

● **RECORD OF THE DISCUSSION OF THE STATUTORY FULL COMMISSION (SFC) MEETING HELD AT 11AM ON 03.02.2015 IN THE NHRC CONFERENCE ROOM, MANAV ADHIKAR BHAWAN**

A meeting of the Statutory Full Commission (SFC) chaired by the Chairperson, NHRC, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan was held in the National Human Rights Commission at 11.00 AM on 03 February 2015. Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Justice Shri D. Murugesan, and Shri S C Sinha, Members, NHRC attended the Meeting.

Shri Naseem Ahmed, Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities (NCM), Shri P L Punia, Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), and Shri Ravi Thakur, Vice-Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) also participated in the Meeting.

Shri V S Oberoi, Chairperson, National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) attended the meeting as a Special Invitee. Shri Narendra Kumar, Deputy Secretary, National Commission for Women (NCW) also attended.

A list of participants is at Annexure.

The Chairperson, NHRC, Justice Shri K G Balakrishnan welcomed the Members of the Statutory Full Commission (SFC) to the meeting and stated that the NHRC considers these interactions between the Chairpersons of all National Commissions, very important. The SFC meetings provide an opportunity to National Commissions to not only discuss issues of mutual concern, but also devise measures for joint collaboration and action on various agenda and human rights concerns.

The Chairperson, NHRC added that despite the several limitations, the National Commissions have done excellent work in their respective areas for better human rights protection and promotion in the country. He also

suggested that the SFC must meet at least twice a year for more effective collaboration on issues of common concern.

**Agenda I: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Statutory Full Commission held on 04.02.2014**

The Minutes of the Statutory Full Commission meeting held on 04.02.2014 were approved and confirmed.

**Agenda II: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of the Meeting of the Statutory Full Commission held on 04.02.2014**

1. **Inter-linking the CMIS of the NHRC with the National Commissions**

Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities (NCM) stated that the NCM had some reservations with regard to the inter-linking of the CMIS, especially since all the National Commissions have different mandates as well as different approaches to handling complaints. However, the Chairperson, NCM acknowledged that the CMIS would be useful in segregating complaints which are sent by the aggrieved, simultaneously, to more than one Commission.

Chairperson, NCM added that the funds available to the NCM are barely enough to meet day-to-day expenses, especially with the recent 10 per cent government austerity cut, and added that the Secretary General of the NCM was skeptical about arranging funds for inter-linking of the CMIS.

Secretary General, NHRC requested the Chairperson, NCM to provide an estimate of the likely expenditure to be incurred on inter-linking of the CMIS and added that funding must not be allowed to become a hindrance in the

- inter-linking process. He further stated that the NHRC could consider taking up the inter-linking process as a central project, driven by the NHRC, India.

Member Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, NHRC stated that the practice in the Commission has been that if merely a copy of a complaint is marked to the Commission instead of being addressed to it, then the Commission does not take up the said case.

Chairperson, NCM stated that a similar practice is being followed by the NCM.

Member Justice Shri D Murugesan, NHRC stated that another pertinent problem is when the same complaint is marked individually to different National Commissions and is taken cognizance of by each of these Commissions. To avoid such overlap, the interlinking of the CMIS of all National Commissions is important. The NHRC has also started the process of interlinking the CMIS of the NHRC with the SHRCs.

Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) stated that even the NCSC felt that there would be no particular advantage in interlinking the CMIS of all National Commissions. He added that if the National Commissions could exchange lists of cases to cross check for an overlap in the cases being taken up by the Commissions, then there would not be a need for inter-linking the CMIS.

Member Shri S C Sinha, NHRC stated that once the interlinking of the CMIS is completed, National Commissions will not have to constantly cross-check with each other regarding common cases/complaints. Member Sinha added that the NHRC faces a far greater problem with SHRCs compared to other National Commissions, in respect of an overlap of cases.

Member Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, NHRC stated that issues which can be dealt by Specialised Commissions, often come to the NHRC, thus,

necessitating an interlinking of the CMIS. 30 per cent of the complaints from those belonging to the SC/ST communities for instance, are sent to the NHRC.

