

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
4, DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA MARG,
NEW DELHI-110002.

MINUTES - 32nd Meeting

The 32nd meeting of National Commission for Women was held on 6th May, 1997 under the Chairmanship of the Chairperson Smt. V. Mohini Giri. The list of those present is annexed.

At the outset 'action taken' on 31st meeting held on 17th March, 1997 was discussed and reviewed the progress of the projects in hand.

It was mentioned that the presentation of the Tele-Conferencing system was organized earlier. It was mentioned in the meeting that the IGNOU would require the decision of the Commission on the following points:

- (i) Who are the audience?
- (ii) What is the topic for teleconferencing?
- (iii) Areas/regions to be telecast.
- (iv) Language to be used for teleconferencing.
- (v) Who will be the resource group from the NCW.
- (vi) Whether recording has to be done or not; in case the recording is not to be done whether the budget will be slashed).

It was mentioned that Ms. Prabha Chawla of IGNOU at an earlier meeting of the Commission made a detailed presentation of teleconferencing system for the benefit of the Commission in which she had given an exposition of the teleconferencing system.

To proceed further in the matter the Commission's needs of

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teleconferencing had to be clearly spelt out under these following points which were discussed. These points were discussed one by one:

- (i) With regard to the audience it would be mostly rural women and panchayati raj women and teleconferencing will be done at 7 centres where this facility exists in the state of U.P.
 - (ii) Following subjects appear to have the consensus of the meeting; welfare of widows/prostitutes, health care of SC & ST women, legal literacy, Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat.
 - (iii) With regard to areas and regions to be covered, it was mentioned that one teleconferencing would be enough for the whole of UP and that it would be telecast in 7 centres in the State.
 - (iv) The teleconferencing will be done in Hindi and regional languages.
 - (v) As for the Resource Group, the NCW will have to work out the details, the Media Advisory Group (Ms. Akhila Shivadas) may be contacted for this purpose.
 - (vi) As regards recording, it was suggested that the NCW should have the teleconferencing recorded for future use & the IGNOU will provide all the facilities.
- It was also suggested that before we arrange teleconferencing in UP as a pilot study wide publicity of this event would be made in the State so that the message could reach the target group to meet this objective. NCW would take into

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account the experience of the Department of WCD and the resource persons be identified to look into the aspect and help of the local resource groups in UP be taken for selection of proper audience and dissemination of information. C(KH) is to submit a detailed note on the subject.

One day Symposium on the child care needs of women workers. Proposal from FORCES.

It was suggested that NCW should seek the assistance of A(PS) in the matter and the Legal Unit was required to start drafting a bill on the basis of suggestions made in one day Symposium on the subject. Chairperson reported that as this matter has already being delayed action may be initiated on urgent basis.

Annual report for the years 1994-95, 1995-96.

The position relating to preparation of these reports was reviewed. C(Ms. Nag) reported that the draft report for 1994-95 has been prepared and approved by the Commission. It was suggested that the report may be got printed on priority basis. For 1995-96 annual report it was suggested that, the preparation of the draft report may be completed within next two months.

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Reservation of Railway Tickets for two Members/Officials /Consultants.

C(TNS) informed the participants that the matter was discussed by the administration with the railway board authorities. It was given to understand that in case of urgency

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when the tour is arranged at a short notice, Railway Board will try to accommodate our requirement as far as possible. In such eventuality Member Secretary would be writing to the Railway Board for reservation against the tickets in waitlisting and C(INS) would do the followup. However the individual will have to purchase the tickets from railways reservation office.

ITEM

Provision of VIP parking space at airports.

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Earlier this matter was taken up by Department of WCD with the Airport Authority of India in February 1997, who have advised that this matter need to be addressed to Ministry of Civil Aviation. The W.C.D. has already written to that ministry. C(INS) would do the follow up.

ITEM

Leave entitlement for Consultants/Counsellors.

