

National Commission for Women
4 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg
New Delhi - 110 002
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MINUTES OF THE 28TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, HELD ON THE
17TH OCTOBER, 1996
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The twenty-eighth meeting of the National Commission for Women was held on the 17th October, 1996 under the Chairmanship of Smt. Mohini Giri, Chairperson, National Commission for Women. The following were present :-

1. Ms. Mohini Giri : Chairperson
2. Ms. Kokila Vyas : Member
3. Dr. (Ms.) Indira Basavaraj : Member
4. Dr. (Ms.) Nisha Sahai Achuthan : Member Secretary

Sh. S.C. Ghoshal, Pay & Accounts Officer, all Consultants, Section Officer and Assistant-in-charge were in attendance to render assistance as and when required of them.

In her opening remarks the Chairperson conveyed an apology offered by Smt. Padma Seth, Member's inability to attend the meeting as she had been summoned by the Court. Smt. Kailashpati, Member, could not attend the meeting as she had taken leave to celebrate Dussera in her Home Town.

The agenda items were taken up for consideration as follows :-

ITEM NO. 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of 27th Meeting of the Commission held on 10th September, 1996 :

The minutes were confirmed.

: Action taken statement on the minutes of the 27th meeting of the Commission :

Representation of Class IV Staff for regularisation of their services :

It was noted that the Draft Recruitment Rules in respect Groups C & D posts is being examined in the Legislative Department of the Ministry of Law for its final approval.

The following suggestions were made with regards to the Class IV staff and Staff Car Drivers :-

(a) A chart showing the deployment of the staff of the Commission including staff car drivers should be circulated for the information of all in the Commission.

b) Shri Arora, Assistant, should be made in-charge of all the Staff Car Drivers, Their maintenance including deployment of Drivers, under overall Supervision of Member Secretary.

c) Class IV staff should be instructed to clean the office rooms of the Commission every day without fail.

d) The Peon attached to any Member, who is absent from the Commission for more than 2 dyas, should be deployed elsewhere.

e) It was noted that Shri Brahmprakash would be

(f) The chart regarding the deployment of Sr.P.As. and Stenographers and Class IV staff was read out in the meeting.

(g) In order to ensure the punctuality of the staff of the Commission including the Peons, the Chairperson desired that none should sit after 6.30 P.M.

(ii) Appointment of Shr. S. Ramaiah as Legal Advisor :

It was noted that the Office Order for the appointment of Shri Ramaiah as Legal Advisor had been issued.

(iii) Appointment of a Consultant (Legal) :

It was noted that Ms. Meenakashi Sinha had been appointed as a full-time Legal Consultant and posted in the Complaint Cell.

(iv) Review of project proposals :

A list of project proposals, which was prepared by Consultant (RNB) and Consultant (RN), was circulated in the meeting. This was taken up for review in the meeting as indicated in these minutes in the subsequent paragraph.

(v) Payment of allowance to Prof. P.M. Bakshi:

It was decided that all dues to Prof. P.M. Bakshi should be paid without any further delay, if necessary by starting a new file. Member (PS)

- (vi) Release of grant of Rs. 50,000/- to KARUNA for organising workshop on Panchayats Training Programme :

It was mentioned that a grant of Rs. 50,000/- was released to KARUNA for organising the Workshop. It was suggested that Member (KV) should get the project proposals from Ms. Margaret Alva and further process it. The grant of Rs. 50,000/- was a part payment made to meet immediate expenditure on miscellaneous items relating to organising the workshop,

- ii) Follow up action to be taken up on the Charter of Demands/Reports :

It was mentioned that no action has so far been taken in the PM's Office on the Charter of Demands submitted by the Commission. It was suggested that the Consultant (C.R. Sinha) might put up (draft) letter to the PM, HRD Minister and the Secretary, D/W & CD seeking their replies to the Demands.

It was further decided that the recommendations contained in the various study/seminar/workshop reports sponsored by the Commission should be sent to the various concerned Ministries/Departments for necessary action/implementation as the case may be.

