relating to Legal Awareness Programmes approved by the Screening Committee.

The Legal Awareness Programmes approved by the Screening Committee on 11.1.2002 were noted by the Commission.

Agenda Item No.6

Proposals relating to Special Studies/Seminars/Workshops/Public Hearings approved in circulation.

The proposal relating to a study on Domestic Violence and Torture among Females of Urban Areas, approved in circulation by the Screening Committee, were noted by the Commission.

Agenda Item No.7

Project Mangalam – Legal Awareness Programme for women on the theme of Justice Delivery by Women for Women – Proposals received from Collector, Neemuch (M.P.) and Collector, Kishanganj (Bihar).

The Commission sanctioned in principle, Project Mangalam in Districts Neemuch (M.P.) and Kishanganj (Bihar). It was also decided that, in principle, other projects from District Collectors for taking up the Mangalam project could be approved and the Commission could be informed in the subsequent meeting.

Member Secretary informed the Commission that copies of the video cassette of Mangalam were available with the Commission and were being sent to District Collectors.

Member (K.S. Reddy) requested that Rs. 1 lac be immediately released to District Collector, Chittoor for the project Mangalam already launched.

K. S. Reddy

Agenda Item No.8

Advocacy Kit on Violence and Health to be developed by CHETNA in collaboration with UNFPA and NCW – Development of a draft Kit.

CHETNA had submitted a note on the proposed kit and the tentative work plan. It was decided that Members would send their comments by 25th February, 2002 on the basis of which a reply would be sent to CHETNA.

Agenda Item No.9

Proposal for study of schemes by voluntary organisations which have had a beneficial impact on the lives of thousands of women.

Chairperson explained that the idea was to showcase the efforts of NGOs doing exemplary work to encourage emulation. About 10 projects had been included. A chapter on Project Mangalam would be included. Member (N.Hussain) suggested that the case of "Lijjat Papad" should also be included. The proposal was approved.

It was also suggested that preparation of a similar collection of good schemes be continued by all Members.

Agenda Item No.10

Awareness programme on Bal Vivah Virodh Abhiyan.

The proposal was approved at a tentative budget of Rs. 6 lacs. Four awareness camps would be held in each selected State. The concluding camp would be held on *Akha Teej* (15th May, 2002). Each awareness camp would be sanctioned at an amount not exceeding Rs.15,000/- each. The 10 public hearings on Child Marriage already approved by the Commission, which were being coordinated by Member(K.S. Reddy) would continue. Member (K.S. Reddy) said 3 have been held, 7 would be completed by the end of March, 2002. These would culminate in Delhi.

... Conference be held
... of the Adhyan. Member Secretary suggested a poster c
for children.

Agenda Item No.11

**National Policy for Empowerment of Women – Actio
implementation and gaps to be addressed.**

The Commission had been asked to send its comments on th
The following suggestions included in the Agenda Papers and et
in the discussions were approved for inclusion in the Commission's

- (a) Provision for monitoring the Action Plan, mid term ev
to ensure the effectiveness of implementation of the
Plan.
- (b) That implementation of the Indecent Representat
Women (Prevention) Act lies on the law enforcing ag
and the Commission cannot take on this task un
mandate.
- (c) The review of the remaining 9 legislations (out of 42 v
centric legislations identified for review) would be com
by the end of 2002.
- (d) The Government should take up a decade for wor
empowerment, focusing on one issue in each year o
decade.
- (e) NCW should be empowered by incorporating amendmen
NCW Act.
- (f) A National Resource Centre be set up under the Nati
Commission for Women.

K. Sharma

Members were requested to send further suggestions/comments to enable a comprehensive reply to the Government.

Agenda Item No.12

Report of the South-Western Regional Conference of the State Commission for Women and NGOs organised by the National Commission for Women and the Goa State Commission for Women on 12-13th September, 2001 – Report for approval/adoption.

The report was approved and adopted. It was decided that the important recommendations would be culled out and sent to the Government. MS informed the Commission that a letter was sent to the Minister for Tourism regarding the tourism policy based on the discussions.

Chairperson said that two studies had been sponsored by the Commission on the subject of sex tourism on the east and west coasts. After the reports are obtained, the Commission could think of having a workshop on the subject so as to obtain recommendations on how to control sex tourism.

Member (K.S. Reddy) suggested that the Commission should organise a coordination meeting of 100 people from 5 States (25 from each State including officials). Representation should be obtained from concerned Ministries, State Commissions, Public Prosecutors, District officials State Tourism Departments, Police and NGOs. Efforts should be made to curb trafficking in the catchment areas.

The Commission also felt that it will be desirable for the Members, collectively to follow a common agenda every month so as to have maximum impact.

R Bhamra

Agenda Item No.13

Workshop on Public Hearing on Prevention of Child Marriage 22.12.2001 by National Commission through the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women in collaboration with the Integrated Rural Community Society (IRCDS), Tiruvallur - Report approval/adoption.

Member (K.S. Reddy) informed the Commission that the organisation has been asked to send a revised report with depositions along with suggestions and recommendations which emanated from the public hearing. On receipt of the depositions, the report would be considered for adoption.

