

MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN HELD ON THE 26TH DEC. 1994

The 15th meeting of the National Commission for Women was held on the 26th December, 1994 under the chairmanship of Ms. Jayanti Patnaik, Chairperson. The following were present :-

- 1. Ms. Jayanti Patnaik : Chairperson
- 2. Ms. Padma Seth : Member
- 3. Ms. Ganga Potai : Member
- 4. Ms. Bonoj Senapati : Member
- 5. Ms. Indira Misra : Member Secretary

Sh. P.S. Ravindra, Consultant was in attendance. Sh. M.L. Kaushal, P.A.O., Ms. Radhey Nag, Sh. B.C. Chaudhar Sh. D.K.D. Chaudhary, Consultants and Sh. R.P. Madan, O.S.D. to C.P. were present in the meeting to render assistance as and when called for from them.

Item No. 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 14th meeting of the Commission held on the 31st October, 2nd November and 4th November, 1994.

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed.

Item No. 2 : Action taken statement on the minutes of the 13th and 14th meetings of the Commission.

The Commission took note of both the statements. As regards action taken on the minutes of the 14th meeting, Chairperson desired that in future action taken should be indicated in respect of all the decision requiring action. In case of the decisions requiring no action also it should that "no action was called for" or they had been noted for compliance/ future guidance.

The Commission also considered the following project proposals :-

- (i) Proposal received from Gujarat Kelvani Trust, Ahmedabad for organising Workshop for Police officials in Gujarat.
- (ii) Proposal from Jyoti Sangh, Ahmedabad to organise Mahila Shibirs in rural areas.
- (iii) Proposal from Dr. Urmilaben Patel, Gujarat Kelvani Trust, Ahmedabad, for organising a 5 day Seminar Programme on "Education and Family Life Education for Women Leaders of Slum-areas of Ahmedabad City".

As the term of the present Commission is ending on 31.1.95, the Chairperson desired that the date by which the communications were issued to the organisations asking them to revise the proposals should be in time so as to have an assessment of the progress made in these projects.

- (iv) Proposal from Centre for Media Studies for conducting in collaboration with the Commission symposia on "Vulgarity and Violence in Lucknow, Bhubaneswar/Cuttack, Vijayawada, Bombay and Bangalore - Funding of the Symposia by the Commission.

After short discussion it was decided that the amount to be released to the Centre for Media Studies should be restricted to Rs. 1.50 lakhs but it should be released quickly. Any clarification regarding project proposals should be obtained expeditiously so that the payments are not unnecessarily delayed.

- (v) Project proposal from Ms. Akhila Sivadas, Media Consultant, for documenting the concerted efforts made jointly by the NCW and the Media Advisory Group on the issue of Women and media in a single volume.

It was decided that the Media Consultant Sh. Kuttu should be asked to give details of paper print rates.

- (vi) Round Table Conference on "Improving Tribal Women's condition for a Better future Identifying Science and Technology Intervention and New Policy Options" to be held in December 1994 ; Proposal received from Prof. Subas C. Pati, Director, Science Policy Research and Analysis Group, Berahmpur, Orissa.

It was decided that the balance amount should be paid as per the accounts rendered by the Director, Science Policy Research and Analysis Group, Berahmpur, Orissa.

- (vii) Study of Psychological profile of women prisoners in jails - study to be undertaken by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMANS), Bangalore.

It was noted that the first instalment had already been released. The first report on the project study is expected to be received by the 15th January, 1995. The balance amount will be released after the first report has been examined.

Item No. 3 : Two-Day National Conference on "Women in Panchayati Raj" to be organised by NCW

A draft letter to the Prime Minister was submitted to the Chairperson but later on it was felt that it will be better if the Commission organizes such a Seminar after the receipt of the report from the Institute of Social Sciences regarding working of Panchayati Raj in various States.

Item No. 4 : Approval of the Draft Report on "Development of Female Education among Tribal Communities"

The draft report was approved. It was decided that 500 copies of the report should be got printed.

Item No. 5 : Matters for special mention

The Commission made note of the fact that Rs. 40,000/- has been released to National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science for the All Annual Conference on Criminology organised by the Institute on the 11th and 13th November, 1994 in

Item No. 6 : Finalisation of the Legislations passed at the recently concluded fifth meeting of the Expert Committee on Laws : Sub-Committee of the Bills by the Legal Unit for recommendation or formal approval of the Commission before they are sent to the Central Government as recommendations of the Commission on the whole

The Commission adopted the under-mentioned Bills recommended by the Expert Committee on Laws :-

- (i) The Marriage Bill, 1994
- (ii) The Domestic Violence to Women (Prevention) Bill, 1994
- (iii) The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1994
- (iv) The Women and Female Children Fund Bill, 1994.

The Commission desired that the Bills so adopted may be sent to the Government.

Item No. 7 : Budget Estimates for 1995-96 and Revised Estimates for 1994-95

The Commission noted the approval given by the Government for the budget estimates 1995-96 and revised estimates for 1994-95.

