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AGENDA TOGETHER WITH THE AGENDA-NOTES FOR THE THIRD
MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN TO BE
HELD ON THE 8TH JULY, 1992

Item No.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting.

Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting is solicited.

Item No.2: To take note of the Gazette Notification relating to the National Commission for Women (Allowances payable to co-opted Members) Rules, 1992.

A copy of the Gazette Notification dated the 21st February, 1992 is annexed (Annexure-I). ✓
These rules regulate the allowances payable to co-opted members for attending meetings of Committees.

Item No.3: To take note of the appointment of Ms. Annie Prasad as Member Secretary to the Commission and appreciation of the services of Ms. Uma Pillai, outgoing Member-Secretary

A copy of the Gazette Notification dated the 29th May, 1992 regarding the appointment of Ms. Annie Prasad as Member Secretary is annexed (Annexure-II). The outgoing Member-Secretary, Ms. Uma Pillai, rendered valuable services to the Commission during the critical period of initial 4 months after the setting up of the Commission. The Commission may consider placing on record their appreciation of the commendable work done by Ms. Uma Pillai.

Item No.4: Action-Taken on the decisions taken at previous meeting.

- (i) Suggestion to amend the relevant rule that the meetings of the Commission may be held bi-monthly instead of every month.

It was decided that the status quo should be maintained and as such rules were not amended.

- (ii) Question of according status to Chairperson and Members of the Commission.

This is being pursued with the Government.

- (iii) Formal proposal for sanctioning 4 more members for the Commission.

The proposal stands referred to Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) and presently under their consideration.

- (iv) Appointment of the Commissioner for Women's Rights - Reference from the Department of Women and Child Development.

A communication has been sent to the Department of Women & Child Development seeking clarification on various points concerning the proposal.

- (v) Setting up of Committees, coopting experts for the Committees, setting up of Advisory Councils - Guidelines of the subject.

Action has been initiated to constitute the undermentioned Committees :-

- (a) Committees to study "Guardianship laws" and "Custody and Maintenance". Ms. Padma Seth will be associated with this Committee.

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- (b) Committee to study "Child rape"- Ms. Monika Das will be associated with this Committee.
 - (c) Committee to study "Women undertrials" - Ms. B.Senapati and Ms. Ganga Potai will be associated with this Committee.
 - (d) Committee to study "Economic Status vis-a-vis status of women - Ms. Subhashini Ali will be associated with this Committee.
- (vi) The Commission to approach the Information & Broadcasting Ministry and the Ministry of Human Resource Development for media/communication facilities.

A proposal for setting up of a multi-media unit in the Commission itself was under consideration. This proposal has recently been dropped and consequently, a reference to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Ministry of HRD will be made shortly.

Item No. 5 Recruitment in respect of officers and staff of the Commission.

It is learnt that the problems regarding posting of Government personnel in National Commission for Women are being sorted out by the Department of Women & Child Development and staff may be available in the near future. Meanwhile, ad-hoc arrangements are being continued to maintain a skeleton staff for urgent work.

Item No. 6: Annual Report and audit report to be laid before Parliament.

In view of the provisions of Section 13 and Section 14 of National Commission for Women Act and the draft National Commission for Women (Finance, Accounts and Audit) Rules, the Annual Report together with Audit Report for the year 1991-92 is to be sent to the Central Government (Department of Women & Child Development) in July

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1993. The Annual Report and Audit Report for year 1992-93 will be due for sending to Government in 1994. the Commission may like to consider the of material for Annual Report 1991-92 and Pl Action for 1992-93.

Item No 7: Ms. Veena Verma Private Member's Bill, 1988 titled "The Married Women (Protective rights) Bill, 1988" introduced in Parliament in March, 1989.

Ms. Veena Verma has approached Commission with a request for supporting the Bill and when a reference is made by the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the Commission's comments on the Bill. The Bill seeks to give a married woman equal share/rights to all the properties acquired by the family after the marriage. This is under consideration of the Commission. (Ann. VIII)

Item No.8: Mrs. Mary Roy's Wealth Tax case consideration of.

Ms. Mary Roy, a Syrian Christian, had earlier approached the Commission for taking up her case relating to harassment by the Wealth Tax Office and her representation was forwarded to the Ministry of Finance for sympathetic consideration. In the present reference Ms. Roy has requested the Commission to intervene in the matter and to implead itself in her proposed petition before the Chairman, Central

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Board of Direct Taxes against the demand note of the Wealth Tax Officer. This is for consideration of the Commission.

Item No.9: Categories of isolated posts required to be created taking into account the priority and thrust areas to be identified - Members' suggestions regarding the categories of posts needed.

The list appended at Annexure- (11) may be considered.

✓ Item No.10 Flow of expenditure vis-a-vis Budgetary provision.

For 1992-93, we have received the first instalment of grants in aid amounting to Rs.16.70 lakhs from the Department of Women & Child Development. The unspent balance from 1991-92 was Rs.10.14 lakhs. Against the total amount of Rs.26.84 lakhs, we have so far incurred an expenditure of Rs.16.94 lakhs. We have already written to the Department of Women and Child Development for the release of the 2nd instalment of the grants.

Item No.11 Requirement of additional space for the NCW in the first floor of the building - execution of the revised lease-deed for the purpose.

It is foreseen that the Commission would require additional space when the 23 sanctioned posts

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and isolated posts vide item No. 9 and filled in. This apart, we have space for a conference room, monitor (computer installed), a media cell, a We have, therefore, secured allotment on the 1st floor of ICCW Building. completed, we will get the chambers 1st floor.

Item No.12: Setting up a Complaint Commission.

In order to deal with the flood of complaints received from women's or individuals, a special cell may be set up. Suggestions on the subject from Members discussed by the Commission before final decision is taken.

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Item No.13: State Level Commissions being set-up by State Governments

The State Government of West Bengal and Kerala are considering the setting up of State Level Commissions for Women. The Bills relating to these State Commissions, are appended (Annexure-IV) for information of the Members. The implications of the constitution of State Level Commissions, relationship of NCW with such Commissions and other related matters may be considered by the Commission.

Item No.14: Registration of voluntary bodies working for women, with NCW

In the Bill for setting up the Kerala Women's Commission, there is a provision to register women's (voluntary) organisations. Since NCW does not have State level offices or other field agencies, the involvement of voluntary organisations will provide the Commission with a network to reach out to far-flung areas of the country. The Commission may consider whether registration of V.Os. should be taken up by NCW.

Item No.15: Reference received from Govt. regarding Petition by MPs to the Speaker of Lok Sabha regarding the reported sale of minor girls

The reference from Government and copy of petition are appended Annexure-V for information. One made by Smt. Shyamala Pappalu an Advocate, is to amend the penal laws to make sale or any mode of removing minor children from the custody of

parents/guardian to be punishable and to pl
loopholes in the relevant laws. A note in the
is added to Annexure- VI. There is also another
of view that this matter should be dealt with
Minorities Commission (since the matter pe
mainly to children of a minority community).

The Commission may consider the re
be sent to the Government on the reference recei

Item No.16: Notes prepared by Members for
placed before the Commission.

Notes received from the Member
appended at Annexure- VII for consideration o
Commission.

Item No.17: Any other items with the permissi
the Chairperson.