

1. Dr (Smt) V. Mohini Giri (C.P)
2. Smt. Karlastpati (member)
3. Smt. Sushree Ram (member)
4. Smt. Indira Baswaraj (member)

W. J. S. Ms. Binoo Sen

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MINUTES OF THE 36TH MEETING OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER, 1997

The 36th meeting of the National Commission for Women was held on 17th November 1997 under the Chairpersonship of Dr (Mrs) Mohini Giri. All Members and Member Secretary except Member (SSH) and Member (KV) were present. Member (SSH) was on tour to Calicut. Member (KV) was away on leave.

At the outset, Chairperson welcomed everyone to the 36th meeting. She also mentioned that this was the 19th meeting of the NCW under her Chairpersonship.

With this the Chairperson handedover the conduct of the meeting to Member Secretary who in turn requested the DS to take up the agenda items for discussion.

**ITEM NO.1:** Confirmation of the minutes of the 35th meeting.

Member Secretary taking up the minutes of the 35th meeting requested that the minutes be confirmed with the following modification on p.5 of the minutes "correct procedure should be adopted while recording notes and obtaining approval of CP and Members of the Commission", replacing "Impersonation and highly objectionable based on these fraudulent notings". Consultant (MJ) accepted the modifications. Chairperson withheld the confirmation of the minutes to have a look into her notings before confirming the minutes of the meeting.

**ITEM NO.II:** Action taken reports on the minutes of 34th and 35th meeting on the National Commission for Women.

Collaboration with UNDP:

The action taken report was noted

On Govt. letter for giving approval on case to case basis, for obtaining foreign funds. Chairperson desired that govt. be informed that the approval of Govt. would be obtained on project to project basis. It was decided that this may be communicated to the Department of Women and Child Development.

DS placed before the Commission the work done by C(KM) and submitted the report which has been prepared as directed by the Commission. It was desired that this may be circulated at the next meeting. It was also mentioned that the Consultant had been directed to prepare a Perspective Plan by Adviser (PS) with whom she was working. Adviser (PS) desired that the papers may be given to her as some of the work she had given to the Consultant and she could be able to comment on the output.

Item No.2 (iv) - Financial assistance from NCW to State Commissions for Women.

It was decided that the word "finance" be replaced by "assistance" for promotional activities from NCW to State Commissions for Women.

Item No.2 (v) - Study regarding 'Status of women'

Chairperson informed the Commission that at her meeting with Dr. Veena Mazumdar on earlier occasion on this subject, it had been mentioned that the study would be done through contact points at district level. It was, therefore, necessary that a meeting be organised with Dr. Parla Gopalan and Dr. Veena Mazumdar to finalise the proposal at an early date. Adviser (PS) will convene the meeting.

Item No. 2 (vii) - Verbatim report of the Conference of State Home Ministers.

It was decided that the editing be expedited and the proceedings be placed before the Commission.

Item No. 2 (viii) - Consolidation of work done by the Commission

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It was decided that the work of consolidation be taken up jointly by Dr. Menon and Mrs. Radhey Nag after the finalisation of the Annual Report 1995-96 simultaneously with the preparation of Annual Report 1996-97.

Item No. 2 (ix) - Replica of Tableau

C (MJ) informed the Commission that a meeting had been called by the Defence Ministry on the 17th where designer would also come with the scale model and would also submit the budget.

Item No. 2 (xiii) - Deployment of Stenos/Typists/Peons

General dissatisfaction was expressed on the deployment of stenographers and peons. It was placed before the Commission that deployment was done of the available staff and that full satisfaction can be achieved only by appointing stenographers/typists/peons for each Consultant individually. The staff strength at present with the Commission would have to be shared. However, the requirement specifically of Mr. Kohli, Consultant, for an assistant to assist in sorting out problems with MTNL and of the legal unit for a good full time stenographer would be looked into by the administration. It was also decided that all Consultants should fill in the questionnaire provided by the Work Study Unit so that justification of additional requirement of staff could be made out and request made to the Department of Women and Child Development.

Item No. 2 (xiv) - Arrangements for on-the-spot investigation.

Administration may ensure that on holidays when work for Enquiry Committees are to be held necessary staff and equipment is available.

Item No. 2 (xvi) - Appointment of more Counsellors.