-) Letter from Department of W & CD requesting the Commission to (a) to review all laws which discriminate against women (b) take up new ones for review etc. :

(ix) Anti-arrack project proposal :

In so far as Uttarakhand region is concerned action has been initiated by Member Secretary. With regard to the other regions of the country, the Members concerned with respective States will process the project proposals.

(x) Recruitment of Consultants :

It was mentioned that a detailed letter was sent to the Secretary, D/W & CD and a reply is awaited from the Secretary in the matter. A meeting will be convened shortly with the Deptt. of W & CD in connection with recruitment of Consultants from amongst the retired Government employees. It was suggested that Members might raise the points concerning their Consultants during the course of the discussions.

(xi) Setting up of Computer Cell :

It was noted that the work relating to the conversion of the present Reception Room into Computer Cell had already begun. With regard to the purchase of Computers, it was stated that the Quotations had been received, with ZENITH Computers firm quoting the lowest rate. An Expert Committee with Dr. Singh of the NIC in Chair was set up for the selection of the Computers. At this stage it was mentioned in the meeting that although the quoted price of the Zenith company was the lowest, the quality of the

frame Computer with the terminals. (Tops),
Local Area Network, in the NCW would work on
Rs. 7 lakhs. 2 Programmers are to be appoin.
to prepare software materials for the Computer.
It was decided that each Member of the Commission
should be provided with Desk Top. In addition
the Library, Accounts Division, Complaints Cell
and Legal Unit will be provided each with a Desk
Top.

9th Five Year Plan :

It was mentioned in the meeting that two
successive meetings of the Expert Committee on
the 9th Five Year Plan were held on the 30th
Sept., and 18th Octo., 96 in the Commission to
formulate the Plan proposals of the Commission.
After some discussion it was decided Dr. (Ms.)
Maya Daruwala would be appointed as ADvisor for
the preparation of the 9th Plan in respect of the
NCN. Dr. Daruwala would function as a
facilitator and would elicit information from the
Commission to draft the Plan by the 10th
November, 96. Ms. Daruwala will function on an
honorary basis but will be paid a token lump sum
of Rs. 12,000/- to meet her expenses on various
miscellaneous items. She will also continue
guiding the Commission on the implementation of
the 9th Plan projects in so far as these pertain
to Women.

It was also decided that Dr. (Ms.) Kusum
Mittal would be appointed as a Consultant on an
honorary basis for the preparation of "FUTURISTIC
PROJECTS" proposals within a period of three
months from the date of her taking charge of her

1280 NO. 3 : Proposal from FORCES, New Delhi, for holding one day symposium on the Child Care needs of Women workers :

Consultant (PS) explained in brief the proposal and the action so far been taken in the matter. She indicated that some functionaries from the Planning Commission would be participating in the Seminar. The proposal for the release of a grant of Rs. 55,000/- to the FORCES for organising the Seminar was approved in the meeting.

ITEM NO. 4 : Ex-post facto sanction for grants released for holding seminars/workshops :

After a brief discussion ex-post-facto approval of the Commission was given in toto to the amount sanctioned/released to the undermentioned Organisations for organising Seminar/Workshops on the dates mentioned against each :-

- | | | | |
|------|--|--------------------------|--|
| (i) | Mahila Punarvas
Samuh Samiti,
Jaipur | Rs. 30,000
Rs. 25,000 | Seminar on
Women's
Empowerment-Focus
on Rajasthan
Govt's SATHINS-
held on 16.10.96. |
| (ii) | Himachal Pradesh
Mahila Kalyan
Mandal, Kullu | Rs. 75,000
Rs. 65,000 | 2 days' workshop
on Panchayati Raj
held at Kullu on
11-12 Oct., 96. |

5 Minutes of the meeting of the
Committee on Political Empowerment
Women" held on 08.10.1996 in the chamber
of the Chairperson, NCW

