

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Subject :- Minutes of the Meeting of the National Advisory Council (NAC) held on 25th June, 2005 at New Delhi.

The Fourteenth Meeting of the NAC was chaired by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on Saturday, 25th June, 2005. The following Members of the Council were present :-

- (i) Prof. CH. Hanumantha Rao
- (ii) Shri Jairam Ramesh
- (iii) Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan
- (iv) Dr. V. Krishnamurthy
- (v) Dr. Madhav Chavan
- (vi) Dr. A.K. Shiva Kumar
- (vii) Dr. D. Swaminadhan
- (viii) Dr. N.C. Saxena
- (ix) Smt. Aruna Roy
- (x) Ms. Sehba Hussain
- (xi) Prof. Mrinal Miri

2. Shri Arun Bhatnagar, Secretary, Shri Pulok Chatterji, Joint Secretary, Smt. Jayanti S. Ravi, Deputy Secretary and Shri Dhiraj Srivastava, OSD were also present.

3. The minutes of the Meeting held on 7th May, 2005 were confirmed.

4. The deliberations commenced with a Presentation on Modernization of the Land Administration and the establishment of Clear Land Titles,

including the Computerisation of Revenue Records. This intervention would make the land records and registration data available on Websites. At the same time, the proposed transfer of the subjects of Registration and Stamps from the Finance to the Rural Development Department would enable the States to legalize "computerized" land records and strengthen the Survey and Settlement operations. The setting up of State level Training Institutes, the preparation and updating of land records through modern technological processes, the provision of kiosks on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis to view and take print-outs of Land Records, Road Maps for the conversion of presumptive titles to conclusive titles and Social Audits to randomly check the quality of land records across States and Districts would be amongst the steps to be taken in this direction.

5. It was felt that common IT architecture could be provided by the Government of India to facilitate the individual e-Governance programmes of the Line Departments. Based on the discussions, it was agreed that a National Programme to effectively modernize the Land Administration (covering the Computerization of Land Records, Survey and Settlement and the establishment of clear Land Titles) should be recommended to the Government of India. A Model Law in respect of Land Revenue Management could also be formulated for the States.

6. It was further agreed that the draft of an Unorganized Sector Workers' Social Security Bill that seeks to comprehensively address the issues relating to Social Security (as distinct from those of income and employment security and workers' rights which are proposed to be taken up separately) may be forwarded to the Government of India; the draft Bill would be posted on the website of the Ministry of Labour and Employment to ensure wider discussion and consultation.

7. The wide-ranging subject of Judicial Reforms was next discussed in the context of some of the key issues in this area on which a Presentation was made, including in regard to Fast Track Courts, Local Courts and an All India Judicial Service. It was agreed that the creation of an All India Judicial Service may be recommended to the Government of India and a draft Local Courts Bill forwarded for further examination in the Ministry of Law and Justice.

8. In regard to Governance issues and the systemic bottlenecks noticed in the case of the ICDS, it was indicated that appropriate recommendations may be formulated in this behalf, including on "parallel processing" of Social Sector proposals and "advance action" in the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in relation to such proposals.

9. It was recalled that the Right to Information Bill had recently been enacted and that the requisite Rules would now need to be drafted early.

10. The next Meeting of the NAC was scheduled for Saturday, 30th July, 2005.

The Meeting concluded with thanks to the Chair.