The Commission made a note of the appointment of one visiting counsellor and one part-time legal consultant. Adviser (FS) observed that she was not aware of the orders of appointment of visiting counsellors. CP desired that preference may be given to out station counsellors.

Item No.3 (viii) - Preparation for the March 1998 function

Chairperson observed that together with the booking of Vigyan Bhawan, assent of the President and Prime Minister have also come for gracing the function. All members to give suggestions for the March 8th function within a week..

Item No. 10 &11 - Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairperson informed the Commission that the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir had requested her for literature on the National Commission for Women, which has been forwarded to him, and Chief Minister had also informed CP that he would be constituting a State Commission for Women. Two letters have been sent to the J&K State Legal Aid and Advisory Board for conducting PMLA. Their response is awaited. It was informed that the State Commission for Bihar has only male members. It was decided that a strong protest be sent to Bihar on this.

Item No.12 - Purchase of Cassettes.

Chairperson desired that copies of the film be given to all Members of the Commission , State Departments of WCD , Indian Embassies and national level NGOs.

Item No.13 - Printing of posters.

It was decided that the theme of the posters may first be finalised keeping in view the thrust areas of the NCW. Discussions may also be held with NGOs who have been producing good posters. This was with the intention of avoiding duplication of efforts when other departments and agencies are producing posters on the same subject. The Commission was informed that in 1996-97, 5000 copies of Empowerment of Women posters had been printed out of which 3000 have been distributed to NGOs when they come to the Commission or when Members attend meetings. There is no system of distribution of posters. The sponsored publication of posters be kept in mind.

Item No. 14 - Film on Women Freedom Fighters.

Chairperson directed that Department of Women and Child Development may be requested for providing additional funds so that one film on Freedom Fighters may be made. It was decided that the theme of the film may be firmed up as already a film on Sarojini Naidu and two tele films have been commissioned in other departments.

Item No.15 - Minorities

Members of the Commission may comment on the paper on Minorities which has been circulated, as early as possible.

SAARC Conference - The matter is under consideration.

Item No.27 (ii) - Repair of Cordless phone.

CP informed that the Cordless phone was out of order. She desired that Shri Arora, former Assistant in the Commission may be asked to have this replaced by the old instrument as he had been instrumental in buying this telephone.

Item No.27 (iii) - Providing Camera and tape recorders

It was decided that Dicta phones should be provided to all Members.

Item No.27 (ix) - Annual Report

CP desired that Annual Report for 1995-96 may be given to her chapter by chapter so that she can go through it and approve it. Each Member and Consultant may be given a copy of the Report of 1994-95.

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Action taken report on the 35th Meeting

**Control Room** - C (SJ) expressed dissatisfaction at the functioning of the staff posted in the control room. He informed that no staff has been posted in the Control Room on Sundays and no Chowkidars available in the evening. He informed that when there is no power it is not possible to use the telephone. Though a three wheeler has been provided to the Control Room it is never available. The Consultant said that even though the staff is not attending to the Control Room duties, it may be seen how they are drawing the overtime allowance without his endorsement. One vehicle may be made available to the Control Room by rotation or a three wheeler may be available and the driver report to Legal Officer.

C(PSR) mentioned that the visiting counsellors were getting Rs.100 per visit. He proposed that this may be enhanced to Rs.150 keeping in view the increased rates in travel cost.

Studies commissioned by the NCW

Taking note of the facts, it was decided to keep the consolidation of report study based on 10 reports in abeyance till the first report is received on "Child Prostitution and Trafficking" being prepared by Dr. Deepti Bhargava.

**8<sup>th</sup> March Function**

Chairperson desired that all Members will give suggestions for celebration of 8th March on the International Women's Day within a week.

The two subjects suggested by C(MJ) for bringing out publications first National Prohibition Policy on Women and Gender Justice through Media were considered appropriate. However C(MJ) will review the articles that has to go into the publication on "Gender Justice through Media".

Tours of Members

Chairperson desired that Members when they go on tour should take prior approval of CP.