Item No. 8 : Clearance of payment on account of pending white washing etc. of NCW office

At the very outset, Chairperson and Members stressed that expenditure incurred on this item seemed to be avoidable at least partially. Out of the works which formed part of maintenance, these should have been got done through CPWD who were very much under obligation to do them as an amount of Rs. 40,000/- had been placed with them. MS informed that the file relating to the subject had already been put up to chairperson and several questions have to be examined to fix responsibility for the avoidable expenditure incurred on this item. However, as the amount which the Commission is under obligation to pay to the contractor who has completed the job, has already been delayed for the past about 6 months, need not be delayed further. Therefore, the Commission ordered that this amount may be paid, but the other question on the file must be seriously pursued and the action completed.

Item No.9 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the Special of the NCW held on the 25th August, 1994

The Commission made note of the fact minutes of the special meeting of the NCW on the 25th August, 1994 have been confirmed

Item No.10 : Action taken report on the minutes of the Meeting of the NCW held on the 25th August,

The following items on which action has been taken by the Pay and Accounts Officer has been noted by the Commission in the meeting :-

- i) A list of all the cases where financial powers have been exceeded by MS/DS.
- ii) Draft Financial Rules relating to delegation of financial powers to Chairperson/Secretary/Deputy Secretary submitted to Secretary/Chairperson for approval.
- iii) Financial Rules prepared by the Pay & Accounts Officer - proposed on the basis of which are being followed by the University Commission.

It was decided that the Member Secretary should examine all the proposals mentioned in the first instance.

Item No.11 : National Conference on Justice Delivery through Family Courts

The Commission took notice of a brief report of the National Conference on Justice Delivery through Family Courts held on 19-20th December 1994 at FICCI Auditorium.

Item No.12 : For Ex-post-facto approval by the Commission its 15th meeting

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Review Meeting with MS on 22.12.1994 Circular
No.6-44/94-NCW dated 22.12.1994

The Commission gave its ex-post-facto approval to the six projects mentioned in the note.

Item No.13 : Any other items with the approval of the Chair

- [a] Regularisation of Daily Wager Typists/Clerks/Staff Car Drivers/Peons, who have rendered more than a year's service and appointed through Employment Exchange

The question of regularising the service of the Daily-Wage Typists/Clerks/Staff Car Drivers/Peons was discussed at length and it was finally decided that the Draft Recruitment Rules for these posts should first be finalized and referred to the Government for their approval. Thereafter on the basis of the Recruitment Rules, the services of the aforesaid staff will be regularized. The C.P. & Members desired that this exercise should be completed immediately as the Casual Workers had already suffered a lot. C.P. also desired to know as to how the services of Shri Rawat driver had been regularized.

- [b] Draft Inquiry Report of the NCW on the atrocities committed on pro-Uttarakhand women activities at Muzaffarnagar and other places in Garhwal region

It was noted that the final report was sent to the Home Minister on the 16th November, 1994.

- [c] D.O. letter dated the 2nd December, 1994, from Shri S.Ramaiah, Honorary Legal Adviser, addressed to Chairperson, for the settlement of his outstanding Bill for payment of Rs.5000/- to him

The D.O. letter dated the 2nd December, 1994, from Shri S.Ramaiah, Honorary Legal Adviser, for the settlement of his outstanding Bill for payment of Rs.5000/- for the assistance rendered by him

in holding inquiries in respect of certain matters and for preparation of reports thereon were considered in the meeting. The meeting expressed its concern at the delay in the processing of the Bill especially when the proposal leading to the submission of the Bill had already been discussed by the Chairperson as well as the Members of the Commission. M.S. assured that she would again re-examine the whole issue as the accounts of the accounts branch were probably not available convenient by Shri Ramaiah.

[e] NCW's Achievements and Calender of events

The proposal for bringing out the final report of Achievements and Calender of Events in the middle of January, 1995, was considered in the meeting and approval of the Commission was given for its publication.

[f] Public enquiry on "Crimes Against Women" organised by the NCW on the 4th January, 1995

The proposal to hold a Public Enquiry on "Crimes against Women" on the 4th January, 1995 in the India International Convention Centre was considered in the meeting and having regard to the expenditure involved on various items mentioned in the proposal such as the hiring of an auditorium, serving of tea/coffee and lunch for the Participants, T.A. and D.A. to the participants etc. etc. it was agreed to sanction a sum of Rs.2.50 lakhs for organising the aforesaid Enquiry.

[g] The filming of the "Mangalam" project - from Smt.J.Anjani Dayanand

The proposal for the filming of the "Mangalam" Project, Pondicherry, submitted by Ms

Dayanand was considered in the meeting. It was noted that Ms.Anjani Dayanand had clarified the undermentioned points :-

- i] Agreement to be signed on behalf of the NCW
- ii] Reducing the Budget of Rs.2.85 lakhs by a couple of thousands of rupees since it was presumed that the video film maker was being permitted to buy equipment.

As regard the "Agreement" it was noted that the same been prepared in consultation with the Law Department and signed on a judicial paper, a copy of which has been given the Commission. As for reducing the cost of Rs.2.85 lakhs a couple of thousands, it was noted that these were hiring charges for the equipment as per call sheet/per day etc and that these hiring charges were approved by the Government of Tamil Nadu and that the approved amount was included in the Agreement. Considering all these factors in view and after short discussion it was decided to sanction the specified amount for the implementation of the project.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chairperson.
