

311-C

**MINUTES OF THE TWELVETH MEETING OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN HELD ON  
THE 27th MAY, 1994.**

The twelveth meeting of the National Commission for Women was held at New Delhi on the 27th May, 1994, under the Chairpersonship of Ms. Jayanti Patnaik. The following were present :

1. Ms. Jayanti Patnaik : Chairperson
2. Ms. Padma Seth : Member
3. Ms. B. Senapati : Member
4. Ms. Annie Prasad : Member Secretary

Dr. K.K. Kirty, Deputy Secretary and Shri P.S. Ravindra, Consultant, were also present for rendering assistance.

After Chairperson's introductory remarks, the agenda items were taken up for discussions as follows :-

**ITEM No.1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the Eleventh Meeting of the Commission held on the 22nd February, 1994.**

The minutes of the eleventh meeting of the National Commission for Women were confirmed. However, with reference to Item No. 2(ix) of the minutes of the eleventh meeting of the Commission, Chairperson observed that regarding the preparation of UNICEF slides, short film documentaries etc. on Panchayati Raj, UNICEF should be contacted to ascertain the progress made therein. Further films, documentaries on Panchayati Raj, if available with UNICEF, should be obtained for viewing and also for advising NGOs, who require the material for dissemination.

C (MKM)

**ITEM NO.2 : Action taken statement on the minutes of the eleventh meeting of the Commission.**

(i) Visits to States :

Member (PS) mentioned that she had already written to the Minister concerned, congratulating Tamil Nadu Government on opposing the social evil

of dowry. It is to be verified, however a letter from Chairperson to the Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu, has already been sent. This matter may be dropped.

(ii) Visit of the Commission to Assam and NE States  
Member (BS) mentioned that a report on the Convention of North-Eastern States held at the end of April'94 would be ready in time before the Commission's visit to Karnataka.

(iii) Submission to Chairperson by the 15th Member all the cases relating to the widows by the Indian Housewives Federation :  
It was noted that all the cases were submitted to the Chairperson.

(iv) Preparation of the report of the workshop Panchayati Raj held during the 17th-18th October  
It was mentioned that based on the records relating to the workshop a report on the Workshop would be prepared and submitted by the end of June'94.

(v) National Economic Policy and impact of Adjustment Programme on Women :  
It was decided that the material prepared for the Chapters on (i) Impact of SAP on Women and (ii) Women, Law and Legal Literacy be edited with the help of experts and after suitable annexures and relevant material may be published in book form by the NCW.

C (RN)/C (R).

ITEM NO.2

(ix) : Interpretation of Section 10 of the Commission for Women Act, 1990.

Member (PS) mentioned that this matter was taken up in the meeting of the experts to



309

at Bangalore, along with Commission's visit to Karnataka.

C (BKS)

**ITEM NO.8 : Follow-up action on the NCW-ILO Workshop.**

The follow up action being initiated by NCW on its own, in different areas as per recommendations of the tripartite expert group, was explained at the meeting.. As for the installation of a computer, it was noted that quotations had been called for from various sources (to be submitted by the 30th May, 1994) and that the process has been going on in consultation with the NIC.

C (DKD)

**ITEM No.9 : Views of the Commission regarding Commissioner for Women's rights.**

It was noted that the decision taken by the Commission in its Special Meeting held on the 4th March, 1994 was communicated to the Deptt. of Women & Child Development on the 21st April, 1994. The letter was shown to the Chairperson for information.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS

**ITEM NO.2 : Suggestion to amend Section 320 of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 with a view to making offences compoundable, etc.**

It was noted in the meeting that the Expert Group identified three areas and that as the implications of the suggestions made by Dr. Vasudha Dhagamwar were not very clear, she was requested to give necessary clarifications.

