

243

Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 15.09.1999

Date 15th September, 1999

Time: 10.00 A.M

Venue: Chairperson's Chamber

Present in the meeting were:-

Smt. Vibha Parthasarathi	:	Chairperson
Smt. Binoo Sen	:	Member Secretary
Dr. Indira Basavaraj	:	Member
Dr. S.S. Hameed	:	Member
Mrs. V. Daksh	:	Member
Kum. Sukeshi Oram	:	Member
Smt. Leena Mehendale	:	Joint Secretary
Kum. R. Bhama	:	Dy. Secretary

At the outset CP welcomed all present.

(i) A special welcome was accorded to Member (I. Basavaraj) as this is the last meeting attending by her before the completion of her tenure in the Commission.

(ii) Leave of absence was granted to Member (P. Advani).

Agenda items were then taken up.

Agenda Item No:1

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 18th August, 1999

Minutes were confirmed with a minor correction at page 5, under (ii) of the action points. The name of the film should be read as "Budha Weeps in Jadgoda".

L. Bham

Agenda Item No.2

Third meeting of the National Task Force on Technological Empowerment of Women in Agriculture

The Commission adopted recommendations of the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Task Force on "Technological Empowerment of Women in Agriculture" and ratified the action undertaken by Member (I.Basavaraj) as follow up action. The Commission felt that follow up was necessary on the recommendations and this may be done after networking with other Departments/agencies.

Agenda Item No.3

Publication of reports of National Task Force Sub-Group No.1- "Re-orientation of courses curricula" and "Drudgery of women in Agriculture"

It was decided that since the complete report of the Task Force may take a year's time, the reports of the Sub-group on reorientation of course curricula and drudgery of women in Agriculture" should be published by the Commission. The publication would be in accordance with the NCW norms.

The Commission also approved the engagement of Smt.Kamla Kumar for synthesising the information submitted by various groups, preparing background papers and a full manuscript incorporating recommendations of the National Task Force so that the same is in final readiness after proof reading for being printed. The job would be completed within 30 "man" days.

Agenda Item No.4

Creation of awareness amongst women development of short video messages on topics centered on Agriculture

Member (I.Basavaraj) was requested to explore the possibility of undertaking the work in partnership with other departments/agencies and agreed to circulate a note on the subject.

Agenda Item No.5

Public Hearings of women in Agriculture

The idea was considered good, and would be taken up by the Commission. Member (I.Basavaraj) was requested to circulate a detailed report of the issues raised in the public hearing of women Agricultural workers.

Agenda Item No.6

South Asia Knowledge Network Conference, 23-24 November, 1999-jointly organised by the British Council and the National Informatics Centre.

The Commission approved the publicising of this initiative in its Newsletter. The Commission also agreed to participate in the event. Members were requested to identify right participants for this event and send such names to MS to enable onward transmission to British Council.

Agenda Item No.7

Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995-review of

It was decided that the Commission may submit a formal report and also write to the DWCD to include the NCW in all the Department's discussions on the subject. Status Report of the Government on the Platform for Action would be called for.

Agenda Item No.8

State visit to North-East during the month of October,1999

It was decided that the Tezpur district Mahila Samiti may be asked to fix the date of public hearing on 13th November, 1999 which may be attended by a few Members. The Commission could visit some North Eastern states either immediately preceding the date of public hearing or on succeeding dates. The Commission could get in touch with the North Eastern Council to firm up the details

Basavaraj

Agenda Item No.9**Enhancement of punishment for outraging the modesty of a woman**

The Commission approved the proposal for amendment to the IPC so as to enhance the term of punishment for outraging the modesty of a woman to be not less than 5 years which may extend upto rigorous punishment for 7 years and the accused should also be liable to fine.

The question of rehabilitation of the victims would be taken up separately on a subsequent date.

Agenda Item No.10**National Workshop on Gender bias -- female foeticide/infanticide organised by Indian Medical Association on 7th-8th August,1999-follow up action.**

The Commission decided to have a meeting with Indian Medical Association to work out the modalities for follow up action.

Agenda Item No.11**Case of Bodobai & Santara bai of MP**

It was decided that Dr.Perivesh Mishra of Distt.,Raigarh, MP would be contacted to confirm disbursement of relief granted by the Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh to Smt.Bodobai and Santara bai.

