

No.F.3-3/87-WW(Pt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Women & Child Development

Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

Dated: 06 May, 1988.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- Meeting of the National Committee on Women under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister.

This is in continuation of our earlier circular of even number dated 27th April 1988 regarding the first Meeting of the National Committee on Women which is to be held on 17th May 1988 at 12 noon in room no. 155, South Block under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

2. Agenda Note for the discussion in the meeting is enclosed herewith.
3. The subjects mentioned by you have been included as Agenda items. If you would like a detailed note circulated on your subject, kindly send it to us before the meeting.



(C.P. Sujaya)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All the Members of the National Committee.

Copy to:

1. Secretary to the Prime Minister.(Smt. Serla Grewal) along with a copy of D.N.P.P.W also
2. P.S. to Minister of Human Resource Development.
(alongwith a copy of D.N.P.P.W also)
3. P.S. to MOS(WY) (alongwith a copy of D.N.P.P.W.also.)
4. P.S. to Secretary(WCD) (alongwith a copy of D.N.P.P.also.)

AGENDA NOTE

The primary purpose of planned development for women is to ensure their active economic participation in the development process, their integration in the mainstream of the economy with equity and social justice. Women, therefore, have to be looked upon as producers and participants and not only as recipients or consumers. One of the major in-built biases in our society has been the discrimination against women on the basis of their sex.

2. While there have been advances in the status of women in the country in the last few years, the fact still remains that women continue to occupy a lower status in society compared to that of men, and this is due to a number of social, economic, cultural and religious factors.

3. The primary purpose, therefore, of setting up the National Committee on Women under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister is to advise the Government on the measures to be taken to accelerate the involvement of women in the development process and to ensure for them the status envisaged in the Constitution of India through appropriate policy interventions and action programmes.

4. Keeping in mind the growing realisation that a lot more needs to be done in the development sector for women in this country, a Core Group was set up to prepare a National Perspective Plan for Women upto the year 2,000. This Group has recently finalised the draft Plan Document.

This Document has been circulated to the Members of the National Committee. The general recommendations are at pages 57 to 60 of the draft Plan Document and the specific sectorwise recommendations from pages 62 to 81 of the same document. A discussion on the Plan is Proposed at the meeting. The objective in discussing these recommendations is to enable the formulation of a national policy with specific suggestions for increasing the participation of women in development.

5. In addition to this, Members of the Committee have been asked to submit topics for discussion for the meeting of the National Committee. A statement indicating the names of the Members and the suggestions made by them is enclosed.

No.	NAME OF THE MEMBER	SUGGESTIONS
1.	Ms. Shiela Barse	1. Education and the Girl Child 2. Police and women
2.	Ms. Sivasankari	1. Setting up of "partially paid dormitory homes" for retired single women. 2. Inculcation of self-confidence in women through special classes at the school and college levels.
3.	Ms. Archana Sharma	1. Use of technological innovations for lessening the workload of women at home, in the fields and in the labour force. 2. Enlarged participation by women in science and technology careers.
4.	Ms. Sarojini Varadappan	1. More poverty alleviation schemes for women in rural areas. 2. Greater involvement of voluntary women's organisations which should be properly trained to take up local leadership.
5.	Ms. Nirmala Deshpande	1. Problems of SC & ST women specially of the working class. 2. Problems of Muslim women should be given priority.
6.	Ms. Amarjeet Kaur	1. Self-employment schemes for women in rural areas.
7.	Ms. Jaya Arunachalam	1. New effective delivery mechanisms for distributive justice to the poor at the grass root levels. 2. Major portion of plans should be implemented through NGOs. 3. Integrated approach to health problems is required because health problems cannot be tackled in isolation. 4. The enforcement machinery for social legislation needs to be strengthened.

5. Women's child bearing role should be considered a social responsibility and greater social security and maternity benefits should be provided.
6. The female child needs more attention.
7. Social evils such as dowry, etc. have increased because clear cut priority rights for women do not exist. Special cells to deal with dowry cases in each police station should be set up and special ordinances to ensure property rights for women should be considered.
8. The new education policy should prepare women for getting jobs.
9. Research on women issues and systematic study of these is a major missing link and women's studies departments should be created in all universities.
10. The workers in the unorganised sector remain invisible and are exploited. Therefore, special enforcement machinery to enforce labour legislation for women should be set up.

8. Dr. Philomena Reddy

1. Education of women regarding their rights and responsibilities.
2. District level counselling for women.
3. Integrated training of rural adolescent girls for better family life.

9. Mrs. Aloka Mitra

1. Monitoring of current programmes for women's development.
2. Developing strategies for implementation of policies and integrated programmes for women.
3. Participation of women in planning and implementation.

10. Mrs. Ela R. Bhatt

1. Asset building for poor women.
2. Police atrocities on innocent women.

11. Smt. Sasmeeta Srivastava
1. New strategies which are pragmatic and sensitive to women's needs must be devised.
 2. All existing statutory laws and administrative regulations should be reviewed with a view to simplifying them and making them more relevant.
 3. Simple accounting, reporting, auditing and evaluating systems must be devised for voluntary organisations.