

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON
20TH NOVEMBER, 2002

Present in the meeting were:-

- (1) Smt. Poornima Advani : Chairperson
- (2) Smt. K. Santha Reddy : Member
- (3) Kum. Anusuiya Uike : Member
- (4) Smt. Nafisa Hussain : Member
- (5) Smt. Baby Rani Maurya : Member
- (6) Smt. Nita Kapoor : Joint Secretary
- (7) Shri S.M. Imran Ali : Law Officer
- (8) Shri T.N. Sabharwal : Consultant

Leave of absence was granted to Member (S.Malaiya).

At the outset, CP welcomed all Members.

Agenda Item No.1

Vision 2003.

The Chairperson started the meeting by impressing upon all about the importance of having a calendar of events so that we are aware as to how to move forward with the working of the Commission in the year 2003. She further stated that review of laws could be a priority for the year 2003 and those laws related to women could be studied and recommendations, if any, be finalised and sent to the Government. She also mentioned that the Commission may think of having some programmes on Girl Child Day, Aids Prevention Day etc. Then she invited the views of the Members on the subject.

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arrangement so that the women in general from all over the country can approach the Commission for their problems. She suggested that district Collectors may be asked to form a committee consisting of officials, social workers, NGOs etc. to look into the problem. Member (N.Hussain) agreed with the views of Member (N.Hussain) and cautioned that such a committee should not be misused in the Commission.

Member (K.S.Reddy) opined that there should be a network of Committees at the Commission, where the Members of the Commission should be assisted by Committees with the assistance of the NGOs who are non-profitable. She was of the view that one subject, each can be taken up in one calendar month, which can be extended for two months. She stated that the activities cannot be fixed properly without taking into account of what the Commission has done in the past. She stated that all the issues/activities have to be identified first and then the events can be worked out.

Member (B.R.Maurya) stressed on the work, which the Commission should do in respect of Nari Niketans as the condition in the Nari Niketans is the worst when compared to the other institutions like jail homes and mental hospitals. On this issue, Member (N.Hussain) suggested that States should be allotted to Members, who should make visits to jails and mental asylums to assess the prevailing situation. Member (N.Hussain) was of the view that for visits to mental hospitals, an expert is necessary so that we get the necessary technical input. She also suggested that the Commission should take up programmes for visually handicapped women.

While discussing on the jail visits, the Law Officer suggested that the compilation of the work of jail visits should be assigned to a Unit. He also suggested that a meeting may be organised in consultation with Common Human Rights Initiatives as this organisation is not exclusively on prison.

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Agenda Item No.1(a)

Visit to Maulana Azad Medical College.

Before the next item of the agenda was taken up, the incident of rape of a student of Maulana Azad Medical College was discussed. During the discussions, the Chairperson briefed the Commission that she was in receipt of several frantic calls to take action in the matter by the Commission. She then apprised the Commission that two Members namely Member (K.S.Reddy) and Member (B.R.Maurya) were deputed to visit the college for the on the spot investigation and to submit a report. She further stated that a meeting has been called on 22nd November, 2002 with the Home Secretary, Delhi Government, the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, the Vice Chancellors of colleges, Principals of colleges, to discuss the security arrangements in the campuses and to work out the steps to be taken to improve the present situation.

Chairperson then asked Member (K.S.Reddy) to brief the Commission on the visit to the Maulana Azad Medical College, who apprised the Commission about the overall situation prevailing in the campus.

Agenda Item No.1(b)

NCW Presentation.

A presentation on NCW was made by Under Secretary-cum-PRO. The Members were requested to give their suggestions on this presentation in order to improve the same so that it can be shown to the dignitaries, who visits the Commission and also to the NGOs when the Chairperson/Members goes on tours.

Agenda Item No.2

Printing of Calendar/Desk Calendar for the year 2003 – proposal regarding.

The Members were requested to give their suggestions on the printing of calendar/desk calendar for the year 2003. After a detailed discussion, it was decided that quotations on women by important personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Vivekananda should be printed on the

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calendars along with photographs of the person who spoke the word was also decided that new year greeting cards be printed, with a golden background will be white with the logo of the Commission on the front in golden colours with a ribbon on the sides either of the colour of the National Flag, if permitted, or of light blue colour. Inside the card the word 'Nav Varsh Keliye Shubh Kamnayan', in Hindi and 'Happy New Year' in English, will be printed in golden colours.

Agenda Item No.3

Celebration of International Women's Day – 8th March each year and programmes organised from 1997 to 2002 – consideration of programmes to be organised.

Kept in abeyance.

Agenda Item No.4

Format for Mental Asylum visit.

The Law Officer will call for the comments of Ms. Amita Datta on the format before we finalise the same.

Agenda Item No.5

Public Hearing on the Sahariyas residing in Rajasthan.

The proposal was approved with the suggestion that the public hearing recommendations should be discussed in a meeting with the Government preferably with the Minister in charge of tribal affairs.

It was decided to take up the remaining items of the agenda in the next meeting of the Commission, which is going to be held in December 2002.