Secretary General, NHRC stated that it would be useful to have a meeting of the Secretaries of all National Commissions to discuss the issue as well as modalities of the inter-linking process. The deliberations during the said meeting and recommendations that emerge thereof, could subsequently be placed before the Statutory Full Commission for its consideration and necessary action.

**DECISION:** *It was decided that a meeting of the Secretaries of all National Commissions would be organized to discuss the issue of the inter-linking of the CMIS of the NHRC with other National Commissions.*

*The deliberations during the said meeting and recommendations that emerge thereof, will be placed before the Statutory Full Commission for its consideration and necessary action.*

## **2. Independence and autonomy of National Commissions**

Secretary General, NHRC stated that a meeting between the Chairpersons of all National Commissions and the Prime Minister must be organized, on priority.

Chairperson, NHRC, Justice Shri K G Balakrishnan said that there must be a concrete agenda which the Chairpersons may discuss with the Prime Minister.

Chairperson, NCSC stated that one of the key points on the agenda should be that the recommendations of the National Commissions must have some binding force and must be respected and implemented by concerned

- authorities. In addition, requirements for infrastructure and adequate funding etc. must also be taken up for discussion with the Prime Minister.

Vice Chairperson, NCST stated that there are currently, many posts lying vacant in the NCST, thus, leading to inordinate delays in the conclusion of cases. These vacancies must be filled up on priority. Vice Chairperson, NCST endorsed the view that recommendations of the National Commissions must have greater binding force and that adequate budget/funding must be provided to the Commissions to enable them function more effectively. State governments seldom provide their response on the recommendations of the NCST and also, do not provide any proper protocol assistance during the visit of the NCST to various states.

Chairperson, NCM stated that another area that requires the Prime Minister's immediate attention is that the placement of the Annual Reports of various National Commissions is done in a slipshod manner, often marked by enormous delays in tabling these reports and the implementation of the recommendations contained therein. The Chairperson, NCM added that there is a need to streamline the procedures in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats to ensure that the Annual Reports of the National Commissions are tabled in Parliament without delay. Further, the Government may be requested to provide more concrete statements/responses on the recommendations of the Commissions contained in their Annual Reports, rather than generalized statements, such as 'the matter is under consideration and/or being examined'.

Chairperson, NHRC, Justice Shri K G Balakrishnan, requested the Chairpersons of all National Commissions to send their suggestions in writing to the NHRC so that these could be compiled and a concrete agenda prepared for the meeting with the Prime Minister.

## **DECISION:**

*It was decided that all National Commissions would send their suggestions in writing to the NHRC, on priority, regarding the agenda items to be discussed during the meeting with the Prime Minister, to enable the NHRC to compile these suggestions and prepare a concrete agenda for discussion with the Prime Minister.*

**The Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of the Meeting of the Statutory Full Commission held on 04.02.2014 was approved.**

## **DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONS**

### **Agenda 1: Strengthening convergence between NCPCR and NHRC (Received from NCPCR)**

Chairperson, National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) stated that while the problem of the duplication of complaints/cases, among National Commissions, had already been discussed and is being worked on, a larger problem being faced by the NCPCR is the vertical duplication of complaints – between the NCPCR and State Commissions.

Chairperson, NCPCR suggested that not only is there a need for a thematic convergence, but also a more structured process of interactions between the NHRC and NCPCR, wherein, issues common to both Commissions, including matters related to research, administrative problems, staffing, logistical support etc. could be discussed by the Secretaries of the two National Commissions.

Member Shri S C Sinha, NHRC endorsed the view and stated that periodic interactions at the level of Secretaries of the National Commissions

- ● could be organized to identify, among others, areas for joint research, developing training modules etc. The recommendations emanating from the said meeting between Secretaries could then be considered by the SFC.

JS(T&R) stated that the NHRC had approved a multi-centric study/survey of "Children in need of care and protection for audit of their diverse needs and factors inhibiting delivery", and added that the NHRC had written to various law institutions, which would be eager to participate in the said study.

