Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission held on 17th & 19th May, 1999

Date : 17.5.99 Time: 3.00 P.M. Venue: Chairperson's Chamber

1. At the outset Chairperson welcomed all present.

2. Before the formal agenda was taken up a few points were raised:

2.1 A letter appearing in Jansatta questioning the propriety of NCW's existence was discussed and it was felt that the only proper way of answering such press letters was to finalise the thrust areas of NCW for the year and then hold press meeting where the entire Commission is seen as a united force keen on the implementation in the thrust areas. Only a positive stance will give the correct signal to the press.

2.2 It was considered 'not necessary' to use a tape recorder to record the minutes.

2.3 It was also agreed that the system of addressing Members should be changed to include their complete surname such as Member (V.Daksh) etc.

3.0 Agenda Items were then discussed.

Confirmation of the minutes of the Commission's meeting dated 13th, 16th and 20th April, 1999

3.1 Member (P. Advani) offered to quickly read out the minutes.

3.2 In Item No.2 para 4 the words "a copy of this letter is enclosed at Annexure – A" will be replaced by "A copy of the letter dated 30.3.99 is enclosed as Annexure – A".

Bhaw

3.3 Regarding Paras 4.2.1 + 4.2.2 + 4.3.2

Members felt that everything said by them was not fully reflected in the minutes. Member (P.Advani) had also kept her own record of the discussion which ran into several pages compared to that record the minutes appeared very brief. At this point a discussion ensued whether the minutes should be in so much detail as to record everything said during the meeting or record only the gist. Once again the question of using a tape recorder or a stenographer for verbatim recording was discussed. However, it was agreed that, in general, minutes need not record the verbatim discussion and only gist would be adequate. Chairperson pointed out that while minuting the gist it may not always be possible to reflect the different shades of opinion given by Members. Similarly, although a stenographer may record the verbatim discussions but how to put it in a succinct and precise form will be beyond his capacity. As far as the present situation was concerned it was finally decided that everything as recorded by Member (P.Advani)on 13th April, 1999 will be incorporated as minutes after MS and CP have gone through them. Member (V. Daksh) also raised a point that the minutes were received very late, however, CP clarified that since the meetings on 13th, 16th and 20th had remained inconclusive it was not possible to issue the minutes then. The combined minutes were issued only after the meeting of the 20th was declared as over and remaining agenda items declared as "postponed for next meeting".

3.4 Regarding Point No.6.1

Following correction was introduced "Member (P. Advani) mentioned the problems of receipt and despatch of faxes and requested that one fax machine jointly for all Members may be purchased".

3.5 Regarding Point No.7.1.15

It was agreed to add the following "Member (P. Advani), Member (V. Daksh) and Member (S. Oram) did not agree with the idea of wall planner for tours".

Bhaw

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3.6 Regarding Point No.7.2.4 & 7.2.7

Member (S.S Hameed) and Member (V. Daksh) respectively would suggest some modifications.

3.7 Regarding Point 9.5

It was decided to add the following "Member (P.Advani) objected to the remarks made by Member-Secretary that Member (P.Advani)'s legal opinion was wrong".

4 The meeting proceeded till point No.9.7 and was adjourned for 19.5.99 at 5.00 PM as the Chairperson had to leave to attend some other urgent work.

Date: 19.5.99 **Venue: Chairperson's Chamber**

5. The sitting of the meeting began at 4.10 P.M.

6. **Agenda Item No.1**

Confirmation of the minutes of the Commission's meeting dated 13th, 16th & 20th April, 99

The minutes of the meeting were approved with the following modifications:-

(i) In para 9.10, the words graceless discussion would be replaced by the words graceless decision.

(ii) In para 9.12 after the statement that CP did not see any reason for a change in the status quo, would be

added that Member (P. Advani) was asked for her legal view.

(iii) In para 9.13, the words "Member (S.S Hameed) said" would be replaced by "Member (S.Oram) said".

(iv) It was said that the sitting of the Commission on 23rd April, 99 was a continuation of the Commission's meeting with its sitting on 13th, 16th and 20th. Thus, after para 9.17 it would be mentioned that CP called meeting on 23rd April, 99. The meeting was scheduled for 10 A.M but the meeting started at 10.40 A.M. after arrival of all Members. All Members were under the impression that the meeting was scheduled for 10.30 A.M. The meeting lasted 15 minutes, which was attended by Members and MS, MS had to leave for a meeting fixed earlier in the DOP&T. No discussions were held.

Consequently, the heading would read as Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 13th, 16th, 20th and 23rd April, 99.

(v) Para 7.2.7 would be deleted

(vi) First line in para 7.2.4 would be replaced by;

Member (S.S Hameed) stated that she felt constrained to say that she had not been able to do full justice to the mandate given to her under the NCW Act.

R Bhoom

(vii) The notes of Member (P. Advani) would form part of the minutes and are would be included as annexure, as and when received.

After discussion it was decided that from now on minutes would mention only what was discussed and the decision taken on each of the agenda items where necessary a few lines of explanation would be added. Dissenting notes would also form part of the minutes.

