

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION'S MEETING
HELD ON 27TH JUNE, 2001

Present in the meeting were:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Vibha Parthasarathi | : | Chairperson |
| 2. | Smt. Vijay Daksh | : | Member |
| 3. | Smt. Poornima Advani | : | Member |
| 4. | Kum. Anusuiya Uike | : | Member |
| 5. | Smt. Nafisa Hussain | : | Member |
| 6. | Smt. Reva Nayyar | : | Member Secretary |
| 7. | Kum. R. Bhama | : | Deputy Secretary |

Agenda Item No.1

Leave of Absence.

Leave of absence was granted to Member (K.S.Reddy) as she was away from Delhi on some personal work.

Member (N.Hussain) had gone to attend a complaint matter and would be joining the meeting later.

Agenda Item No.2

Confirmation of Minutes of the preceding meeting held on 22nd May, 2001.

The minutes were approved with the following changes:

The correct minutes relating to Agenda Item No.6 would read as follows:-

"Agenda Item No.6

- (i) Course Curriculum for Gender Sensitization of Police Officers.
 - (ii) Course Curriculum for Gender Sensitization of Administrative Personnel.
 - (iii) Report of the four Regional Workshops on 'Gender and Law Enforcement'.
- For approval and adoption.

Bhama

The Commission approved the Course Curriculum for Gender Sensitization of police officers prepared by the National Police Academy.

The Commission also approved the Course Curriculum for Gender Sensitization of Administrative Personnel prepared by the Rajasthan Institute of Public Administration and the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration.

The Reports of the four Regional Workshops at Patna and Chandigarh (circulated with agenda papers) and at Bangalore and Bhopal [circulated separately by Member (P.Advani)] were formally approved and adopted by the Commission."

Agenda Item No.3

Review of the instalments of assistance released to the eligible organisations for research studies/seminars/workshops/public hearings, etc.

The Commission agreed that tightening of the terms of financial assistance for research studies, seminars, workshops, public hearings, etc. was necessary. The new guidelines to be followed would be :

Research Studies: First instalment 40%, second instalment 40% and the final and third instalment 20%, other terms and conditions remaining the same.

Workshops/Seminars/Public Hearings: First instalment 70% and the last and third instalment 30% on receipt of the audited statement of accounts and report/Proceedings of the event, other terms and conditions remaining the same.

The Commission also felt that this was an administrative matter, the Commission would only take note of it.

Agenda Item No.4

Review of cases relating to Research Studies/Seminars/Workshops/Conference/Public Hearings to ascertain the dependency of the cases since 1998.

The Commission agreed to the proposal that

- a) Defaulting organisations, from whom the report was due for more than six months and who have also not sought extension of time, may be recommended for

Done

being black-listed by the concerned State Govt./Central Govt./Departments and Organisations, after due notice and an opportunity to explain the position. This would be followed in future. An appropriate clause in this regard would also be added in the sanction order.

In respect of some of specific cases, the following was decided:

- i) The report on the study on 'Status of Women in India' allotted to Dr. Sarala Gopalan on 15th April, 1998 had not been received despite several reminders. The Commission decided that another letter would be sent to her saying that the Commission was extremely upset about the time lapse in submission of the report and, therefore, had unanimously decided never to sanction a study to an individual. She would also be requested to send forthwith the work done till date, however, incomplete.
- ii) Study report on 'Development and Empowerment through Education and Training of Financially and Socially Weaker Rural Women' would be put up in the next meeting of the Commission.
- iii) Former Member, Smt. S.S. Hameed would be requested to help in tracing out the file on Public Inquiry for Minority Women at Jabalpur, which had been handled by her.

Members were also requested to return forthwith all files of inquiry reports or others, in which action had been completed, to Administration. This course of action to be followed henceforth.

Agenda Item No.5

Proposal received from National Human Rights Commission to substitute the words such as Widow, Vidhvah, Bevah, Randi, etc. with the words Wife of Late, Zauja Mahroom, Dharmpatni Swargiya.