Chairperson, NHRC, Justice Shri K G Balakrishnan stated that the issue of child rights is among the Commission's priority areas and it works on several matters concerning children, including malnutrition, lack of education, child labour, as well as the implementation of the ICDS programme. State governments, unfortunately, have not given enough attention to the issue of child rights. Children continue to remain extremely vulnerable to various forms of rights violations and the NHRC and NCPCR must consider collaborating on issues of child rights.

Member Shri S C Sinha, NHRC stated that along the lines of the proposed cooperation between the NHRC and NCPCR, there are also several issues/areas of mutual concern between the NHRC and the NCM and that it would be useful for the two Commission to work together on these matters.

Member Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, NHRC endorsed the view that the NHRC and the NCW should collaborate on research and other areas of common interest.

Member Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, NHRC added that the NHRC had taken cognizance of the recent attacks on churches in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and added that a Team headed by the Member had visited the Church in Vasant Kunj which was vandalized earlier this year.

Chairperson, NCM stated that a Member of the NCM had been deputed to conduct a spot inquiry at the Church in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, the site of the latest attack against religious places of the minority Christian community. As far as the Delhi Police is concerned, its officers had been very responsive to the queries and directives of the NCM. In a recent case regarding the harassment of Sikh settlers in Bhuj District of Gujarat, on the directions of the NCM, an SHO was suspended and adequate police protection was provided to the affected persons.

Member Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, NHRC stated that when a team under his leadership visited the Church in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, the Delhi Police seemed anxious to depict the incident as mere burglary, whereas, since the sanctum sanctorum of the Church had been vandalised, the intention of the miscreants appeared to have been the deliberate targeting of a place of worship of a minority community. The Member, NHRC was informed by the Police that the Sections under which the complaint had been registered, included, Sections 295, 295(a), 153 of the IPC. The Police seemed reluctant to view the incident as one aimed at the desecration of a place of worship.

Secretary General, NHRC stated that the Secretaries of all National Commissions could meet more frequently to discuss ways in which the Commissions could collaborate and work together. He added that the NHRC regularly engages with and funds research projects undertaken by research institutions, NGOs as well as academic institutions, and also undertakes its own in-house research studies. The NHRC also regularly visits various districts across states with a view to study the implementation of flagship programme on ground. The NHRC is looking at evolving its research mechanisms in a stronger way and the National Commissions could be actively involved in this process. The details and modalities could be fleshed out during the meeting of Secretaries of all the National Commissions.



● **DECISION:**

*It was decided that the Secretaries of all National Commissions would meet to discuss ways in which the Commissions could collaborate and work together on various areas of mutual concern/interest, including, research, administrative matters etc.*

**Agenda 2: Implementation of the existing Juvenile Justice Act and the proposed changes in the Act by the Ministry of Women and Child Development**

Chairperson, NCPCR stated that the NCPCR had made its submission in the matter before the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Member Shri S C Sinha, NHRC informed that the NHRC had also sent its views on amendments to the JJ Act, based on the recommendations which emerged from the National Consultation organized by the Commission in New Delhi, on the subject.

**DECISION:** *The issue was discussed and noted.*

**Agenda 3: Framework to Monitor the Implementation by the Government of India of the Recommendations it accepted at the Second Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

JS(T&R) stated that the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of the UN Human Rights Council was initiated in 2007 to monitor the human rights situation across UN member states. The first UPR process, carried out between 2008 and 2012, reviewed all UN member states. India was reviewed in 2008 and subsequently in 2012. During India's country review, 169 recommendations were made, of which the Government of India accepted 67 recommendations, which have been synthesized into an implementation framework in concert with various stakeholders.

The NHRC has prepared a framework for implementation of these recommendations by various government ministries and departments which are responsible for their implementation. Many of these recommendations are relevant to the National Commissions as well. JS(T&R) added that the NHRC feels that the other National Commissions must also be involved in the UPR follow-up process.