The minutes of the meeting of the Core Committee
on "Political Empowerment of Women" held on the
8th October, 1996, was perused in the meeting.
It was noted in the meeting that Prof. Susheela
Kaushik, Director, Women's Studies and
Development Centre, Delhi University, had
submitted 2 reports on the special study
conducted during the Lok Sabha 1996 in Ghaziabad
and Calcutta South Constituencies. It was
suggested that these reports should come up in a
book form with a Preface from the Chairperson.
(Ms.) Susheela Kaushik had agreed to do the
same when the studies in respect of the 4
remaining constituencies are completed. Out of
Rs. 1,64,000/- sanctioned for the job,
(Ms.) Kaushik could spend only Rs. 1,00,000/-
unutilised amount of Rs. 64,000/- would be
returned to the Commission. It was suggested
that unutilised amount of Rs. 64,000/- would be
spent on publishing in a book form the findings
and recommendations of the studies conducted in
the six constituencies, namely, South
Delhi, South Delhi, South Madras, Ghaziabad,
Bihar and Gaya.

Constitution Amendment Bill extending
provision to women

After a short discussion, it was approved
at the meeting that the NCW should organise
seminars/workshops followed by

- | | | |
|--------|-----------|---|
| (i) | Delhi | 24.10.1996 |
| (ii) | Chennai | 11.11.1996 |
| (iii) | Ernakulam | 29.10.1996 |
| (iv) | Allahabad | 05.11.1996 |
| (v) | Patna | (Date not yet fixed)
[Consultant (Thakare)
should ascertain the date] |
| (vi) | Bangalore | October, 1996 |
| (vii) | Pune | 20.10.1996 |
| (viii) | | 03.11.1996 |
| (ix) | Manali | (Date not yet fixed) |
| (x) | Jaipur | Already held on 16.10.1996 |

It was also agreed that a sum of Rs.20,000/- should be sanctioned for each Seminar or Workshop, as the case may be. Chairperson desired that out of the total amount of Rs.20,000/-, Rs.10,000/- should be released in advance and the balance amount should be paid after the Seminar, as and when a report thereon is received along with the audited statement of actual expenditure incurred on holding the Seminar/Workshop. It was suggested that Consultant (SJ) should in the meantime examine the 81st Constitution Amendment Bill with a view to bringing out any lacunae noticed in the Bill.

Item No.6 Meeting of the Screening Committee -
examination of proposals for research/
holding seminars and workshops

It was mentioned in the meeting that the Order for the setting up of the Screening Committee would be issued shortly. It was suggested that the Member in-charge of the subject and the subject Consultant concerned should also be coopted with the

- (i) A sum of Rs.1 lakh to be given for organising workshop on "Media an Instrument of empowerment of women" to be organised by Women's Media Group, Ahmedabad.

It was decided that, as agreed to in the last meeting of the Commission, sanction to the payment of funds for organising the workshop should be expedited.

- (ii) Organising Legal Literacy Trainers' Training Programme by the Women's Studies Research Centre, Baroda on the 4th November, 1996

Member (KV) explained in brief the total expenditure involved in organising the Programme. It was pointed out that in so far as transportation charges for to and from journey by Liaison Committee Members for the Programme, would work out to Rs.3,000/- only. The total expenditure on conducting the entire Programme would amount to Rs.60,000/- only. After a brief discussion the approval of the Commission was given for the grant of Rs.60,000/- to the Women's Studies Research Centre. Consultant (RNB) is required to sanction the funds.

In this context it was decided that in future all the project proposals should first be sent to Consultant (PSKM) and Consultant (DKDG), who would distribute them amongst the Members/Consultants concerned.

HINDI CELL

Complaint Cell/
Prelitigation Cell

M(K.P.)

Misc.work Anti Arra
/Manita Adalat

Consultant (1)
Typist/Steno (1)

Consultant (1)
Typist/Steno (1)

Consultant (1)
Typist/Steno (1)

It was also decided that Hindi translation News Letter will be done ^{by} Consultant (KN) and work _K processing in Hindi will be done by Ms.Madhu.

