

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
MINUTES OF 35TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN HELD
ON 23RD SEPTEMBER 1997

The 35th Meeting of National Commission for Women held on 23-9-1997 was chaired by Chairperson, NCW. All Members and Member-Secretary except Member (SSH) and Adviser (PS) were present as they had to go for Investigation.

Initiating the discussion, Chairperson welcomed the new Member-Secretary Smt. Binoo Sen and wished her all success for her new assignment. Member Secretary reciprocated her thanks to the Chairperson and stated she would endeavour to come up to the expectations of the Commission.

With the Permission of the Chair, Member-Secretary initiated the proceedings which commenced with the confirmation of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 11-8-1997.

Item No.I: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 34th Meeting .

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Item No.II: Action taken Report in respect of decisions taken at the 34th Meeting of the Commission. Item I & II were taken up together and the Minutes of the 34th Meeting were read and action taken on each of the

decisions of the 34th Meeting was discussed in the Meeting by concerned officer/Consultant.

As regards proposal for collaboration of NCW with UNDP in various areas of interest to NCW, Deputy Secretary informed that she had gone through the file being handled by the former Consultant and reported that a letter is sent to UNDP identifying the areas on which NCW would like to collaborate with UNDP. As desired by the Chairperson, a copy of this letter would be circulated to all Members/MS for information.

For the study to be entrusted to Dr. Veena Majumdar regarding 'Status of Women' it was informed in view of the illness of Dr. Veena Majumdar, since the last meeting no progress could take place. However, it was decided that a small Committee be set up to decide on the feasibility of this project and steps be taken to identify a person/ NGO in each of the States who could be requested to prepare these studies for their State.

It was informed that verbatim report for the Conference of State Home Ministers' has been received and the recommendations of this Conference would be circulated to all concerned for follow up action.

As regards consolidation of work done by the Commission during last two years it was decided that C (PSKM) and Consultant, Ms. Poonam Gupta, who had joined recently, would take up this work.

The progress made with regard to the preparation of a Tableau was circulated and the Group was informed that Member (KV) had a discussion with Mallika Sarabai and the concerned Officers of the Ministry of Defence as the availability of funds for the Project has not been crystallised, it was decided that the matter may be taken with the Department of WCD. Alternative modes of financing this project or from the internal sources may be explored.

It was informed that since there has been number of changes and large number of Consultants have joined recently the redistribution of work among these Consultants will be done after discussion with the Consultants and the Members concerned and Member-Secretary.

As regards the arrangements for the Members when they go for on the spot investigation, MS informed that steps may be taken to inform the administration in advance for these tours /visits for on-the-spot investigations to make proper arrangements. However, in case of emergency, all steps would be taken by the Administration to cope up with the emergent situation.

It was decided that the initial proposal for media coverage for NCW by a team headed by Akhila Sivdas which was for 3 months may be suitably modified on monthly basis and terms and reference and the approval letter for this project may be issued expeditiously.

The Group was informed that the proposed national seminar on transfer of technology in farming practices for women scheduled for September 1997 at Chennai is postponed for December 1997. NCW has approved a grant of Rs.2 lakhs for M.S. Swamination Institute for this seminar and it is sanctioned . CP desired that concrete recommendations needed to emerge from this important seminar, which could be later used by NCW. Although the Screening Committee has examined this proposal the Member - Secretary, volunteered herself for examining this proposal and give her technical comments for bringing out NCW's role in the seminar.

The position with regard to the forthcoming meetings with the State Ministers was discussed and it was pointed out that no date has been fixed for any of these meetings. As regards meeting of Health Minister the Chairperson informed that the Union Health Minister Ms. Renuka Choudhary has proposed to give agenda items for discussion during this meeting.

As per the decision of the last meeting the State of Jammu & Kashmir has been requested to conduct P.M.L.A vide our letter dated 15-9-1997, which may be pursued in due course.

The Commission was informed that steps are being taken to procure 200 copies of NCW film 'Tomorrow is ours' through M/s. Universal Marketing whose reference was made M/s Schjo Singh at an offer of Rs.80 per copy. It was noticed that the copies need to be procured in Hindi as

NO. 1:

(X) Amendment

Confirmation of the minutes of the 35th meeting of the Commission held on 23.09.97.

The minutes of the 35th meeting were circulated to all concerned vide note No. 6-13/97-NCW dt. 15.10.97.

Objection has been received to the use of words " ~~im~~ impersonation and are highly objectionable based on these fraudulent notings....." . While discussion on the subject did take place, the minutes may be confirmed with the following modifications replacing above by "Correct procedure should be adopted while recording notes, and while obtaining approval of Chairperson and Members of the Commission".

The minutes may be confirmed.

amounting to impersonation and are highly objectionable based on these fraudulent notings.) the approval of Members and the Chairperson has been obtained. Member-Secretary stating that this being incorrect and steps be taken to avoid such incidents of wrong notings on behalf of other Officers. However, correct noting incorporating the decision of the expert committee be made on this file for future reference.

The proposal for making of a film on Women Freedom Fighter by Shri Girish Karnad was subsequently discussed by the Chairperson and Members with the Film producer Shri Govind Nihalani who apprised the Chairperson of the proposed budget for this feature film to be around Rs. 1 crore. It was considered that in view of the fact that such high budget for the project cannot be made without special grant, it was decided that we may write to the Doordarshan for their comments.