Member Shri SC Sinha, NHRC stated that it would be most useful if recommendations concerning particular National Commissions could be pursued by these Commissions with respective Government Departments. Pursuant to these efforts, a report could be drawn up regarding the status of the implementations of the UPR II recommendations, many of which are yet to be implemented by the government.

Chairperson, NCM expressed doubts if NCM could take up the UPR II recommendations for implementation.

JS(T&R) referred to some of the recommendations which could relate to NCM. It was also clarified that the National Commissions had been participating in the consultations organized by the NHRC under UPR II.

Secretary General, NHRC requested the National Commissions to study the 67 recommendations accepted by the GOI following the Second UPR process and to examine ways in which the National Commissions could contribute to monitoring their implementation by concerned Government Departments. He added that the NHRC expects to meet all Ministries shortly, to apprise them of what is required to implement the UPR recommendations prior to the Third UPR. The NHRC hopes to work in close cooperation with the Ministries as well as National Commissions regarding the implementation and monitoring of the 67 recommendations of the Second UPR.

- Chairperson, NCM stated that National Commissions are watchdogs of human rights and that it is not for these Commissions to monitor development programmes which are being implemented by concerned Ministries themselves.

Member Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, NHRC stated that while National Commissions may not have a direct role to play in the implementation of the Government's socio-economic programmes, they do have an important role to play in assessing the implementation of these programmes and policies on ground, and to assess whether or not people are receiving benefits under these policies/programmes as well as in creating awareness about these policies/programmes amongst potential beneficiaries.

Secretary General, NHRC stated that economic, social, and cultural rights are as much a part of the mandate of National Commissions as civil and political rights. He urged the National Commissions to study the UPR recommendations closely and also suggested the organisation of a meeting between the Secretaries of all National Commissions to further discuss the issue.

Chairperson, NHRC, Justice Shri K G Balakrishnan stated that the Commission is aware of the reluctance of the Executive in promoting/encouraging a role for the National Commissions in overseeing/monitoring government programmes. He added that the NHRC is not part of any of the official monitoring committees of various Ministries. However, based on its mandate and well as its investigations during field visits and on the basis of complaints received, the Commission realizes that the gaps in the proper implementation of these socio-economic programmes on ground, has led to bigger problems of lack of adequate and affordable healthcare, violations of rights to education, adequate nutrition, housing, sanitation etc. It is in this context that the role of National Commissions

becomes important – to point out these gaps to concerned governments so that these may be addressed.

Chairperson, NCPCR pointed out certain inconsistencies in the recommendations of the Second UPR. There is some confusion for instance, in the use of the terms 'sex ratio', 'child sex ratio' and 'sex ratio at birth' and other methodological problems.

The Secretary General, NHRC stated that the NHRC has started interactions with various Ministries and would consult these Ministries for corrections of the final document.

**DECISION:**

*It was decided that the National Commissions would study the recommendations accepted by the GOI following the Second UPR process, particularly those relevant to their respective Commissions and would examine ways in which the National Commissions could contribute to monitoring the implementation of the said UPR recommendations by concerned Government Departments.*

*It was also decided that a meeting of the Secretaries of all National Commissions would be organized to discuss the issue of the monitoring of the implementation of the Second UPR recommendations by all National Commissions.*

**Agenda 4: Initiative for the Protection of the Rights of SC/ST communities and implementation of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989**

JS(T&R), NHRC stated that the Commission had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of retired bureaucrat, Shri K B Saxena to undertake a study on the problems faced by SC/ST communities and draw up

- recommendations relating to the protection and promotion of their rights. The Report prepared by Shri Saxena outlined nearly 150 recommendations, most of which related to the National Commissions for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.

The NHRC, on its part has also taken on board some recommendations relevant to it and has been working to implement these. One specific recommendation on holding 'Open Public Hearings' has been taken up in earnest, and so far, the Commission has held Open Hearings in Chhattisgarh, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and most recently, in Chandigarh to hear pending cases from Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The Commission will also be holding Open Hearings in the near future in the states of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and the UT of Puducherry.