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Initial offers of appointment as full time Consultant, were issued to six retired Govt. Officers by the then Member Secretary Ms. Uma Pillai, J.S. in the Deptt of Women & Child Development, who was also holding additional charge of Member Secretary, NCW. One of the terms and conditions of the appointment of these Consultants was that they will be entitled to earned leave/casual leave.

In view of this, all the full time Consultants in the

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Commission are enjoying the benefits of CL & EL admissible under (CS leave) rules 1972. However, there are no separate orders on the subject.

Recently some full time Consultants/Counsellors have been engaged in the Commission on short tenure on contract basis. Their term is extended/reviewed after every six months and their 'Offer of Appointment' does not indicate about leave provisions.

In pursuance of decision of the Commission, a Committee headed by C(PSKM) examined the admissibility of grant of EL/CL to new Consultants/Counsellors and framed rules which could not be considered in the subsequent meetings of the Commission. However, this matter was discussed and

the following decisions were taken in the meeting:

- (i) All direct recruit Consultants/Counsellors (other than retired Government Officers/employees should sign their daily attendance before a senior officer (to be designated for the purpose).The attendance register is to be kept in Dy.Secy's office.
- (ii) Henceforth, the direct recruit Consultants/Counsellors will be entitled to casual leave on pro-rata basis and ^{pro rata basis} earned leave on completion of one year service.
- (iii) All Consultants/Counsellors are required to give one month's notice or forego one month's salary in case of leaving the job, so that the work being looked after can be assigned and reference papers/files be handed over to other officer.

Reimbursement of telephone rental charges to Consultants/Counsellors.

i The matter regarding provision of residential telephone discussed in the meeting. The participants were informed that present facility of reimbursements/telephone is available only the Consultants who have retired from the gazetted posts in Govt. and have been appointed in NCW on the basis "until further orders".

There are number of Consultants who have retired from Govt. gazetted posts and they are working in the NCW on contract basis for six months or less. At present the residential telephone facility is not provided to these Consultants. It was decided that the Consultants/Counsellors who have put in one year continuous service in NCW would be entitled for reimbursement of telephone rental charges on production of original telephone bills.

No payments will be made for STD calls. Govt. of India rules relating to the telephone reimbursements charges should be circulated among all Members of the Commission. PAs/PS should maintain registers regarding STD calls in respect of the Members of the Commission. Consultant(BKK) should submit a note on this item.

The points regarding request of H(1B) for provision of residential STD facility was also considered and it was decided that as per the Central Govt. rules residential STD facility is available to the Officer of Addl. Secretary status in a limited way. The limit is 650 local calls. Over and above this limit of 650 calls the officer is required to pay individually

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5. However, there are some Consultants who are retired Govt. servants and were working in the Commission earlier and have been re-appointed after the gap of year or so. This facility will be extended to them after they complete one year of continuous service.

IA for Consultants/Counsellors.

The participants were informed that of late there have been instances where requests have been received from members recommending air travel for Consultants/Counsellors.

It was decided that for the Consultants/Counsellors, who are not retired from the Central Government and in whose cases, at present, no fixed rules are available, would travel only by 2nd class/3rd tier AC.

It was decided that in urgent cases Consultants/Counsellors may go on tour without the advance where proper/advance reporting could not be made to the administration. However, sanction of administration in all cases is necessary. It was also decided that recommendations of air travel for Consultants/Counsellors should not be sent to the administration without the approval of Chairperson. In all cases of travel above their entitlement administration would reimburse only the entitled amount.

ITEM

Reimbursement of medical bills of Chairperson/Members.

- 1) Chairperson and Members will be reimbursed a fixed amount of Rs. 500/- per month from the date of their joining the Commission till the 31st

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January, 1997 viz the date from which they were extended CGHS facilities.

However, such of those Members who have been availing themselves of the CGHS during the aforesaid period, will not be reimbursed the fixed amount of Rs. 500/- p.m. prior to 7.1.97.