The Commission decided to write back to NHRC with the following comments:

- a) Words such as Widow, Vidhvah, Bevah cannot be objected to, since they indicate their marital status and are used for identification of women, when they are required to make claims regarding pension etc. on the death of their husband. However, it should be noted that for women, whose husbands are deceased, the word used in official records is 'rand', which means a widow,

ghans

and not randi, which means a prostitute. Similar correction should be noted that the word used is 'zauja marhoom' and not 'zauja mahroom'.

The Commission did not agree with the use of the words 'Dharmpatni' since it is a patriarchal vocabulary and reinforces patriarchal attitudes.

Agenda Item No.6

Research and Documentation Project: Mediation, Conflict Resolution and Counselling at the National Commission for Women.

The proposal by PRAJA for documenting the complaints in the Commission was approved. The outcome could be used to streamline NCW's Counselling Unit, and make it more effective. It will also help NCW in its demand for more staff and more powers.

The Commission will need to provide a computer with the configuration/software required by the PRAJA personnel for this work.

Agenda Item No.7

Preparation of Report on Future of Print Media by the Press Council of India, New Delhi - suggestions/views invited from the National Commission for Women.

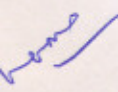
The draft comments placed before the Commission were approved. A suitable reply would be sent to the Press Council of India.

The Commission also decided that a brainstorming will be held with media experts from both English and Hindi media and if necessary additional comments could be sent to the Press Council.

Agenda Item No.8

Two-day workshop on Challenges in the Present Century and Women in Empowerment held on 29-30 April, 2001 - Report for approval.

The report was approved and adopted by the comments that it was an extremely good report.



Agenda Item No.9

Awareness Campaign on Scientific Agriculture System for Rural Women Farmers in the State of Manipur - Report and accounts received from the organisation.

The Commission desired that a report/write up should be obtained from the organisation and if it is not received within three months time, the organisation should be black-listed and a suitable letter to be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs as the latter had informed NCW that the organisation was suitable for providing financial assistance.

Agenda Item No.10

Public hearing on Dalit Women held on 3-4 April, 2001 - Report for approval.

The recommendations were found very useful.

The Commission desired that the organisation be asked to send depositions of each individual women, who had deposed on representative issues at the hearing.

Agenda Item No.11

Workshop on "Violence Against Women" 9-11 January, 2001 organised by MP Academy of Administration, Bhopal - Report for approval/adoption.

The report was approved and adopted.

The Commission desired that good recommendations of reports should be sent to the Government (selectively).

Agenda Item No.12

Study on Nutrition and Health Care of Adolescent Girls in Urban and Rural Area of Orissa - Approval/Adoption of Recommendations.

The report was approved and adopted.

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Agenda Item No.13

Female Foeticide: A study of Varanasi - A Report on Amniocentesis and other Sex-Determination Techniques, Sex Pre-Selection and New Reproductive Technologies.

It was decided that the report may be sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (with a copy to JS for the information) and be placed before the Advisory Committee constituted under the Pre Natal Diagnostic Technique (Prevention of Misuse) Regulation Act.

A letter may also be sent to the DGPs of all major cities to intensify vigilance so as to prevent and punish violations under the PNDT Act.

Agenda Item No.15

Annual Audit Report for the year 1999-2000.

The Commission noted the Annual Audit Report for the year 1999-2000 and approved its incorporation in the Annual Report.

Agenda Item No.16

Annual Report for the year 2000-2001.

The Commission noted and approved the annual accounts for the year 2000-2001 as recommended by the Budget Screening Committee.

Agenda Item No.17

Problems relating to Women in Tribal Areas - Organisation of 4 Regional Workshops and one National Workshop.

The Commission approved the holding of Regional Workshops (3 or 4 - exact number to be decided) and one National Workshop.