Item No. 9 Seminar in Chennai on the 11th November, 1996 for mobilising public opinion for the 81st Constitution (Amendment) Bill

It was noted that the grant had been released for organising the Seminar.

Item No. 10 Year of gender equality with social justice appointment of an Advisor.

Approval of the Commission for conducting various programmes and undertaking multifarious activities during the "Year of Gender Equality", as recommended by the Core Committee, was given. The following suggestions were also made in the meeting

(i) The programmes should be conducted from December, 1996, onwards.

(ii) Smt. Shantha Krishnan, Assistant Professor o

- (iii) For outstation tours she will be provided Economy Air-fare/11 A.C. two tier fare and D.A. as per Government rules.
- (iv) Smt.Krishnan will be provided by the NCW with a Stenographer and a room to work as and when she visits the Commission.
- (v) All the Members should mobilise the public for the observance of the year.

m No.11 Music system in the cars of the Chairperson/ Members

It was decided that all the Members could instal music system in their cars at their own expense and they could remove the system as and when they relinquish their office.

No.12 Any other item with the approval of the Chairperson

- A. List of Studies sponsored by NCW - upto May, 1996

At the outset it was decided that Consultant (DKDC) and Consultant (RNB) would compile a list of old and new project reports and bring out their recommendations.

The following suggestions were made in respect of those project studies, which are still pending :-

- (i) Scanning of reports of various Committees/

reliance among rural women in 20 villages of Periyar District, Tamil Nadu : Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust, Madras

It was decided that the report was not worth publishing.

(iii) Organisation of Mahila Shivirs in rural Area - Jyoti Sangh, Ahmedabad

It was suggested that Member (KV) would find out from the Organisation the present position of organising the Mahila Shivirs.

It was finally decided that Consultant (RNB) would write to all the Organisations, from whom Study Reports have not so far been received, and ascertain from them as to how they have utilised the advances granted to them.

B. Miscellaneous items for discussion

The following suggestions were made on various points raised during the end of the meeting :-

(i)

(i) Ms.Madhu, LDC, and Shri Bhardwaj will handle Hindi translation work as and when required to them.

(ii) Ms.Suruchi, LDC, will render typing assistance to Ms.Gouri Sen, Consultant, for 2 hours every day as and when called for.

(iii) No files should be submitted to Member Secretary after 4.00 p.m.

Consultant (SJ) should be given a regular typist as early as possible.

Typists should give leave applications and when they proceed on leave.

Work transferred upon Consultant (CRS) resigning from service with effect from 1.1.1996, the subjects hitherto handled by him will be re-distributed as follows :-

Political empowerment to be handled by Consultant (Thakre).

Eradication of Prostitution by Consultant (Ms.Poonam Sahi).

Media and Anti-Arrack movement by Consultant (MJ).

Annual and 9th Year Plan by Consultant (DKDC).

It is noted that (a) the Annual Report for the year 1993-94 will be placed in the agenda for discussion in its Winter Session; (b) the remaining chapters of the Annual Report 1994-95 will be circulated amongst the Members after the next Annual Report for the year 1995-96 is prepared and submitted by the end of the year, 1997.

Material for Newsletter should be forwarded to Consultant (Ms.G.Sen) by the

- (x) Chairperson will chair all the meetings of the Expert Committees on "Child Prostitution" and "Political Empowerment".
- (xi) Member (PS) will be overall in-charge of matters concerning Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats, Legal Literacy and Awareness Programmes and other Legal matters.
- (xii) NCW will file a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court against the Judgement of the Session Court, Jaipur, in Deorala Sati case (Roopkanwar's case), if the Rajasthan Government failed to file such an appeal.
- (xiii) The Annual Report of the NCW should also indicate the number of persons, their nature of occupations, who utilised the Library for the research.
- (xiv) Consultant (RNB) should advise Chairperson on all the matters concerning purchases made by the NCW. Consultant (RNB) and Consultant (US) would jointly constitute Finance Desk. All proposals involving financial aspects should be routed through Finance Desk.
- (xv) All house-keeping jobs including logistic work relating to arrangements for the meetings, _____ should be routed through the Section Officer of the Administration Section.