During these Open Hearings, added JS(T&R), complaints received from the aggrieved are heard by the Commission's Division Benches in the presence of state and district police and administrative officials and compensation is awarded and other necessary directions issued by the Commission. These Open Hearings have proved quite popular and successful among the people and the Commission wanted to share this information with the SFC.

Chairperson, NCSC stated that the present complaint management and redressal system of the NCSC is adequate to deal with complaints relating to problems faced by persons belonging to Scheduled Castes. In cases concerning serious violations of the rights of members of SCs, the NCSC undertakes spot enquiries and gives prompt directions to concerned authorities. The NCSC also gives its recommendations regarding the inclusion and exclusion of castes in the Schedule and holds public hearings to this end. In addition, the NCSC has formed various groups to look into the various problems faced by

SCs, such as, reservations in the private sector, SC certificates for migrants, reservations in the judiciary, among several others.

Chairperson, NCSC added that it would be useful for the NCSC to collaborate with the NHRC on the issue of atrocities committed against members of the Scheduled Castes. Among the greatest concerns of the NCSC is the fact that in a large number of instances, the police do not register cases, and it is only on the intervention of the courts that cases are registered. The NCSC has proposed a system for the automatic registration of cases, without individuals being victimized by the police. In case of willful disregard of duty, cases must be registered against concerned public servants. Even where the NCSC recommends to concerned authorities to take action against errant officers, the NCSC is often told that the lapse is not willful, but *bona fide*.

Chairperson, NCM stated that there are indeed widespread instances of the non-registration of FIRs by the police.

Vice Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) stated that members belonging to Scheduled Tribes (STs) are facing a huge problem of displacement due to neighbouring countries. For instance, in Chumar Sector in Ladakh, due to the inroads being made by Chinese citizens into Indian territory, a large number of tribal communities have been displaced, as a result of which only 25 per cent of the original inhabitant tribal population remains in this sector. Further, a large number of Indian tribals are being unable to work on their lands/fields. Most of the settlers are Chinese nomads and cattle rearers, who have gradually occupied lands and settled in this Sector, pushing out the Indian tribal inhabitants. Even though the NCST has spoken to the ITBP about this issue, the ITBP has expressed its helplessness in this regard, especially in the absence of orders from the Government of India. Vice Chairperson, NCST requested the NHRC to take up the issue with the GOI.

● Vice Chairperson, NCST added that tribal populations residing in Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir are particularly disadvantaged due to a gross lack of infrastructure, roads, and transportation in these areas, making their lives especially difficult.

Member Shri S C Sinha, NHRC stated that it is for the ITBP and local police to bring these developments to the notice of the GOI so that necessary action may be taken in this regard.

Member Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, NHRC asked the Vice-President, NCST to forward to the NHRC any complaints or other relevant material it may have, so that the NHRC may have something concrete to work upon with respect to this particular issue.

**DECISION:**

*It was decided that the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) would send to the NHRC, relevant material, and/or complaints on the issue of the displacement of Indian tribal populations from the Chumar Sector in Ladakh, for the consideration of the NHRC.*

**Agenda 5: Continued cases of violence against women and effectiveness of the changes in laws (Criminal Laws Amendment Act, 2013) carried out in 2013**

Secretary General, NHRC stated that it has generally been observed that incidents of violence against women have remained unabated and have been on the rise, despite the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 being in place. Whether this is due to greater reporting of such incidents or whether there has been actual increase in the number of incidents, remains to be ascertained.

Member Shri S C Sinha, NHRC stated that it is due to greater awareness about the change in laws that more incidents are being reported.

Chairperson, NCSC stated that a recent disturbing trend has been that in a large number of cases, rapes are followed by murder of the victimized women and girls.

Chairperson, NCPCR stated that the recommendations made by the Justice J S Verma Committee regarding reforms in police, judiciary and administration/bureaucracy are fairly generic and sweeping in nature with a lack of concrete, actionable points. It would be useful if the NCW and other National Commissions could take up these points and draw up concrete measures, which could be pursued at the level of the National Commissions. To this end, one could refer to the Usha Mehra Committee Report which has very specific recommendations.

