

भारत सरकार

राष्ट्रीय सार्वजनिक परिवहन

नई दिल्ली

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
NEW DELHI

January 19, 2006

JAYANTI S. RAVI, IAS

Director



Please find attached the Agenda for the Twenty-Second Meeting of the National Advisory Council (NAC) to be held on Saturday, 18th February, 2006 and Minutes of the NAC Meeting held on 13th January, 2006.

Yours sincerely,

(Jayanti S. Ravi)

Encl: as above

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Agenda for the Twenty-Second Meeting of the National
Advisory Council (NAC) to be held on Saturday,
18th February, 2006 at 2, Motilal Nehru Place, New Delhi.

(i) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Twenty-First Meeting
of the NAC held on 13th January, 2006.
(9.00 a.m. – 9.05 a.m.)

(ii) Manufacturing Competitiveness – Progress of the work
done by the National Manufacturing Competitiveness
Council.
(9.05 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.)

(iii) Further discussion on "Right to Education" Bill, 2005.
(10.15 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.)

(iv) Further discussion on 'Regional Development and
Centre-State Relations'.
(11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.)

(v) Any other Item(s) with the permission of the Chairperson.
(1.00 p.m. – 1.15 p.m.)

(vi) Press Release.
(1.15 p.m.)

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Subject: Minutes of the Twenty-First Meeting of the National
Advisory Council (NAC) held on Friday, 13th January, 2006
at New Delhi.

The Twenty-First Meeting of the NAC was chaired by Smt. Sonia
Gandhi on Friday, 13th January, 2006 and was attended by the following
Members of the Council :-

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

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

3. The Minutes of the Twentieth Meeting held on 17th December,
2005 were confirmed.

4. The discussions began with a detailed Presentation on the
implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
(NREGA) in 200 districts in the country. In this connection, the
Operational Guidelines which are being finalized to bring about delivery-
oriented execution of the Programme and to better ensure that the Outlays
are transformed into actual Outcomes were reviewed. It was felt that the

process of wide-based discussions with Groups of Experts and NGOs and with the Ministry of Rural Development should continue and that financial mechanisms should now be in place in order that the Programme is efficiently executed in the different States and Districts. It was mentioned that the Government might consider a two-step approach (early February and early March, 2006) in regard to the launch of this critically-important Programme. Due note was taken of the specific suggestions offered by the Members of the Council who would remain associated with such further consultations as may take place from time to time.

5. Discussions were next held on matters concerning the Jarawa Tribe in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including the protection of their cultural identity and natural habitat and health status and of the regulation of traffic in the context, specifically, of the Andaman Trunk Road. It was agreed that the issues involved may first be gone into by a multi-disciplinary Group with which outside Experts and Specialists could usefully be associated.

6. A Presentation was also made on the areas of concern relating to Regional Development and Centre-State Relations and on the issues that have emerged, over the years, in respect of Plan Allocations and Central Government Assistance to the States and Union Territories. An Analysis of the causes underlying Regional Disparities and the difficulties of the less-developed States showed that Policy Measures needed to be introduced to accelerate growth, as also infrastructure and human development, on a more even basis. It was decided that the results of the Analysis may be studied further and shared with Experts, preferably before the next Meeting of the Council.

7. After a short Presentation on the Status of Education and Analyses (based on data from 28 States and Union Territories), it was noted that further discussion on the proposed "Right to Education" Bill would continue at an early date.

8. The Meeting concluded with thanks to the Chair.