**ITEM NO. 3**

CP had already circulated her tour notes for Edinburgh and London. She briefed the Commission. She mentioned that India was placed on the Dais at the meeting. The Conference acclaimed the steps for 73rd and 74th Amendment of the Constitution of India and the efforts being made for 33 1/3 % reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies. The presentation on Panchayati Raj and the Role of Women by CP was appreciated. During the Conference Human Rights for Women were also discussed. In London CP met Chairperson of Equal opportunities Commission Ms. Kamlesh Bahl. CP placed on record her deep appreciation of the support given by Member (SSH) during the CHOGM meeting in Edinburgh London. She mentioned that Member (SSH)'s presence was significant and without her help the tour would not have been a success.

Khatmandu visit - In this context, CP gave directives to all Members going abroad should obtain prior approval of the CP and submit tour report. Members going abroad to participate in Conferences should be able to represent the activities of NCW and should carry with them publications and recommendations made by the NCW from time to time on issues relating to women.

CP gave brief on the recent tour to Kalahandi district. Member (SO) briefed the Commission on the trip to Berhampur. Member Secretary briefed the Commission on the trip to Visakhapatnam.

ITEM NO. 4

The report was adopted.

2000 copies of the report (1000 in Hindi and 1000 in English ) may be printed as per approved procedure .

It was decided that the report be released on the 8th of March. M(KP) mentioned that by the 8th of March, it would be possible to bring out the report on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which could also be released on this day.

ITEM NO.5: State Visits of NCW

It was decided that the NCW would make state visits to States of MP, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh during March, April, May and June, 1998 where there is no State Commissions. The tour will be of three days including visits to the field, interaction with NGOs and State Govt. officials and Ministers and Cms. A detailed questionnaire would be circulated to all States in advance so that a meaningful review could be held.

ITEM NO. 6

It was decided that M(KV) would attend the YWCA convention as she is Incharge of Maharashtra . A message would be sent on behalf of CP to the convention.

ITEM NO.7

It was decided to hold the State Minister's Conference as follows:-

Health - in the month of January

Women and Child Development - in the month of April

Education - May

Rural Develoment - May

As the Ministry of Labour is organising a Conference on 19th December, the NCW will send agenda items for inclusion in the Conference. A meeting with the National Labour Institute and Geeta Ramakrishnan may be organised. A new national policy on Labour Women be drafted and the NCW's comments on ILO convention on home based workers be included in the agenda items proposed to the Ministry of Labour. CP suggested that prior to the



conference of State Ministers of Health. a meeting be convened with Meera Shiva and Brinda Singh of Mobile Creche.

**ITEM NO. 8**

The Commission noted the review of Laws and studies of Amendment of Acts proposed by Government as also the review of Laws done by expert Shri P.N. Bakshi. CP desired that review of the remaining identified 19 laws may be expedited. We may give 10 more laws to be reviewed to Expert Shri Bakshi. Expert Committee meetings should be held at frequent intervals so that amendments can be forwarded to the Govt. of India after approval of the Commission.

Adviser (PS) informed that the codification of Laws which was taken up by the National Law Institute would be submitted within 15 days to the Commission. Adviser(PS) also mentioned that an Addl. Legal Expert is required in the Commission and suggested the name of Mr. Labour Commissioner Shri Kanakayya may be considered for appointment so that review of laws could receive more fillip.

CP desired that a meeting be called of the Expert Committee consisting of Shri Ramaiah, Justice Leela Seth, Vasudha Dhagamwar, Shri Samaddar and Prof. Bakshi to discuss amendments in the National Commission for Women's Act, 1990 with the aim of giving power of the jury to the Commission and more teeth to the Commission.

**ITEM NO.9**

Approved.

**ITEM NO. 10**

Approved

**ITEM NO. 11**

Postponed.

To be presented in a separate meeting. Consultant (PG) to circulate photostat copies to all Members for inviting comments and if no comments are received within a week, it will be treated as they have no comments to offer.

**ITEM NO. 12**

It was informed that it would take about 20 days for installation of E-mail and Internet. Money has been deposited with the NIC.

**ITEM NO. 13**

It was decided that all Members will indicate the requirement of cards and inscription to be made on the cards for them to the Member Secretary. It was also decided that 50 cards would be given to each Member from the Commission free of cost.

**ITEM NO. 14**

Approved

**ITEM NO 15**

Noted

**ITEM NO. 16**

Approval of Projects - as per the examination of screening committee.

**ITEM NO. 17**

CP informed that we may await decision from the Organisation before we sanction amount.

With the premission of the chair the following items were discussed.