Secretary General, NHRC stated that a joint meeting between the NHRC and NCW could be organized to identify what recommendations of the said Committee Reports are yet to be implemented and could perhaps identify ways to move forward in this direction. There is also a need for a more in-depth study of the issue of police reforms. The present implementation of the orders of the Supreme Court in this regard, is rather weak. There is need for more concrete action in this respect, perhaps by appropriately modifying police manuals etc.

Member Shri S C Sinha, NHRC stated that the most crucial requirement is the willingness of the establishment to implement rather than circumvent the orders of the Supreme Court in matters concerning police reforms, such as, making recruitment processes transparent, selection of candidates on merit, registration of cases by the police etc. An earnest commitment on part of the administrative machinery will be crucial to achieving police reforms.



- Chairperson, NHRC, Justice Shri K G Balakrishnan stated that non-registration of FIRs is now considered an offence under Section 166(A). In addition, the quantum of punishment in offences relating to violence against women has also been increased substantially.

The Registrar (Law), NHRC stated that all National Commissions must pursue the recommendation for the appointment of a Police Complaints Authority so that a mechanism may be put in place to ensure greater accountability among police personnel.

Member Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, NHRC stated that such a police complaints authority already exists in Kerala, which could serve as an example for other states to emulate. All National Commissions must pursue with the government regarding the setting up of the Police Complaints Authority across all states.

#### **DECISION:**

*It was decided to organize a joint meeting between the NHRC and NCW to identify the recommendations of the Justice Verma Committee and Justice Usha Mehra Commission Reports, which are yet to be implemented and to identify ways to move forward for better protection of women.*

#### **Agenda 6: Study of cases pertaining to communal riots registered in the Commission**

Secretary General, NHRC stated that the Commission had approved a proposal regarding the study of cases pertaining to communal riots registered in the Commission. He invited the views and suggestions of the Members of the SFC in this regard.

Chairperson, NCM requested for an elucidation of the nature and scope of the proposed study.

Secretary General, NHRC stated that the idea underlying the proposed study is to assess the commonalities, government responses, underlying causes etc. of the large number of cases relating to communal conflict which have been received and decided by the Commission. The idea is to undertake a study to look at the larger problem of communal conflicts in the country, using the vast database available with the Commission. In this regard, it would also be useful if the NCM could share information on the subject with the NHRC.

Secretary General, NHRC further stated that the NHRC will identify an independent research organisation to carry out this study and that the said organisation would have access to the Commission's data on communal riots. He added that the proposed study would be fully funded by the NHRC.

Member Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, NHRC stated that based on the cases registered in the NHRC, the study would try to assess what caused the riots, what action was taken by concerned authorities as well as issues concerning monitoring, rehabilitation, monetary relief etc.

Registrar (Law), NHRC stated that one common aspect seen across communal riots is that a large number of people approach the NHRC with complaints that the monetary relief announced by the concerned government(s) is not received by them. The Commission may thus, consider recommending to all governments, that whenever a riot occurs, an authority must be appointed by the concerned government to adjudicate all claims to affected persons.

Chairperson, NCM stated that the NCM continues to pursue cases of prosecution of perpetrators of crimes during riots, such as, in Kokrajhar and Muzaffarnagar, with concerned authorities, and also regularly visits sites where relief camps are set up, to ensure that the camp inmates get adequate

- protection and that their basic living needs are met till the time they are effectively rehabilitated.

Registrar (Law), NHRC stated that despite the visits of the NHRC and NCM to Muzaffarnagar, the living conditions in the relief camps remained sub-human.

Chairperson, NCM agreed with the Registrar (Law)'s observations and added that living conditions in the said relief camps were indeed abysmal and the camps had been closed down since.

Member Shri S C Sinha, NHRC stated that it was indeed a useful suggestion to have an authority which could adjudicate matters concerning compensation claims in the event of communal riots. For this purpose, the Communal Violence Bill could also be referred to and suitable recommendations issued in this regard to all states.

