



सत्यमेव जयते

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15th March, 2005

Please find attached the Agenda for the Twelfth Meeting of the National Advisory Council to be held on Saturday, 2nd April 2005 and Minutes of the NAC Meeting held on 5th March, 2005.

(Jayanti S. Ravi)

Encl: as above

Smt. Aruna Roy
278 (SFS) DDA Flats
Hauz Khas,
New Delhi.

(v) Draft National Environment Policy.

- (12.45 p.m. – 1.15 p.m.)

(vi) Any other Item(s) with the permission of the Chairperson.

(vi) Issue of Press Release.

- (1.25 p.m.)

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Agenda for the Twelfth Meeting of the National Advisory Council (NAC)
to be held on Saturday, 2nd April, 2005 at 2, Motilal Nehru Place,
New Delhi.**

- (i) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of the NAC held on 5th March, 2005.
- (9.00 a.m. – 9.05 a.m.)
- (ii) Consideration of Papers on Decentralization, as follows :-
 - (a) Panchayati Raj, including Information Technology,
 - (b) FCRA related issues,
 - (c) Constitutional Status to Cooperatives.- (9.05 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.)
- (iii) Further discussion on “Unorganized Sector Workers’ Bill” and Social Security in the Unorganized Sector.
- (11.00 a.m. – 12.00 Noon)
- (iv) Generation of Employment Opportunities in the Urban Areas (National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganized/Informal Sector).
- (12.00 Noon – 12.45 p.m.)
- (v) Draft National Environment Policy.
- (12.45 p.m. – 1.15 p.m.)
- (vi) Any other Item(s) with the permission of the Chairperson.
- (vi) Issue of Press Release.
- (1.25 p.m.)

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Subject :- Minutes of the Meeting of the National Advisory Council (NAC) held on 5th March, 2005 at New Delhi.

The Eleventh Meeting of the NAC was chaired by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on Saturday, 5th March, 2005 when the following Members of the Council were present :-

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

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

3. The minutes of the Meeting held on 5th February, 2005 were confirmed.

4. The discussions commenced with consideration of the issues pertaining to Decentralization, in the backdrop of the deliberations of the Consultation

on the subject held on 4th March, 2005 when suggestions were, *inter alia*, offered in regard to the Central and State Finance Commissions, the need for accountability in relation to procedures and processes and amendments to Article 19(1) of the Constitution in respect of Cooperatives.

5. It was noted that being a wide-ranging subject, Decentralization encompasses various sectors and areas involving several implications in view of which its various components may be segregated in rational parts so as to formulate draft Recommendations before the forthcoming Meeting of the National Development Council. After further consideration, it was agreed to set up a Sub-group of NAC members (with Dr. N.C. Saxena as Convenor) to prepare a Paper on matters relating to Panchayats, including ICT interventions, in order to promote improvements in local governance. Similarly, separate Sub-groups on changes which may be proposed in respect of the FCRA procedures and in regard to the Cooperative Sector would be coordinated by Dr. A.K. Shiva Kumar and Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan respectively. Copies of communications addressed by the then Leader of the Opposition in Parliament in June, 2000 and December, 2003 (alongwith copy of a Note) would also be circulated to the NAC Members.

6. Discussions next took place on the draft National Environment Policy and information was provided regarding the Consultation arranged on the same in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. It was pointed out that since the participatory approach in policy formulation needed to be strengthened, it may be useful to **informally** convene an interaction between the Members of the NAC, representatives of the Voluntary Sector and officials of the Ministry, prior to which the latter may be approached for comments and clarifications on "core issues" such as the following :-

- (a) The specific role and responsibilities of Panchayats and Local Government Institutions in this behalf,
- (b) Gender related issues in the context of the draft Environment Policy,
- (c) Various concerns pertaining to dilution of Regulations for environment clearances,
- (d) Matters connected with the welfare of tribal and other communities dependent on forests and forest produce.

7. It was agreed that a Sub-group comprising Smt. Aruna Roy, Dr. Jean Dreze, Shri Jairam Ramesh and Dr. N.C. Saxena would go into these (and other relevant) issues, keeping in view the perspectives and concerns of the Voluntary Sector.

8. The draft Unorganised Sector Workers' Bill was also discussed in the context, *inter alia*, of the recently-held Consultation which was chaired by the Minister of Labour and Employment who had indicated that a further Meeting would be arranged to facilitate the process of finalizing the provisions of the draft Bill. It was agreed that, in the intervening period, the comments/views of the NAC Members in this behalf may be **urgently** sought by the Council Secretariat.

9. A brief update was offered on the request (of the Government of Tamil Nadu) to employ the concept of Right to Information in the large-scale relief and rehabilitation measures being implemented following the Tsunami, as also in respect of the Health Mission whose contours are currently being determined.

The Meeting concluded with thanks to the Chair.
