

MINUTES OF THE 39TH MEETING OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN  
HELD ON 30th MARCH, 1998

At the outset, Chairperson welcomed all Members and gave a brief on her visit to Bihar, Madurai, Dindigul and Trichy.

Chairperson talked of the conditions of Women and Children in the prison of Gaya. She brought a Chapati from Gaya prison which was like a papad and something which a child cannot eat, to illustrate the sort of food given to prisoners. She talked of the large number of children in prostitution in Gaya and wondered whether any organisation could take in 15-20 young girls who are children of prostitutes for education. Member Secretary promised to talk to Ramakrishna Ashram in Gwalior to consider this proposition.

Chairperson also briefed the Commission on her visit to Dindigul and how Chairperson and Mrs. Padma Seth constituted an inquiry committee into the police atrocities on the women of Gundupeth. She talked of the appearance of the district and police authorities in the enquiry into the Gundupeth incident. Then the agenda items were taken up for discussion.

ITEM NO.1 : Confirmation of the minutes of the 38th meeting.

Minutes of the 38th meeting of the Commission were confirmed.

ITEM NO.2 : Action taken report on the minutes of the last meeting.

Action taken report in respect of decisions taken at the 38th meeting of the Commission were noted.



Sub-section 5: it was decided that when Members go on tour to States meeting of Family Court Judges should be called.

Sub-section 6: it was agreed that a reference be made to the Government to make amendments in the Hindu Succession Act in the first instance and then consider filing of Public Interest litigation.

Sub-section 8: The Commission desired that Mr. Ramaiah, Legal Adviser may look into the discriminatory provisions in Section 156 and 157 (c) of Land Reforms Act of all States.

ITEM NO.3

The Commission desired that State Governments be requested to provide funds for setting up of libraries in the State Commission's for Women.

ITEM NO.4

Proposed increase in the emoluments of Consultant Counsellors was approved as contained in the agenda item.

ITEM NO.5

It was decided to print and distribute cards on 'Women's Rights' to police officials.

The Commission also desired that all officers/staff of the Commission be provided with Identity Cards.

ITEM NO.6

The Commission considered the agenda note and it was decided that State Commission's be requested to take up training



programmes and sensitisation of police officials of their state.

ITEM NO.7

The Commission was informed that a new Modem has been purchased and installed. Members desired that the E-Mail address be circulated again.

ITEM NO.8

A meeting to discuss ways and means of strengthening the National Commission for Women in appointment of Members be called. It was decided to call Ms Maja Daruwala, Ms Veena Majumdar and Ms. Lotika Sarkar.

ITEM NO.9

The procedure being adopted in the Complaints Cell for disposal of complaints was discussed. It was decided that as soon as a complaint is received an acknowledgement should be sent to the complainant. It was mentioned that Mr. Ravindra has been asked to draft an acknowledgement and show to Chairperson. He may now be addressed in this regard and directed to put up the draft acknowledgement to the Chairperson. So far as issuing of summons is concerned, format of the summons should be drawn up by the Member Secretary. In future, all summons will be issued by the Legal Officer after approval of Members/ Member Secretary/ Adviser (PS) or Chairperson.

ITEM NO.10

It was decided that a letter be sent to the Ministry of External Affairs for special status for National Commission for Women in the United Nations.



ITEM NO.11

The Commission directed that Shri H.D.Pillai may offered contractual appointment as Investigating Authority, investigation into the complaints received by the National Commission for Women. He may be appointed on contract on a monthly remuneration of Rs.8000.

Member Secretary would discuss terms and conditions with him and was empowered to fix the fee upto Rs.10,000.

ITEM NO 12

The Commission took note of the status of various studies sponsored by the Commission during the last 2 years. It decided that a letter should go to 'Santek' consultants to submit the report.

Regarding the study mentioned at Sl.No.14 of the agenda item, Commission directed that Joint Women's Programme, Manipal be directed to send their report, immediately.

At Sl.No.9 the Study on Child Prostitution and Trafficking, it was informed that the report is perhaps near completion. Further, Chairperson took up the question of availability of copies of reports of special studies in the Commission. It was pointed out that copies are available and when required more copies are photo copied and made available. However, it was decided that 10 copies of each report on special studies should be available in the Library at all points of time.

Study at Sl.No.16 - it was directed that Prof.Susheela Kaushik be reminded that her report is due on 17th of April.



The Commission took note of the fact that a large number of reports have been received. However, no action has so far been taken. It was, therefore, decided that at the first instance the Under Secretary will go through all the reports which have been received and highlight the recommendations. It would then be placed before a Committee and thereafter recommendations would be sent to the Central and State Governments for implementation.

ITEM NO 13

The proposal was approved.

ITEM NO.14

The Commission approved the expenses on stay and the dues of air fare on the Chairperson's visit to Bangladesh between 26th February to 1st March.

ITEM NO.15

It was decided to nominate Consultant Radhey Nag and Under Secretary to participate in the seminar to be held on 3rd April, 1998 on 5th Pay Commission's Recommendations being organised by Women's Rights Group, New Delhi.

ITEM NO.17

The Commission approved the appointment of Shri Sethi as consultant for the SAARC Conference upto 31st July, 1998. It was decided by the Commission that he may be paid fixed honorarium as per the practice in the Commission equivalent to the post from which he had retired.

Thereafter, the additional agenda items were taken up for discussion.



Item No.1 of Supplementary agenda was approved.

Item No.2 of the Supplementary agenda - Project proposal was approved. It was also concurred that Shri Pillai who joins as Investigating Authority be made incharge of this project as proposed in para 8 of the agenda note.

Item No.3 - The Commission approved the draft Annual Report for 1995-96. The Legal Unit and Complaints Cell, were directed to submit their information for the report for 1996 by the 13th of April. Complaints Cell will submit its report by the 1st of April.

The Commission also directed that the Annual Report 1997-98 be also finalised by June 1998. It was also decided that Shri Madan may be given additional work of helping in collecting and putting together the material for 1997-98 Report.

The Commission discussed the visits to States of Sikkim and Madhya Pradesh. It was decided that apart from Chairperson, Adviser(PS) and Member Secretary and Members of the Commission Under Secretary and one Consultant would accompany the Commission to Sikkim.

A meeting of NGO's be called for discussing the availability of micro credit for women who have suffered violence and abuse due to dowry or any other reason.

It was decided to write to the Ministry of Rural Development and to State Governments that DWCRA groups should be given legal literacy and should focus on sanitation, health and nutritional aspects also. The DWCRA groups should also travel to other States to learn from each others experiences.

Chairperson desired that a letter be addressed to the

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Prime Minister with a copy to Minister for Human Resource Development, Home Minister and Law Minister highlighting the proposed amendments to various Acts and the new Bills prepared by National Commission for Women which have been forwarded to the Government and have not yet been approved.

The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

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