It was felt that the following issues could be included for discussion in the Workshops :

- | | | |
|------|---|--------------|
| i) | Customary Laws. | } In each |
| ii) | Differences between tribals of notified and denotified area | } case, the |
| iii) | Effect of general development of tribal areas. | } focus will |

12/10/00

- iv) Problems faced by tribals with Law Enforcement } be on tribal Agencies, i.e. Forest Guards, the Mafia, Contractors, etc. } WOMEN

At this point, Member (V.Daksh) intervened to raise objection that the four Regional and one National Workshops held on Law Enforcing Agencies has not been placed before the Commission for approval and that their being held was a manifestation of favouritism in the Commission. She was informed that the Commission had after discussion approved the holding of the workshops in its November, 2000 meeting, however, the budget was not formally approved though it was approved by the Chairperson. The Regional Workshops' report was circulated and Members had attended some of the workshops. The reports of the Regional Workshops were approved in the last meeting of the Commission held in May, 2001.

Agenda Item No.18

Issue of Press Releases for wide publicity.

The Commission approved greater publicisation of its actions/programmes. It was decided that a Press Release may be issued once a month. Members would give inputs for the Press Release and deposit them in a 'News Box', which would be placed in the room of PS to CP. Suggestions in the Box would be retrieved every Friday afternoon for review by the Chairperson. All Members' releases would be issued under the signature of CP and she would be the sole Spokesperson.

Agenda Item No.19.

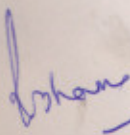
Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

- (1) **Proposal to hold a seminar on Impact of Globalisation on Women in India and South Asia.**

Chairperson circulated a note on the proposal to hold a conference on the Impact of Globalisation on Women, which would be the over all broad theme. There would also be about 20 sub-themes, which were listed. The Commission approved the proposal.

The Commission also agreed that countries of South Asia would also be included. The UNDP had informally offered to host them and bear the costs of their travel and hospitality.

The date and venue would be decided in due course.



Members were asked to give suggestions on

- i) Sub-themes and any additional items under the umbrella of any sub-theme.
- ii) List of invitees with the number not exceeding 10 per Member.
- iii) Suggestions for the names of resource persons both for speaking and for preparing background papers.

2) Two day seminar on Status of Scheduled Caste Women after Fifty Years of Independence.

The proposal was circulated with the budget proposal of Rs.7.75 lacs. The proposal was noted and approved although the Chairperson clarified that

- (a) it was not to be confined to social status. The exact title and the sub-theme are yet to be crystalised.

The date could be decided subsequently.

3) Release of a Documentary entitled Women Breaking New Ground and release of NCW Publication titled - The Genesis and the Making of the NCW.

The Commission approved the release as above. It was proposed to have the film released by the Minister of Information & Broadcasting to be followed by a panel discussion and lunch. Suggestions for panelists were given as:

officers from I&B/Prasar Bharati, Shri Pawan Chopra, Secretary, I&B, Ms. Indu Jain, Ms. Shobhana Bharatia, Ms. Aparna Sen (film maker), Ms. Chokila Iyer, Foreign Secretary, Ms. Nandita Das, Actress, Shri Pawan Varma and Shri Vikram Seth. The date would be decided after obtaining the convenience of the Minister.

4) Compilation of 'Decade of Endeavour' Vol.II.

The Commission approved compilation of Vol.II of the Publication, which could cover all initiatives and interventions by the Commission till September, 2001, thus spanning almost a decade of the Commission's accomplishments.

Home

i) **Amendment to payment of Maternity Benefit Act.**

Member (P.Advani) mentioned a query, which shall be raised in a meeting that no Maternity Benefits, which are allowed for Medical Termination of pregnancy, illness out of such Termination of Pregnancy and to Tubectomy allowed under the Act should or should not be withheld beyond two living children.

The Commission did not offer any comments.

6) **Special seating arrangement for women in Transport Buses.**

The Commission approved that the following should be recommended to the Chief Minister, Delhi.

-) Provision for separate entry and separate exit for women.
- i) Modification to divide the bus into two separate portions, half for women and half for men.

The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

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