Agenda Item No.12**Proposal for sustained training and Tribal women enterprise propagation received from Academy for Mountain of Environics**

It was decided that the organisation may send its proposal directly to TRIFED endorsing a copy to NCW, whereupon NCW shall

Member (V.Daksh) was also requested to circulate a separate report on the activity of mushroom cultivation undertaken by women observed by her in order that the report can be sent with suitable recommendations to TRIFED.

Agenda Item No.13

Staff Car Rules

Member (V.Daksh) sought clarification on Staff Car Rules for taking staff car out of headquarters, i.e. New Delhi. CP clarified that while submitting their tour programmes, Members should make a specific reference to the mode of travel so that if the Staff car is proposed to be utilised, CP's decision on the use of staff car outside Delhi shall be taken and addressed.

Agenda Item No.14

Extension of period of services of Deputationist in the Commission.

It was clarified that for extending the period of service of deputationists who are attached directly to Members for e.g., SPAs, reference is always made to the concerned Member. For extension of the deputation period of ministerial staff the approval of MS is obtained, for extension of deputation of officers of the rank of SOs and above, the approval of CP is obtained. However, Members are free to bring the good/bad behaviour of any official to the notice of the Commission.

Agenda Item No.15

Project on Political Empowerment of Women- Report prepared by Dr.Manorama Bawa.

It was decided that the report may be revised taking into account the following:-

- (1) Foot notes may be added to specify the references,
- (2) Introduction containing the past events should be very brief,
- (3) Emphasis should be on the aspirations of women today,
- (4) Interaction with women panchayat leaders could be included

as also the outcome of public hearings of Panchayat women.

(5) Views of women candidates and their experience in the current elections could be incorporated.

(6) Inputs may also be taken from NCW's film "Portrait of a Leader".

(7) At page 85 of the agenda papers, (page 14 of the report, last paragraph), in addition to the print and electronic media should be added the effect to street plays.

(8) Further, the report after approval, would be published by the Commission. The name of Dr. Manorama Bawa would appear in the credits. Photographs could be added.

Agenda Item No.16

Any other items with the permission of the Chair

(1) **SIU Report**

The Commission's approval was sought regarding the SIU report which had been circulated to the Members. The Commission accepted the report and said that review could be asked for as soon as the posts are sanctioned and filled up. NCW would also have to frame Recruitment Rules.

(2) **Request from All Orissa Women's Welfare Association for increases in Women's Maintenance Allowances under Section 125 of Cr.PC and enactment of a law to prohibit a women from enticing a married man**

A reference on the subject was received from the DWCD. The draft reply circulated to Members on 14.9.99 was approved.

(3) **Press Conference**

The Commission agreed that a Press Conference should be held to apprise the media of the work done by NCW in the last few months. It was decided that the conference would be held on 22nd September, 1999, if the Election Commission's Code of Conduct is not infringed. Alternatively the date of 14th October was decided

(4) Computer Training for Members/Officers/staff of NCW

Member (V.Daksh) desired to have a note on the persons to whom the training was given and the results thereof.

(5) Computer to be installed in Member(S.Oram)'s room

Since the Computer earlier installed in US's room had been shifted to the room of JS, it was decided that JS's computer would be shifted to room of Member (S.Oram).

(6) Honorarium to personal staff attached to Members

It was decided that on the basis of Commission's decision in its meeting held on 29.10.98 the practice of granting honorarium on the recommendations of retiring Members should not be encouraged, or continued.

(7) Proposal of Guild of Service - Delhi chapter -- for organising large scale mobilisation of women for observing "Peace for Empowerment and call for Equality" on 21st December, 1999 to usher in the new millenium.

The proposal had been approved by the Screening Committee in its meeting on 14th September, 1999 and recommended a grant of Rs.5 lakhs. The Commission approved the participation of the Commission in the mobilisation.

(8) Workshop on PRAJA on Criminal Justice System and Women

MS explained the details. Participants would number 25, in addition to the Commission. The Commission decided to host the workshop and bear the expenses for the cost of hire of the Committee Room in IIC and lunch for the day.

(9) Leave encashment to Members

Members were informed that on a reference, DWCD had said that Members are not entitled to any leave encashment. However, the matter being referred back again to DWCD for reconsideration.

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(10) Payment of TA -- entitlement on completion of term of Members

Members were informed that this would be done as per rules after verification.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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John