

Minutes of the Commission's Meeting held on 26.04.2012 at 12.00 hrs. in the Conference Hall of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi.

The following attended the meeting:-

1.	Mrs. Mamta Sharma	Chairperson
2.	Dr. Charu WaliKhanna	Member
3.	Ms. Wansuk Syiem	Member
4.	Ms Nirmala Sament Prabhavalkar	Member
5.	Ms Hemlata Kheria	Member
6.	Ms Shamina Shafiq	Member
7.	Ms Anita Agnihotri	Member secretary

In attendance were:-

1.	Smt. Minakshi Ghose	Joint Secretary
2.	Shri Raj Singh	Deputy Secretary
3.	Shri H. C. Bharti	Coordinator

1. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed all the Members including new Members who have joined in the recent past individually and officials of the Commission. Chairperson graciously thanked and also congratulated the Administration for renovation of Conference hall of the Commission which now gives a better look. The Chairperson stressed on three points:-

(a.) All important issues/letters to Ministries/Departments need be brought to the knowledge of Chairperson before these are issued.

(b) Consequent upon visit of Chairperson & Member (CWK) to Madhya Pradesh, several petitions had been received from there. It was decided that Deputy Secretary would closely monitor them.

(c) To give more prominence to media coverage, NCW would make efforts to get PIB/other persons.

Thereafter Joint Secretary of the Commission welcomed the new Members who joined the Commission shortly and informed that Commission's Meeting are held regularly and the last Meeting was held on 24.11.2011. While initiating the discussions, Joint Secretary said that there are approx 41 agenda items covering subjects which have been divided into categories for convenience.

The Agenda notes had also been circulated in advance for kind perusal of all members.

Agenda Item No. 1 :- Confirmation of the Minutes of the Commission's meeting held on 24.11.2011+one agenda of earlier Commission Meeting recommended for change by Member (CWK)

Minutes of meeting held on 24.11.2011 were Confirmed.

Recording of agenda item No. 20 of meeting dated 19-12-2011.

The recorded sentence "It was decided that the Legal Awareness Programme should be mostly substituted by Public Hearing may be changed as "It was decided that Legal Awareness Programme should be encouraged along with Public Hearing"

The change was agreed to by the Commission.

(Action H.C. Bharti)

Agenda Item No. 2 :- Action Taken Report.

The Action Taken Reports of the decisions taken in the Commission's Meeting held on 24-11-2011, and left over decisions of the meetings on 19-05-2011, 01-09-2011, 06-09-2011 were read out. The Commission approved the same.

INQUIRY REPORTS /VISITS BY MEMBERS

Agenda Item No. 3 :- Alleged Harassment of a Nursing student at RML, Hospital, New Delhi-Inquiry Report

Approved.

(Action C & I Cell)

Agenda 35 years old women was made naked and taken round the village in the month of September 2011 at District Udaipur-Inquiry Report.

Item No. 4:- Gang rape case of a dalit girl, at Pipli, in Orissa. -Inquiry Report

Approved.

(Action C & I Cell)

Item No. 5:- A 35 years old women was made naked and taken round the village in the month of September 2011 at District Udaipur-Inquiry Report.

Approved.

(Action C & I Cell)

Item No. 6:- Report of visit of Member Secretary to Women's Correctional Home, Alipur, West Bengal on 9th November, 2011.

Approved.

(Action Legal Cell)

Agenda **Item No. 7:-** Report of visit of Member Secretary to Yerawada Women's Prison, Maharashtra.

Approved.

2 additional items had been circulated vide 24th April 2012 communication.

Agenda **Item No. 7(A) :-** To consider the Inquiry Committee Report of the inquiry into the incident of alleged suicide by girls in Baran city.

Approved.

(Action C & I Cell)

Agenda **Item No. 7(B) :-** To consider the Inquiry Committee Report of the Inquiry into the complaint of Sr. Jessy Kurian regarding the alleged murder of Sister Valsa John, Member of a religious Society-Sister of Charity of Jesus and Mary, District-Pakkur, (Jharkhand).

Approved.

(Action C & I Cell)

RESEARCH STUDIES

It was explained that the recommendations of research studies find mention in brief in Annual Reports of the Commission.

Item No. 8:- Research study on Domestic Violence Act amongst married Women in BPL families of Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh conducted by the Kzan's Him Star View, Jawahar Colony. Bhatta Kuffar, Sanjauli, Shimla.

Approved for release of final payment of Rs. 58,380/- to the Kzan's Him Star View, Jawahar Colony, Shimla.

(Action R & S Cell)

Item No. 9:- Research study on Domestic Violence Act Shrine Society, Krishna Nagar, Delhi:

Approved for release of final payment of Rs. 47,250/- Shrine Society, Krishna Nagar, New Delhi.