C (BKS)

**ITEM NO.3 : Inclusion of Chairperson/Member of the NCW in official delegations and accreditation of the Commission by UN System and International Organisation.**

While discussing this item it was decided that Chairperson may seek an appointment with the Prime Minister and request P.M. to inaugurate the proposed Conference on Women Panchayat Pramukhs

from all the States in the Country. The Conference may be held on the 23rd September at Vigyan Bhawan. 10 representatives from each State may be invited and they may be invited to travel in the respective Bhawans of their own State Governments. For this purpose letters may be sent to the Chief Secretaries, Commissioners, etc. From Delhi persons may be invited for the Conference. State Govts. may be advised to meet the Pramukhs from their own budget. The Department of Social Studies, which is to take up the theme "Empowerment of Women through Panchayats", should also be invited to assist in furnishing data and information relating to women. The Department of Social Welfare can provide information regarding SC & ST Communities.

(Booking of accommodation, payment TA/DA, lunch, transport)

AGENDA ITEM

NO. III : Study/Research Projects received in the past and recommended by the Project Committee.

- (a) Seminar on update on Nutrition and Health of Adolescent Girls-initiativees and India SNTD Women's University, Bombay :  
After some discussion it was agreed to make part payment as recommended by the Project Committee to SNTD Women's University to hold the Seminar. NCW may also consider suggestions regarding participant/resource persons.
- (b) Creation of Mother-Friendly Workplaces Bank and Research Centre, LTMG Hosur :  
After a short discussion it was agreed to release the stipulated amount for implementation of the project.
- (c) A study of initiative in the rehabilitation or amelioration of the women and girls in prostitution in India Bombay :  
It was agreed in the meeting to sponsor



307re

phase of the project by sanctioning a total amount of Rs. 1.25 lakhs.

- (d) Structural adjustment programme and women employment in food processing industries-a case study of Uttar Pradesh-G.R. Sharma, Archeological Society, Allahabad :

The proposal and the financial outlay recommended by Scrutiny committee was approved. It was worked that the study is one of the follow up ILO/NCW workshop on Employment, Equality & structural adjustment (with special reference to women's issues) and as per recommendations of tripartite Expert-group.

- (e) Preparation of an up-to-date Compendium-S&T projects in Agriculture for Women in India by the National Institute of Science and Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS) :

It was noted that a sum of Rs. 10,000/- was released to NISTADS and necessary U.C. and other details have been received. It was decided that the project as now cleared by scrutiny committee can be implemented and funds released for the purpose.

- (f) Awareness raising and inculcating self-reliance among rural women in 20 villages of Periyar Distt. in Tamil Nadu through formation of Mahila Mandals, Women Credit Societies and training for Income generation Programmes: Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust, Madras :

The recommendations as made by the Project Scrutiny Committee were approved by the Commission in the meeting.

- (g) Preparation of school lessons with the right gender perspective :

It was agreed that further discussions may be held with Dr. Usha Nayyar of NCERT in this regard.

- (h) The proposal of Smt. Ranjana Kumari of Centre for Social Research for awareness generation regarding women's employment in two districts of U.P. was also discussed and financial out lay as proposed in the project was approved.

(i) Monitoring of the Special Studies/Projects  
After some discussion it was decided Project Scrutiny Committee should prepare complete list of all the projects recommended by the NCW from the beginning and circulate the same to the Members of the Commission for their information. The Scrutiny Committee should monitor the implementation of the studies/Projects cleared by NCW from the beginning to keep itself update on the subjects. The list may be circulated at the meetings of NCW for their regard.

(j) Long duration project proposals :  
Long duration projects (beyond 6-8 months) should be taken up on a specific case to case basis.

C(BKS)/C(Widge)/C(F)  
C(MKMK)/C(F)

**AGENDA ITEM**

**NO. IV : Expert Committee on Women and Economic Planning**

The proposal for the setting up of an Expert Committee on Women and Economic Planning was considered in the meeting. It was noted that Renana Jhabvala, Secretary, SEWA, was attending the meetings of the Committee. She suggested that the following persons should be included as members of the Committee :

- (i) Smt. Isher Ahluwalia, Research Officer, Ministry of Policy Research, Dharam Marg, Chanakya Place, New Delhi.
- (ii) Smt. Nata Duvvury, Jt. Director, Centre for Development of Imaging Technology, Thiruvananthapuram-27.
- (iii) Smt. Nirmala Banerjee, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, 10, Lake Terrace, Calcutta-700025

