



DHIRAJ SRIVASTAVA
Officer on Special Duty

सत्यमेव जयते

No. 6001/D/OSD/NAC/2005

भारत सरकार

राष्ट्रीय सलाहकार परिषद

नई दिल्ली

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

NEW DELHI

August 4, 2005

Respected Aruna ji

Please find enclosed Minutes of the Fifteenth Meeting of the National Advisory Council held on 30th July, 2005 for perusal.

Yours sincerely,

(DHIRAJ SRIVASTAVA)

Encl: as above

Smt. Aruna Roy
Member, National Advisory Council,
278 (SFS) DDA Flats
Hauz Khas,
New Delhi.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Subject :- Minutes of the Meeting of the National Advisory Council (NAC) held on Saturday, 30th July, 2005 at New Delhi.

The Fifteenth Meeting of the NAC was chaired by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on Saturday, 30th July, 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. D. Swaminadhan
- (vii) Dr. N.C. Saxena
- (viii) Smt. Aruna Roy
- (ix) Ms. Sehba Hussain
- (x) Prof. Mrinal Miri

2. Shri Arun Bhatnagar, Secretary, Shri Pulok Chatterji, Additional Secretary and Shri Dhiraj Srivastava, OSD were also present.

3. The minutes of the Meeting held on 25th June, 2005 were confirmed.

4. The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission made a Presentation on the goals of the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation sector. It was pointed out that the status of coverage of Habitations was

revisited in 2003 and the findings were being validated. A major concern has been the over-exploitation of ground water sources which has aggravated the problems of water quality in many areas and resulted in seasonal shortages. It was pointed out that effective convergence of efforts of the concerned Departments and the active involvement of the Panchayati Raj and Community organizations is required for the sustainability of rural water sources and systems.

5. Rural Water Supply is one of the components of the Bharat Nirman Programme under which the remaining "uncovered" Habitations would be covered and the problem of water contamination tackled through treatment technologies and alternate safe sources. At the same time, the low and unequal coverage of Sanitation in the country remains an overriding concern which can be addressed through proper funding of the available technologies. It was indicated in the Council that :-

- (i) There is **immediate** need for a vastly expanded Rural Sanitation Programme all over the country,
- (ii) It is also necessary to complete coverage in all the "Uncovered" Habitations in the next four years,
- (iii) The National Programme for the restoration of local and traditional Water Bodies is extremely important from the point of view of enhancing Rural Water Supply.

6. The Presentation made in regard to Water Supply in the Urban Areas by the Ministry of Urban Development showed that losses and wastage are extremely high in the existing Water Supply Systems and that high priority needs to be directed towards efficient management of the Water Utilities, administrative and structural improvements, appropriate tariff levels and additional storage and to measures like

rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge of ground water and recycling of waste water. In this context, the NAC emphasized :-

- (i) The need for a significantly enhanced Programme for Sewage Control and Sanitation,
- (ii) A sharper focus on Urban Water Supply and Sanitation as part of the National Urban Renewal Mission,
- (iii) Public-Private Partnerships may be considered for implementation only after due processes of consultation, in an environment of transparency, and with adequate accountability safeguards.

7. It was agreed that a further Consultation may be arranged on the key issues identified in respect of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation which would be taken up with the Government of India.

8. The Item relating to Regeneration of Wastelands was deferred for consideration in the next Meeting of the Council.

9. A Presentation was made by the Planning Commission on the findings of the recently-completed 'Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan' in which attention was drawn to the strengths and weaknesses of the economy and the need for remedial steps in several areas. It was recognized that focussed attention on Health and Education is imperative for sustainable long-term growth. Policy interventions that need to be considered in Agriculture, in the Social Sectors and in Infrastructure were discussed.

10. The next Meeting of the NAC was scheduled for Friday, 26th August, 2005.

The Meeting concluded with thanks to the Chair.