Agenda items of the Admn. (items circulated in the meeting later).

Following the resignation tendered by as many as four Consultants and further to this two more Consultants proceedings on indefinite leave, it was decided that various items of work should be redistributed among the existing Consultants as indicated below:

- (i) The work relating to the women in Panchayati Raj to be handled by Consultant (Sh. Madan) in addition to his existing allotment of work.
- (ii) The items relating to Health, Disabled and 'Women Development Centres' to be looked after by Consultant (Ms. Jyotika Sen).
- (iii) Consultant (Sh. Vaidya) in addition to his work would also look after the work of Ms. Deepti, who has left.
- (iv) NCW Consultant (Sh. Madhavan) to look after political empowerment and the work of C((NB).
- (v) Consultant (Ms. Kanak Mittal) to handle all matters relating to the recommendations made in the 'post Beijing Conference Report' UNDP/UNIPA etc.
- (vi) Consultant (Sh. Sabharwal) to be in charge of all the minutes of the meetings of the Commission/

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the minutes of the other meetings. All consultants/ Counsellors are requested to send a copy of the minutes to (INS).

Setting up of Control Room

Owing to number of complaints received after office hours and realising the urgent need it has been decided to set up "Control Room".

Sanction of two additional staff cars and creation of two more posts of drivers for the Commission.

It was decided that the administration section should take necessary action in the matter. The matter may be taken up with Deptt. of W.C.D. Action : C(INS). Other Items :

It was decided that a list of Lok Adalats/Parivarik Mahila Adalat held so far in each State, District be prepared in order to review the progress made, objectives achieved, and strive to have one Lok Adalat in each of 542 districts of the country. For this purpose, the Commission has spoken to the Chief Justice of India, Mr. Justice J.S. Verma, regarding setting up of Jail Adalat it was informed that C(SJ) has spoken to Mr. Sh. Ahmedi to look into feasibility aspects. However, it was informed that the objective is to have one NGO of the District to run the Lok Adalat. If their jail preferably the NGO who does the Lok Adalat, the legal section may talk to Mr. J.S. Verma, and fix up facilities for achieving this objective. For regional legal programmes at Assam, Chairperson was informed of legal programme at West Bengal. A letter has been issued to

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organise Mahila Adalat and the dates are yet to be finalised. For the Lok Adalat it was reported that the NCW has been giving the grant of Rs. 20,000/- for organising each Lok Adalat and the Administration is facing difficulties as the statement of accounts are not received on time and there were certain cases of delay for over two years. It was decided that NGOs must be directed to submit an audited statement and original bills in respect of the Lok Adalat with in a period of two weeks.

2. Counselling Cell was directed to compile a collection of success stories which could be published. The agenda item submitted by M(KV) was brought to the notice of Chairperson. The Chairperson asked about the M(KV) and was informed by C(NB) that she was on leave.

3. The Chairperson remarked that she was not aware of the leave application of M(KV). However, the new proposal were read out for the information of the Chairperson who desired that action in the matter should be taken after M(KV) returns from leave. As regards Chairperson's remark while reading the new proposals submitted by M(KV) that NCW during her tenure has not sanctioned 'shibirs' it was submitted that these 'shibirs' were sanctioned by the earlier commission. This being a new project, it was reiterated that all the projects would be discussed only after M(KV) joins. The Deputy Secretary referred to the queries made by M(KV) to her over STD, to which Chairperson observed that she was not aware of the holding of any programme on Gramin Bank and awareness programme for muslim women to be held in Kerala. She referred that Kerala State Commission is organising programme

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on 5-6 June, 1997 to which she is invited by the Kerala State Commission and is not aware about financial commitment of NCW for the programme.

4. As regards the NCW "Excellence awards" it was decided that the letter may be addressed to all Distt. Magistrates and the matter be discussed subsequently but at first we may write to only those states who have responded so far and request them to send a panel of dynamic women for suitable consideration.