(Action R & S Cell)

Item No. 10:- National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and its implication on Rural Women in the state of Rajasthan conducted by Aravali Institute of Development Research, Jaipur Rajasthan.

Approved for release of final payment of Rs. 34, 230/- to Aravali Institute of Development Research, Jaipur Rajasthan.

(Action R & S Cell)

Item No. 11:- An Evaluation Study on increasing HIV/AIDS in Women in Imphal East and West District of Manipur conducted by the Rural Service Agency (RSA), Imphal Manipur.

Approved for release of final payment of Rs. 49,600/- to Rural Service Agency, Imphal Manipur.

(Action R & S Cell)

Item No. 12:- Research study on Role of Women in Disaster preparedness through geographical information system (GIS) in the National Capital region of Delhi conducted by All India Foundation for Peace and Disaster Management, Rohini, Delhi-110089.

Approved for release of final payment of Rs. 1,07,100/- to All India Foundation for Peace Disaster Management, Rohini Delhi.

(Action R & S Cell)

Item No. 13:- Research study on "School drop out of Tribal Girls in Tribal Sub Plan Area of Southern Rajasthan" conducted by Dr. L.N. Dadheech, Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Approved for release of final payment of Rs. 50,801/- to Dr. L.N. Dadheech, Udaipur, Rajasthan.

(Action R & S Cell)

Item No. 14:- Research Study on Women in Panchayat in Rohtak District of Haryana conducted by Rural Organization for Awareness & Development, Rohatak, Haryana.

Approved for release of final payment of Rs. 39,690/- to Rural Organization for Awareness & Development, Rohatak, Haryana.

(Action R & S Cell)

Item No. 15:- Research Study on Women Trafficking – causes, cost and consequences conducted by Sri Mata Mahila Mandali, Chittor District, Andhra Pradesh.

Approved for release of full & final payment of Rs.47,040 /- to Sri Mata Mahila Mandali, Chittor District, Andhra Pradesh.

(Action R & S Cell)

Item No. 16:- Recommendation of Twelfth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2011-12) on the subject 'Working of National Commission for Women and State Commissions for Women'.

Members Secretary apprised the Commission of the Observations /Recommendations of the Committee on Empowerment of Women and said that there are good points in the report for strengthening of NCW to fulfill its mandate by amendment of NCW Act, filling up the posts etc.

Noted

(Action R & S Cell)

Item No. 17:- To discuss the recommendations of the Expert Committee constituted for drafting of amendments to provisions contained in existing legislation/fresh legislation where considered appropriate in respect of NRI/Overseas marriages and the comments of Hon'ble Member(CWK) on the same.

The recommendations of the Expert Committee and the comments of Member CWK were discussed at length. It was decided that another meeting of Expert Committee may be called for discussions in the matter in which Members may also be invited.

(Action NRI Cell)

Item No. 18:- Research study on PWDVA Act, 2005 in Rajasthan.

The study report is approved.

(Action Legal Cell)

Item No. 19:- Research Study on the status of Women Prisoners in Maharashtra.

The study report is approved.

(Action Legal Cell)

Item No. 20:- Research Study on violence against Dalit Women.

The study report is approved.

(Action Legal Cell)

Item No. 21:- State level Workshop on Study on Micro Credit & the role of SHG by Assam State Commission for Women, Guwahati, Assam.

A Budget of Rs. 100000/- is approved to Assam State Commission for Women for conducting State Level Workshop on Micro Credit & the role of SHG.

(Action Legal Cell)

LEGAL MATTERS

Item No. 22:- Extension of project 'Save Home Save Family' for another period of one year from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 renamed as as Violence Free Home-A Women's Right.

Approved the extension of the project "Violence Free Home-A Women's Right for another one year w.e.f. 1st April, 2013 with the existing salary.

(Action R & S Cell)

Item No. 23:- Filing of Petition/Writ by NCW before the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the order & judgement dated 29.09.2011 passed by Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in Case (C) No. 360 of 2011.

The case was explained and discussed in detail. Most Members felt that National Commission for Women should take up the matter with Supreme Court. As Member (CWK) raised some points on observations of the High Court and multiplicity of litigation, it was decided that a meeting may be held with Members (CWK), Member (NSB), Member Secretary & Ms. Aparna Bhatt (advocate S.C.) where all aspects of the matter will be examined before finalization.

(Action Legal Cell)

Item No. 24:- Proposed Writ Petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Ms. Charu Khurana.

The complaint of Ms. Charu Khurana, a trained and certified make up artist and hair dresser was discussed at length for denial of her Membership by CCMA and HDA (Cine Costume Make up Artist and Hair Dresser Association) solely on the ground of being a woman. This amounts to deprivation of woman's right.

The agenda was approved.

(Action Legal Cell)

Item No. 25:- Questionnaire on Surrogacy.

