

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON
21ST NOVEMBER, 2000

Present in the meeting were :

1. Smt. Vibha Parthasarathi : Chairperson
2. Smt. Vijay Daksh : Member
3. Dr. Poornima Advani : Member
4. Smt. K. Santha Reddy : Member
5. Ms. Anusuiya Uike : Member
6. Smt. Nafisa Hussain : Member
7. Smt. Reva Nayyar : Member Secretary
8. Ms. R. Bhama : Deputy Secretary

Agenda Item No.1

Leave of Absence.

The question did not come up as all Members were present.

Agenda Item No.2

Confirmation of minutes of the preceding meeting held on 16th, 17th & 20th October, 2000.

Minutes of the preceding meeting were adopted with the comment that regarding Action Taken Reports of previous meetings, Member Secretary would look into the same and put up pending actions in respect of relevant matters only.

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Agenda Item No.3

Celebration of Foundation Day of National Commission for Women – 31st January, 2001.

The title of the programme was decided as "Empowerment of Women: Breaking New Grounds". The Chief Guest would be First Lady/PM/HRM depending on their availability. Members were requested to give six names of women, who could be invited for experience sharing along with a write up on the work they have done. The names could be decided by the Commission on 30th November after receipt of the names.

On a query from Member (V.Daksh), it was clarified that the norms for paying TA/DA to outside delegates (which should be followed for all programmes of NCW) would be as follows:

- i) Air fare only for Chairpersons of State Commissions for Women.
- ii) AC 2 tier for former Members of NCW. Air fare for former Members of NCW would be decided on case to case basis and approved only if their qualitative involvement is there.
- iii) AC 3 tier for others.

Agenda Item No.4

Proposal that NCW should select any one subject for the year and focus on that subject.

It was decided that Members may circulate suggestions for subjects on which the Commission can focus. The suggestions should be sent to Member Secretary and could be finalised thereafter.



Agenda Item No.5

Status and entitlements of PSs/SPAs in NCW.

The following entitlements and non-entitlements were approved for all PSs and SPAs:

Entitlements

- (i) Reimbursements of the News Paper Bill
- (ii) Reimbursement of telephone Bill at the residence of PSs/SPAs upto 650 calls

Non-Entitlements

- (i) Ad-hoc Bonus
- (ii) Festival Advance
- (iii) Cycle Advance
- (iii) OTA

However, it was noted that such administrative matters need not be brought before the Commission and may be decided by MS according to the norms.

Agenda Item No.6

List of Legal Awareness Programmes recommended by the Screening Committee and approved by CP.

The list of legal awareness programmes approved and sanctioned by CP after recommendation by the Screening Committee were noted and adopted.

Agenda Item No.7

List of PMLAs recommended by the Screening Committee and approved by CP.

The list of PMLAs approved and sanctioned by CP after recommendation by the Screening Committee were noted and adopted. It was regretted that they were so few. It was suggested that letters may be sent to State Commissions for Women to encourage NGOs to take up this programme.

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Agenda Item No.8

Procedure to be followed for screening proposals received for studies/conferences/workshops, etc.

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List of studies/workshops/conferences recommended by the Screening Committee/Approved by CP.

The list of studies/workshops/conferences approved and sanctioned by CP were noted and adopted.

It was decided that a Screening Committee would examine proposals received from NGOs/Others outside NCW. If the Members take on the responsibility of conducting a workshop or a conference as a Commission event, the proposal can be routed by Member through Member Secretary for the approval of CP.

The file on Study on Economic Empowerment of Tribal Women of M.P. sanctioned to Society for Development of Humanity, Jabalpur (S.No.10 of the list enclosed with Agenda Item No.8) would be sent to Member (V.Daksh) for perusal, as requested by her.

Agenda Item No.9

Strengthening of the Complaints Cell – Procedure to be devised for expeditious disposal of complaints.

With respect to appointment of Counsellors, MS informed that interviews had been held. Four full time Counsellors would be appointed on adhoc basis and the appointments will follow shortly.

It was decided that in addition, the Commission would ask the Govt. for four additional part time Counsellors.

Regarding disposal of the complaints, Member Secretary apprised the Commission that the complaints pertaining to other States were being sent to State Commissions/State Governments for necessary action at their end.

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The involvement of Members in the hearing of complaints was not followed as a routine and Members are involved by their own choice. It was decided that there should be a procedure for registering the complaints and for placing a report on the action taken on them before the Commission.

Agenda Item No.10.

Procedure for maintaining files for the reports of the Inquiry Committee constituted by the NCW.

The procedure for maintaining files suggested in the Agenda Item was approved with the condition that the files containing the original inquiry reports and such files pending with the Members must be sent to Member Secretary by the concerned Member of NCW.

It was also decided that compilation of good case studies may be done after obtaining the approval of Chairperson.

Agenda Item No.11

Project proposals relating to Panchayati Raj Training for Women – Consideration of Policy decision to deal with such proposals.

The Commission approved, in principle, the UNICEF training module for being followed by the NGOs who had applied to NCW for financial assistance for giving Panchayati Raj training to women.

It was suggested that we may seek advice of Mrs. Sushila Kaushik and Mrs. Bhau Mahalagi on the module. Members may obtain a copy of the module from Deputy Secretary and sent their comments before 30th November, 2000.

Agenda Item No.12

Allotment of land to the NCW in Jasola Institutional Area for construction of office building.