Member Justice Shri D Murugesan, NHRC suggested that the proposed NHRC study on communal riots could be extended to other communal conflicts as well – those which are of a recurrent nature, such as in Tamil Nadu, particularly during religious ceremonies/festivities.

Member Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, NHRC added that such communal conflicts of a recurrent nature also occur in parts of Karnataka.

Secretary General, NHRC stated that the proposed study could combine all these dimensions of communal riots as suggested by the SFC.

**DECISION:**

*The NCM and other Commissions may consider giving suggestions to be taken up as part of the research study, which could result in more effective control of communal riots as well as relief/rehabilitation of riot-affected people.*

**Agenda 7: Availability of basic infrastructure and resources to all the National Commissions as per their requirements to fulfill their mandate**

Chairperson, NHRC, Justice Shri K G Balakrishnan stated that the Chairpersons of all National Commissions should meet the Prime Minister together with a common agenda regarding infrastructural and other requirements of National Commissions towards an effective discharge of their mandate.

Member Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, NHRC stated that it would be useful for the National Commissions to send their respective agendas to the NHRC so that a common agenda could be drawn up to be discussed with the Prime Minister.

**DECISION:**

*It was decided that all National Commissions would send their suggestions in writing to the NHRC, on priority, regarding the agenda items to be discussed during the meeting with the Prime Minister, to enable the NHRC to compile these suggestions and prepare a concrete agenda for discussion with the Prime Minister.*

**Agenda 8: Proposal for Initiation of Quarterly/Half Yearly Meetings of Senior Executive Officers (SEOs)/Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of all Member Commissions of the Statutory Full Commission (SFC), including the Special Invitee, National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)**

Secretary General, NHRC stated that Member Commissions of the Statutory Full Commission (SFC), including the Special Invitee, NCPCR, have several areas of common/converging interest, thus, necessitating close cooperation between all National Commissions to ensure an overall

- strengthening of the rights protection and promotion mechanisms within the country.

In accordance with the provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (PHR Act), the Chairpersons of the Statutory Full Commission Members, including the Special Invitee, NCPCR, have been meeting annually to deliberate on broad thematic issues of common concern and to discuss modalities of cooperation and joint action thereon.

While these yearly meetings of Chairpersons of all National Commissions are vital in promoting closer cooperation between the Commissions, it is felt that CEOs/Senior Officers of National Commissions also require to meet periodically for closer coordination among Commissions.

It is therefore, proposed that in addition to the meetings of the SFC, quarterly/half yearly meetings of the SEOs/CEOs of Member Commissions of the Statutory Full Commission, including the Special Invitee, NCPCR, may also be held.

### **Decision**

*The proposal to organise periodic meetings of the SEOs/CEOs of Member Commissions of the Statutory Full Commission, including the Special Invitee, NCPCR, was approved by the SFC.*

The meeting concluded with the Chairperson, NHRC, Justice Shri K G Balakrishnan thanking the Chairpersons and other participants of all Member Commissions of the Statutory Full Commission for coming to the meeting and for their valuable inputs.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

National Human Rights Commission

- Justice Shri KG Balakrishnan, Chairperson
- Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member
- Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member
- Shri S C Sinha, Member

National Commission for Minorities

- Shri Naseem Ahmed, Chairperson

National Commission for Scheduled Castes

- Shri P L Punia, Chairperson

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

- Shri Ravi Thakur, Vice-Chairperson

National Commission for Women

- Shri Narendra Kumar, Deputy Secretary

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (Special Invitee)

- Shri V S Oberoi, Chairperson

OFFICERS OF NHRC (In Attendance)

- Shri Rajesh Kishore, Secretary General
- Shri A K Garg, Registrar (Law)
- Shri J S Kochher, Joint Secretary (Trg. & Research)
- Dr Shri Ranjit Singh, Joint Secretary (P&A)
- Shri Viplav Kumar Chowdhary, DIG
- Shri T Raveendran, Section Officer (Coordination)
- Ms. Sonali Huria, Research Consultant (Coordination)