Agenda Item No.14

Seven Training Camps on Empowerment Training to Women Members of Gram Panchayats in Uttara Kannada district by Karve All India Society for Welfare of Women and Children, New Delhi - Report for approval/adoption.

The report was approved and adopted.

It was decided that the Commission should necessarily be invited to attend training camps or any other programmes which are funded or sponsored by the Commission.

Agenda Item No.15

Two day training programme of Tribal Women Chairpersons/Deputy Sarpanches in Chhindwara District on 18-19 November, 2001 - PRAKRITI - Report for approval/adoption.

The report was approved and adopted.

At this point, (at 12.10 P.M.) Member (A.Uike) joined the meeting.

A. Uike

Agenda Item No.16

Regional Seminar on Women Images in Electronics Media on 21st November, 2001 by Rishi Nilayam, Hyderabad – Report for approval/adoption.

The report was adopted in principle. CP suggested perhaps recommendations could be made clearer.

Member (K.S. Reddy) said that as no advance was released to the organization, at least the initial payment (60% of the total amount) be released immediately and the remaining could be released after receiving the recommendations and their approval by the Commission.

Agenda Item No.3

Presentations by Chairperson, Members and Member Secretary.

Since Member (A.Uike) had joined the meeting, Agenda Item No.3 was taken up. Individual presentations of the programme were made by Member (K.S. Reddy), Member (A.Uike), Member (N.Hussain), Member Secretary and then Chairperson.

Members were requested to send a written copy of the presentation.

Agenda Item No.17

Any other Item with the permission of the Chair.

Agenda Item No.17(1)

Constitution of a Consultation Group for NCW.

It was proposed that a large Consultative Group comprising experts on varied subjects may be constituted for developing a vision for the Commission. Some of the subjects/areas identified were Police, Hea

Community Training, Education & Literacy, Social Activism, Environment
Laws (Labour Laws, Criminal Laws, Foreign Laws, Personal Laws)
Administration. Members were requested to suggest names of experts
specifying the area of expertise to advise NCW. Members were requested
to send names of 5 persons by 24th February, 2002.

Expert Committees on individual issues could be separately set up

Agenda Item No.17(2)

Empowerment and Legal Awareness Camps.

It was proposed that instead of specifically concentrating on legal awareness, the Commission may sponsor Empowerment Camps, which could include along with legal awareness, social awareness and Panchayat Raj issues. CP, all Members and MS agreed, except Member (K.S.Reddy) who dissented.

Agenda Item No. 17(3)

Extension of benefit for promoting Small Family Norms.

It was decided that the Commission may make recommendation to DOP&T and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to extend the benefit for promoting small family norms available to regular Government employees, also to casual labourers with temporary status.

Agenda Item No.17(4)

Prevention of sale of girl children in Andhra Pradesh.

A note was circulated by Member (K.S. Reddy). In pursuance of the Commission's inquiry on April, 2001 on the subject of sale of girl children in Andhra Pradesh, it was found that some institutions were indulging in sale of girl children under the garb of inter country adoption. Some NGOs had reported that Tender Loving Care Home, an orphanage, whose license

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Bhama

had been revoked by the A.P. Government, is still holding 91 children and the organisation plans to send these children to foreign countries for adoption by getting orders from local Courts.

The Commission decided to take up the issue under Section 10(1)(e) and 10(1)(l) of the NCW Act and appoint a lawyer to intervene in the matter in the courts at Hyderabad and in other cities of Andhra Pradesh. The Commission would consider appointment of a lawyer; the extent of financial assistance by NCW would be decided subsequently.

Agenda Item No.17(5)

Sexual Harassment at Work Place – Setting up of Complaints Committee in the offices of Political Parties.

In the conference held with the State Commissions for Women on 1st February 2002, Chairperson, Maharashtra State Commission for Women had suggested that complaints committees be set up in the offices of political parties since the Vishaka Judgement of the Supreme Court applies to all work places.

The Commission decided to undertake this course of action and write to all central, regional and State level political parties.

Agenda Item No.17(6)

Handling of complaints by Members.

It was suggested that Members may handle complaints and for conducting hearings may stay in Headquarters for 2 days in the week.

R. Shama

Tours by Members.

Chairperson requested all Members to submit tour report soon after the completion of the tour. It was also suggested that places of custody where women are kept should also be under uniform pro-forma may be devised for such visits.

Agenda Item No.17(8)

Proposal to hold one more regional workshop on Women in Agricultural and Allied Enterprises in the North Eastern region.

The Commission had earlier approved holding of four workshops on the subject. A proposal to hold one more regional workshop in the North Eastern region on the subject of Women in Agricultural and Allied Enterprises. Chairperson said this would be taken up in the next month after receiving the report of the National Task Force on Empowerment of Women in Agriculture.

Agenda Item No.17(9)

Presentation of dance, drama on Women's Empowerment.

Member (A.Uike) suggested that NCW may, for an appropriate occasion, call a troupe from Madhya Pradesh, who was performing excellent dance/drama on the subject of women's empowerment.

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Agenda Item No.17(10)

Proposals relating to Legal Awareness Programmes approved by the Screening Committee (on 12.2.2002).

A list of legal awareness programmes approved in the meeting of the Screening Committee held on 12.2.2002 was circulated to the Commission. The same was noted.

The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

RB

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