18. The Commission was informed that a representation has been received from a Consultant who is well qualified with experience to the effect that she is getting less than her colleagues who have come without experience and joined at the same time. CP explained to the Commission that the guidelines adopted in the Commission and the practice has been to pay Rs.3000 to 3500/- part-time consultants. Full time retired govt. officials are governed by the DOPT rules. So far as full time Consultants who are appointed directly are concerned, they are given Rs.4000 - 4500. On asking the name of the Consultant who represented, she was informed that it was Ms. Abha Tiwari. It was informed that she has given up her job where she was receiving Rs.3500. Her bio-data shows she is a first class Post-graduate with M.Phil and has work experience in NGO and some other organisations. CP directed that she may be given Rs.4500 if she is a full time Consultant. She also mentioned that Ms. Abha Tiwari may be used as a counsellor also.

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19. CP desired that as the term of the Commission was to end in July, it was necessary that the work that has been started may be completed by March, particularly, the disposal of complaints which have been received in the Commission's present tenure. All complaints received upto March, 1998, may be disposed of by the end of June, 1998.

20. Members expressed the view that copies of the film "Sansodhan" produced by UNICEF may be made available to each Member for screening when Members go on tour for conduct of meetings of the NCW. It was decided to write to UNICEF to make copies available to each Member.

21. Smt. Abha Dayal was invited by CP to the Commission's meeting. CP desired to know from her whether permission was given for screening of the film "Daughters of Darkness" in Kathmandu at the ROSA Conference in Kathmandu.

Mrs. Abha Dayal mentioned that the film was shown and credit given to NCW as the producer of the film. She was directed by CP to take approval of NCW before screening the film at any forum. Mrs. Abha Dayal said NCW has the rights over the film and that Delhi University has been asking for a copy of the film. She was advised that Delhi University may be directed to get in touch with the NCW.

Further discussions were held regarding incorporation of the recommendations of the Goa Conference into the film. Mrs. Abha Dayal proposed that a separate capsule for 10 minutes be produced and the original film should not be edited. C(PSKM) and Counsellor Gauri Sen felt that there is scope to edit the original film by about 4-5 minutes. It was decided that the screening of the film be fixed for 20th of November at 3.00 PM in Conference Room and all Consultants, MS and DS will see the film. Thereafter, a decision to edit the film would be taken for incorporation of the recommendations. It was also decided that the film should be dubbed in English and the faces should be masked for viewing by outsiders. MS felt that faces should be masked in toto. However, CP felt that masks should be for outside viewing and not for ours.

22. It was decided that sanctions for Seminars/Conferences/Workshops will not exceed the following:

- 1) International Conferences - Rs. 1,00,000/-
- 2) National level - Rs. 50,000/-
- 3) State level - Rs. 25,000/-

Details of guidelines be drawn up.



#### Screening Committee Meeting held on 3-11-1997

The proceedings of the Screening Committee meetings held on 3rd October and 3rd November for sanction of projects were placed before the Commission. The list was approved with the following modifications:-

#### ITEMS

5. It was decided that a letter should go to the Organisation to send us proposals in keeping with the guidelines of our programmes and also recommend the present proposal to the Department of Women and Child Development for consideration.
12. Printing Report of Public Enquiry - It was clarified that the original report be seen and thereafter recommendations for printing would be submitted. Adviser (PS) mentioned that this was a good report and needs to be printed.
13. It was decided that the Land enquiry in Thiruvallur district in Tamil Nadu be sanctioned.
14. It was decided not to conduct any further study. The proposal may be considered from the point of view of rehabilitation and income generation schemes for women. It should be action oriented and then project may be considered.
15. MS raised the question of conduct of awareness generation camps in Sagar region as proposed by Satya Shodhan Ashram whose Chairperson is Champa Behan. CP observed that this proposal needs to be cleared as Champa Behan is a well-known activist and has done good work of rehabilitation of prostitutes in the area.

Rs.11,800 was considered and approved for sanction for holding of this public enquiry. CP would be attending the Public Enquiry.

**Screening Committee meeting of 3-10-1997**

**ITEM 3.**

CP and Adviser (PS) mentioned that they have been working for so long but they never heard of Swatantra Bharat, ND (NGO). C(PSKM) mentioned that this case be looked into.

The meeting ended with a **Vote of Thanks to the Chair.**