Taking possession of the land allotted to NCW at Jasola was approved. The preparation of rough estimate and plan for the building from HUDCO and CPWD was approved. It was felt that the building should be

L. Sharma

eco-friendly, with provision for harnessing solar energy and also harvesting water.

Agenda Item No.13

Report on the Regional Conference of NCW with State Commissions for Women and NGOs of the North-West Region held at Jaipur on 26th & 27th August, 2000.

The report was approved and adopted with the comment that it was a good report.

Agenda Item No.14

Report on Public Hearing on Child Marriages held at Govindgarh, Rajasthan on 28th August, 2000.

The report was approved and adopted.

Agenda Item No.15

Report on the Workshop on Empowering Women For Sustained Development : Forging Urban Local Bodies and Corporate Partnership – held on 8th-9th March, 2000 – by NCW in collaboration with CII – for approval.

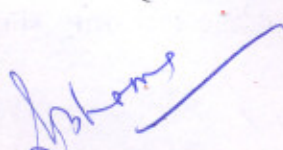
It was felt that the report needs re-editing by CII. It should be referred back for getting it professionally edited.

Agenda Item No.16

Minimum age limit required for women to work in the Gulf countries – ref. From Ministry of Labour.

It was decided that age limit should be uniform, that is, the girl should have attained the age of majority. Further, it was felt that before going for service in a foreign country, the girl should be given full orientation on :

- a) Working conditions



b) Rights as an Indian in the visiting country

She should be allowed possession of her personal travel documents (for example, passport, visa etc.)

The orientation should be given by the Indian Embassy through a counsellor.

Her work order should be in the form of a legal document, a copy of the contract should be furnished to the person concerned, her family, the employer as well as the Indian Embassy.

It was decided that a meeting should be convened by NCW with Ministry of External Affairs to discuss these suggestions.

Agenda Item No.17

Workshop on "Gender and Law Enforcing Agencies".

The Commission approved the proposal to hold a workshop on "Gender and Law Enforcing Agencies" with the objective of breaking new grounds/issues in New Delhi in March, 2001.

It was also approved that prior to the national workshop, four regional consultations will be held. Members of NCW would have a role in each of the workshops. State Commissions for Women would also to be involved right from the planning stage.

Agenda Item No.18

Proposal for reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures – Rights of male candidates.

It was felt that the Commission need not go into the issue of the rights of the male candidates as it is outside the purview of the mandate of NCW.

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Agenda Item No.19

Amendments proposed in the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act.

The gist of the discussions on the amendments in the Act are enclosed (Annexure 'A').

Agenda Item No.20

Amendments proposed in the Hindu Succession Act.

The gist of the discussions on the amendments in the Act are enclosed (Annexure 'B').

Agenda Item No.21

Amendments proposed in the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

It was decided that no amendments should be suggested in the title and definition of Indecent Representation of Women in order to include the word 'derogatory' and its definition since elaboration in definition makes the scope of the definition more limited to the wordings used. A letter would be sent accordingly to the DWCD.

Agenda Item No.22

Writ Petition No.301 of 2000 in the SC in the matter of Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT) and Ors Vs UOI.

In the Commission's reply to the reference from DWCD, the following were approved to be included:

- (a) To declare that the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques contravene the provision of PNDT Act and hence the performance of such a procedure is violative of the Act. In the event that such technique is not considered violative of the Act, a suitable amendment needs to be made to the PNDT Act to make such technique and procedure violative of the Act.

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Details of copies of the letters sent to State Govts. as approved by the Commission earlier may also be sent to the DWCD.

The Commission may also write to Chief Secretaries of States where the instance of female foeticides is very high. It was also suggested that a workshop on the issue of female foeticide to be organised in collaboration with IMA or a suitable NGO and involve three to four professional bodies. The workshop may have separate issues on :

- a) Health issues and
- b) Legal issues involved in female foeticide.

Agenda Item No.23^a

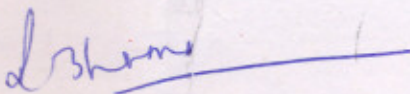
Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

- i) **Workshop on "Empowerment of Women with specific reference to the Health of Women" at Tirupati.**

Chairperson informed that Shri Venkateswara University had indicated only the previous day that they could not take on any financial responsibility for the workshop, which was most regrettable. CP also voiced a strong objection to the conveyance of the above by the University at such a late stage. It was felt that in future whenever a workshop or conference is organised, prior commitment should be obtained in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding.

- ii) **Formulation of procedures for NCW.**

Member (V.Daksh) took up this matter saying that her note for inclusion in the Agenda was not put up. Chairperson said that change in the procedures would be taken up at appropriate time when new Members are familiar with the working of NCW so that they can provide informed inputs. She further said that this exercise undertaken in the previous year came to a sorry end because of inadequate understanding of some of the Members. CP desired that Member (V.Daksh) may identify important areas needing change and prepare notes with detailed background on these points which can then be considered at a future meeting.



iii) **Approval of the report on the Study Report on the Empowerment of Women of Weaker Sections of the UP Hill Areas.**

Member (V.Daksh) said that the name of Shri O.P. Maurya had been suggested for editing the report. Chairperson maintained that though in principle, the task was recognised, the specific person was to be identified and had not been approved. She desired for Member (V.Daksh) to furnish the relevant point of the minutes of the meeting in which the name of Shri O.P. Maurya was approved.

The meeting concluded on this note.