It was proposed that Sh. B.P. Sinha, Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, as well as the Planning Commission might be approached for appointment of an Expert Adviser (a retired person) in connection with



325-c

involved in the functioning of the Expert Committee : the Adviser should have expert knowledge in the new economic policy and its overall impact. As for the Consultant to assist the Expert Committee in its functioning, it was proposed that Sh. DKD Chaudhuri, Consultant, should be entrusted with the work for the present. With these suggestions, it was agreed in principle to set up the Expert Committee on Women and Economic Policy.

C (DKDC)

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS.

1. Proposal of Gujarat State Social Welfare Advisory Board to conduct pre and post Election Workshops for Women regarding elections to Panchayats and Municipal Corporations :

The proposal was approved after a short discussion.

C (MKM)

2. Remuneration of full time Consultants who have served for one year or more with the NCW :

The proposal for the grant of addl. amount of Rs. 500/- p.m. (to meet conveyance etc. costs) for such of those Consultants, who had rendered one year service, with approved in the meeting. After a short discussion it was decided that this benefit should be extended also to part-time Consultants who have completed one year's service.

C (Gosain)

3. Approval of the Commission for incurring expenditure on various Research/Study/Training Projects and for meeting Commission's share of expenditure on holding Seminars/Workshops assigned to other organisations :

The proposal was approved. However, it was suggested that the Members in charge of sponsoring research, study training projects or organising seminars or workshops should, thereafter, submit reports indicating therein follow-up action taken in the mater.

C (Widge)

4. Delegation of Financial Powers of Members of the Commission :

*See Report on the Annual Report 1983-84*

The proposal is required to be further considered and was not taken up for consideration.

5. Purchase of Encyclopaedia Britannica (32 volumes costing Rs. 31,000/- for reference purpose in the Commission's Library) :

After a brief discussion the proposal was approved.

6. Purchase of Encyclopaedia of India comprising 20 volumes and costing Rs. 10,000/- for reference purpose in the Commission's Library :

The proposal was approved. It was decided that the Library would get a minimum of 10% in each of the afore-mentioned Encyclopaedias.

7. Project to undertake study of the problems faced by destitute women in the light of the existing legal framework and maintenance law :

A copy of the note and the project was submitted to the Commission by M(PS). The project was approved in the following terms:

Legal Unit

8. Quorum for the meetings of the Commission :

In the first meeting of the Commission the members decided that the quorum for the meetings of the Commission should be four members. The Commission also framed a bye-law relating to the meetings of the Commission accordingly. However, as 2 members have resigned it was decided that the quorum should be fixed at three members. This should be reviewed if and when the Member's vacancies are filled up.

9. Annual Report of the Commission for the year 1993-94 :

It was decided that the work relating to the compilation of Annual Report of the Commission for the year 93-94 should be taken up immediately and the draft of the Report should be ready by the end of the year.



303-C

by the end of July, 1994.

C (R.N.)

10. Action-Plan in respect of Member (PS) :

(i) Visit to Andhra Pradesh :

A tentative programme for the visit of the Commission to Andhra Pradesh has been fixed, commencing from the 14th June till 18th June, 1994.

Member (PS) will be visiting Hyderabad on the 1st June'94 for a day to finalise the programme in consultation with the State Govt. There may be a briefing meeting to be held in the Commission on the 9th June, 1994 in connection with the Commission's visit to Andhra Pradesh. The official work relating to the visit will start on the 13th June and end of the 17th June, 1994.

M (PS)/C(BKS)/DS

(ii) The meeting of the Committee on Justice Delivery System is likely to be held at Bangalore some time in the month of July, 1994 along with the Commission's visit to Karnataka. The exact dates will be fixed soon.

(Legal Unit)

(iii) The visit of the C.P. and M (PS) to Pondicherry in connection with "Mangalam" project may be after the meeting as at (ii) above.

M (PS)

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to Chairperson.

. . . . .