The matter regarding a questionnaire prepared by Sonal Kusum, Ph. D Research Scholar, in the National Law School of India, Bangalore on the above subject has been received for inputs and comments, of NCW was discussed. It was decided that a copy of suggestions of NCW need be circulated among the members. The NCW should be in touch with Ministry of WCD and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and collect information on definition etc. There is need for further discussions on the subject.

It was also learnt from the News Paper that a Bill targeting child sexual abuse gets nod that proposes to do away with the age of consent and deem any sexual relations with a person aged below 18 years as rape regardless of whether it is consensual sex or not. The Cabinet having passed it, the Protection of Children from Sexual offences Bill is likely to be tabled in the Current Session. NCW has also worked on this but the Ministry did not inform the Commission about the status of the Bill. There is need for strengthening the Coordination between NCW and MWCD and evolving an Institutional Mechanism for the same.

It was informed that a lot of work to be carried out by NCW is being handled by the National Mission for Empowerment of Women. It was suggested that the Commission should write to the concerned Ministries to consult NCW before considering amendments to various Women related Laws/ Bills, Gender issues, Gender Budgeting etc. This may also be ascertained from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(Action Legal Cell)

Item No. 26:- Discussions relating to updating laws with changing time.

Regarding change in the present practice of husband's name as first guardian in official documents such as school admission forms and birth certificates, it is necessary to bring mother's name as first guardian. The Committee on empowerment of woman also deals with guardianship issue which can be had from them. Besides, Planning Commission may also be consulted on this. On confirmation, it should be brought into practice by all the states and for this a letter could be addressed to the Chief Ministers of the State.

Regarding Gender Budgeting, the matter can be taken up with the Planning Commission and a meeting may be arranged with the concerned advisor of the Planning Commission. Later on a consultation on the subject may be held.

It was informed that a report of Expert Committee on the subject has been sent to the Planning Commission. It was directed that the same may be circulated among Members of the Commission and then give feed back to Chairperson.

(Action Legal Cell)

Item No. 27:- Discussion on NCW Act (Amendments).

It was informed that a Committee for suggesting/recommending amendments to the National Commission of Women Act was constituted earlier to confer more powers to NCW which had not been active. It was decided that a fresh Committee be formed to suggest amendments in NCW Act.

The Committee will comprise of five outside Members including one retired Judge, one retired IPS officer and Member Secretary and a Member of NCW nominated by Chairperson. The Committee should submit its recommendations within 2 ½ months.

(Action Legal Cell)

Item No. 28:- Centrally Sponsored Scheme for effectively implementation of PWDV Act 2005.

The scheme was explained in detail. After a National Consultation on the subject, a Drafting Committee of experts was formed and after three rounds of sittings and discussions, the Scheme was modified based on the inputs received. Due to urgency, the revised scheme was sent to the Ministry. The draft scheme would be circulated for the comments of the Members and the comments/amendments would be forwarded to the Ministry.

(Action Legal Cell)

WELFARE MEASURES FOR STAFF

Item No. 29:- To provide the benefit of medical insurance to the Daily Wagers and Temporary Status Peons working in the Commission.

The Commission deliberated and accorded approval to the benefit of medical insurance.
(Action Administration)

Item No. 30:- Enhancement of financial benefit in respect of daily wagers, temporary status and contractual employees of NCW.

The Commission deliberated the matter and agreed to enhance financial benefit in respect of Staff as proposed in the agenda.

(Action Administration)

PLAN AND BUDGET MATTERS

Item No. 31:- Allocation of Budget in Sub Heads for the financial year 2012-13.

Approved. It was decided to increase Publicity Budget.

(Action PAO)

Item No. 32:- Approval of the Final Allocation of Budget under Plan and Non-Plan head and Expenditure for the financial year 2011-12.

Approved .

(Action PAO)

Item No. 33:- Annual Action Plan 2012-13 in respect of National Commission for Women.

Approved .

(Action PAO)

OTHER MATTERS INCLUDING NEW SCHEMES.

Item No. 34:- Establishment of 24X7 Call Centre and help line (A Pilot Project of NCW).
Noted

(Action PAO)

Item No. 35:- Disposal of old complaint cases

Approved .

(Action C&I Cell)

Item No. 36:- Capacity Building of Judicial and Police Officials.

Noted. A skeletal programme is to be prepared and circulated to organizations.

(Action Legal Cell)

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Item No. 37:- Construction of office building at Jasola.

Approved.

(Action Administration)

Item No. 38:- Fresh recruitment of Coordinators and Counsellors .

Approved .

(Action Administration)

Item No. 39:- Inquiry Report- Time Frame.

This could not be discussed. Deferred to the next meeting.

(Action C & I Cell)

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair


Member Secretary


Chairperson