1 Committee should be set up to the existing Rules made under the Sections of the NCW Act, 1990 and a booklet thereon. Both Consultant and Consultant (DKDC) should a booklet on the Rules, which be twisted and changed under any stances. The Pay and Accounts r should be consulted while ing the Rules. If necessary, the should be codified.

erson desired that the terms and ions of the appointment of new t Consultants should be laid down reference to the eligibility to the , Travel entitlement, including Air l in emergency cases etc. This should amined by the Committee referred to em (xvii) above.

special case, Consultant (Ms. Poonam) should be permitted to travel by Air ^{for} nding "Conference on Prostitution" to eld in Cochin. She would, however, el by train from New Delhi to Madras C-II Class Sleeper.

the instance of the Chairperson it was ded that a letter should be sent to Ministry of Railways requesting that istry for the issue of tickets for in travel by the Members, Officials, ultants and the Staff of the NCW ^{from} Railway Quota.

(xxi) All the Airport Authorities should be asked to provide VIP Parking space to the Chairperson and the Members of the Commission.

(xxii) A protocol Unit should be set up in the Commission. Shri Arora and Shri Sekhar will work in the Unit in addition to their normal duties in the Administration Section.

(xxiii) Protocol facilities should be provided to the Chairperson and Members of the Commission.

(xxiv) Part-time Consultant should attend office daily although their working hours may be confined to the fore-noon and afternoon only, according to their convenience. Part-time Consultants are not entitled to all the facilities, which are available to the full-time Consultant.

(xxv) As a rule, no part-time Consultants will be employed in the Commission in future.

(xxvi) Consultant (PSKM) will submit a tentative draft Rules governing payment of TA and DA to various categories of employees of the Commission.

C. Chairperson's visit to Jubbalpore for attending Mahila Adalat organised by the All India Women's Conference on the 29th September, 1996

concerned were also present on the day of the Adalat. As many as 980 cases were taken up for the Adalat in 18 Courts. Chairperson felt that the Adalats could be organised without the assistance of the Advocates. It was an open Court proceedings. The Adalat would have been fully successful but for the fact that a big crowd of miscreants instigated by certain Advocates wanted to stop the proceedings in the Courts. The crowd resorted to brick-batting when the Counselling was going on. It was the case of male chauvinism raising its ugly head.

At this stage the Judges went back to their rooms. It all started when the Chairperson questioned an Advocate as to how he could stop a woman from going to her husband. Chairperson felt that the underlying phenomena of this disturbance was that men were getting frightened about the gradual empowerment of women in all the sectors of the society. However, one redeeming outcome of this incident was that almost ^{all} the women ^{who were} present in the Adalat formed a human chain to prevent the disturbance going out of control. Letters have been sent to the Home Minister and the Home Secretary about this ugly incident.

D. Chairperson's visit to Jaipur, Rajasthan on the 15th October, 1996 for attending Sathins' meeting

Chairperson narrated in brief about the meeting of the Sathins held at Jaipur, Rajasthan, on the 16th October, 1996. It was

noticed that the Sathins were rendering dedicated service towards the uplift of rural women and that they were implementing as many as 32 schemes. Despite all their dedicated service, they are being given only Rs.250/- per month. The Government of Rajasthan is not accepting any increase in the salary of the Sathin. The Cabinet Sub-Committee of Rajasthan is however considering the proposal and will convey the decision by the 30th October, 1996. Incidentally the agitation launched by the various women activists with the help of the NGOs against the judgement of the District Court, Jaipur, in Deorala Sati case, Chairperson stated, received wide publicity.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chairperson.