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(X) Amendment

SAARC CONFERENCE:

The initial proposal of holding the SAARC Conference was discussed and the Chairperson apprised the Members that in view of the fact that the Office of the UNESCO is giving grants for the 'Women Development and Peace', and the grant is being received by the PGA, the proposed agenda for the Conference would form part of the SAARC Committee Meeting being organised with the help of the grant received from UNESCO. The other modalities of collaborating with PGA on this issue would be discussed in SAARC Core Group Meeting.

As regards the written reply to be submitted for the specific observations regarding procurement of HCL Computers made by this Committee, Deputy Secretary informed that the reply to observations have been prepared by her and submitted in writing to the Member-Secretary on 12-9-1997 and Member-Secretary would be sending the consolidated comments.

Functioning of the Control Room:

It was decided in the earlier meeting that review of functioning of Control Room would be undertaken. It was now decided that the Law Officer (Mr. Saddiq Jilani) would be attending to Control Room duties and will be given suitable monetary incentives for taking up this additional job. He will also be provided with the Stenographer, and a vehicle with a driver

would be made available during control room duties. It is endeavoured to post some lady police constable in the Control room.

Any other items with the permission of the Chair:

(a) It was decided that a cordless phone procured earlier by NCW, after repair be installed in Chairperson's room.

(b) It was decided that all Members and Adviser (PS) should be provided with a Camera and a Tape recorder. For video taping some of the important meeting of the Commission, contract for hiring Video Camera Services could be made for taping important hearings & proceedings in the field.

(c) With regard to the Expert Committee on the Panchayati Raj, it was decided that Consultant (PSKM) will have a discussion with the Members Secretary on the subject. It was mentioned that Dr. Sushila Kausik has prepared a module on the functioning of Panchayati Raj which would be discussed with MS. This module is for reviewing the functioning of the Panchayati Raj in the 4 regions of the Country..

(d) It was mentioned that out of the 39 Acts referred to by the Department of Women and Child Development for review, 16 Acts/laws have been reviewed and sent to the Department of WCD. The remaining Acts are being reviewed and will be sent to the Ministry in due course.

(e) With regard to the printing of new Diary 1998 it was decided that Desk Calender may be printed instead of diaries. It was suggested that recommendations made in the recent Conferences, Seminars, etc. should form the theme of Desk Calender to be prepared.

(f) Consultant (RN) mentioned that the Annual Report for the year 1994-95 which is under print will be ready soon and that the Report for the year 1995-96 was nearing completion.

(g) With regard to International Conference to be convened by "Women's Political Watch", it was mentioned that the proposal has been approved and the funds have also been paid to the Organisation. A three Member delegation from the NCW comprising Adviser (PS), Member (SSH) and Member Secretary will attend the conference.

Item No.3: Progress on Preparation of function to be held on 2nd October 1997:

It was mentioned, Meeting with 12 or 13 NGOs were held. It was decided that only 2 members from each NGO should be invited for the function preferably, a grass root worker (and not the Chairperson of State Welfare Boards) of the NGO, should participate. As far as possible only Women activists should be sent to the function.

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Item No.4: Review of the Progress of SAARC Meeting to be held in January 1998:

Chairperson suggested that the next meeting of the Core-Group should be held soon to discuss about the progress made on the preparation for the SAARC Meeting. Member-Secretary will be the Member of the Core-Group.

Item No.6 : Progress of printing of publication:

It was decided that 100 copies of each publication should always be kept in stock in NCW Library. Distribution of the publications be made expeditiously. Chairperson desired that the printing of all the 10 reports on "Prostitution" should be expedited. It was also suggested that Ms. Dipti Bhargava, former Consultant in the Commission should be engaged for one month for consolidating all the 10 reports on Prostitution in a single volume.

Item No.8: Ex-post-facto approval in respect of NCW's Sponsored Projects:

C.P. took exception to the fact that once she has cleared a proposal, it should not be examined and therefore, all files should be put up to her last for approval. M.S. agreed that all files be examined by Consultant/concerned Member and put up through M.S. for approval of C.P.

Member Secretary took objection to the expost-facto approval of the Commission for the Projects which were undertaken by NCW quite in the past and many of them were completed or have already started. It was brought to the notice that all project proposals received would be put up to the Screening Committee meetings, which would be held every week where sanctions/approval would be made keeping in view of the thrust areas, geographical spread of grants to all parts of the country and other relevant points. MS informed that after approval of screening committee it would be put up to CP for her approval wherever required. However, CP's seeing the proposal at initial stage would not be construed as her approval of the project.

Item No.9: Grant to Organise a Seminar on Women Rights - proposal from Adarsh Samaj Seva Shiksha Samitee, Gwalior.

NCW had earlier sanctioned an amount of Rs.15000 for the Seminar and only Rs.10,000 was granted. The remaining Rs.5,000 grant was approved expost facto to be used for purchase of 6 ceiling fans which have been procured by the Samiti..

Item No.10: Function on 8th March 1998 - consideration of :

It was decided that Talkatora Stadium should be booked for holding of SAARC Conference. Consultant (Sabharwal) is required to find out the charges for the booking of the Talkatora Stadium.

Item No. 11: Recommendation for Padma Awards consideration of the names:

It was decided that the matter should be examined and suitable names should be suggested for the above.

Item No.12 : Appointment of Enquiry Committee - Rajasthan University Hostel case and Jain Muni Case:

It was noted in the meeting that the Enquiry Committee has been appointed. It was also mentioned that the Enquiry Committee visited Jaipur on 23rd September, 1997.

Item No.13: Regularisation of Staff of NCW:

Commission was apprised that the matter is under examination.

Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.