Member (V. Daksh) again raised the issue of the presence of officers in the meeting and suggested that a policy should be decided on whether or not officers should be present in the Commission's meeting. CP said that she had considered this point every time it has been brought up and consulted others also and was of the firm opinion that the presence of officers was necessary. So it was her decision that officers will continue to be present in the Commission meetings. She added that this be done for the next 2 months and then reviewed. Member (V. Daksh) said that if it was her decision then they would not discuss this any further and go by her decision. At this point JS requested to be excused and CP permitted her to leave.

CP suggested that since several agenda items were pending, it may be decided as to which could be completed by circulation and which could be taken up now for discussion and decision taken. The following were then taken up.

R Bhamo

10. Agenda Item No. 2

Powers of the Commission - outcome of discussions with prominent women activists on 17.3.99

Only the letter of Prof.Lotika Sarkar and Dr.Brinda Karat had been discussed in the earlier meeting, the letter of Shri Rakesh Prasad containing his legal opinion on the same issue was for discussion,. It was decided that Members would continue discussion on the issue after examining the opinion of Shri Rakesh Prasad.

11. **Agenda Item No.4**

Sale of girls - Kadiri, Andhra Pradesh

It was mentioned that sale of girls is being reported from several places including Tonk, Kadiri, Eluru etc. It was decided that since the Commission cannot reach each and every part of the country, the Commission would take up this issue at Eluru only, for the time being and evaluate the progress in a year or so. Member (I,Basavaraj) would undertake this responsibility.

12. Agenda Items 5 and 10 being on the same issue were taken up together.

Agenda Item No:5

Issue of female infanticide

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R Bhoma

Agenda Item No.10

Representation of Naari Astitwa B achhao Andholan

It was decided to lanuch a campaign for awareness, for which Member (V. Daksh) would be in-charge. For the time being the case at Dharmapuri was to be a shelved. While undertaking awareness camps Member (V. Daksh) could obtain feed back from other areas, for example, Sitamarhi, Kheda, Dharmapuri etc.

13. **Agenda Item No.6**

Functioning of legal unit pending the culmination of the SIU report

Member (P. Advani) had sent a note for a Stenographer and a Peon for the legal unit. The Commission was informed that the appointment of a consultant to work as a Law officer has been approved. Orders would be issued shortly. Administration would try and select somebody from the existing staff to be posted in the legal unit who can type directly on to the computer as no additional stenographer is available in the Commission.

Regarding utilisation of Shri Chander Kumar, Sr. P.A, Members were informed that he cannot be absorbed against a regular post as there is no vacancy. He is presently working against a leave vacancy. Member (V.Daksh) and Member (S.S. Hameed) felt that he was not upto the mark. The

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Commission decided that he should be relieved as soon as Shri M.S Viswanathan, Sr. PA rejoins back after availing his leave.

14. **Agenda Item No.7**

Regularisation of staff falling in temporary category

The Commission was informed that a proposal for regularisation o staff granted temporary status was sent to the Government last yea which is pending with the Central Govt. The note on this would b submitted to the Commission.

15. **Agenda Item No.9**

Functioning of Library

It was decided that Smt. Renu Ahuja who is presently looking afte the work of the Library can be asked for a list of books and to ma available any specific book from the list as desired by any Membe She has been supplying lists as when asked for by Members & Officers.

16. **Agenda Item No.11**

Visiting/inspection of female police station/jail

The proposal of Member (V.Daksh) to include such visits in their programmes, was accepted. Past practice has also been of Membe and CP visiting places of custody and institutions while on tours.

17. **Agenda Item No.13**

Report received from Forum for Mental Health Movement for approval of the Commission

The Commission found the report very good and agreed to forward it to the Government for implementing its recommendations.

18. **Agenda Item No.14**

Report on participation of women on Panchayat Raj in India for consideration and approval of the Commission

It was only partly discussed as the report had not been examined by most Members. It was suggested that the report be released at a function and a few Sarpanches could be invited for the same. It was decided that Member (S.S.Hameed) and Member (I.Basavaraj)) would give a note for a programme in accordance with this suggestion.

19. **Agenda Item No.15**

Plan of Action for Rehabilitation of widows of Vrindavan

The Plan of Action was agreed to. It was decided to send the Commission's acceptance to the Department of WCD.

20. Discussions on the other Agenda Items was postponed. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Commission on 9th June,

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1999 at 10.00 A.M. It was also decided that Members may keep th entire day of the 9th and also 10th June, 1999 without any engagements so as to complete the discussion on agenda items.

20. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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List of those present at the Commission meeting held on 17th & 19th May, 1999

S.No.	Name	
1.	Mrs.. Vibha Parthasarathi	in the Chair
2.	Dr.(Mrs.) Indira Basavaraj	Member
3.	Dr.(Mrs.) Syeda S. Hameed	Member
4.	Mrs. Vijay Daksh	Member
5.	Dr. Poornima Advani	Member
6.	Mrs. Binoo Sen	Member Secretary
7.	Mrs. Leena Mehendale	Joint Secretary*
8.	Ms. R. Bhama	Deputy Secretary**

* was present only for a short while for the sitting on 19.5.99.

** was not present at the sitting held on 17.5.99

R Bhama