

National commission for women (1990)
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National Commission For Women

HISTORY :- From the ancient time itself, Women play a prominent role in Indian society. India has generally been a patriarchal society and therefore women have always suffered from social evils to a larger extent. The problems faced by this vulnerable section has been a matter of concern and discussed inside and outside the parliament, by common men, by organizations and societies. Many commissions had been set up by the government to look into the welfare of women in our society. According to the reports of these commissions, all of them state the necessity of setting up an apex body for the reviewing and address the grievance of women in the country.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

INTRODUCTION:- The National Commission for Women was set up in 1992 under the National Commission Act, 1990. This body was established to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women. This act extends across India, except for Jammu and Kashmir. It recommends the remedial legislative measures, facilitates redressal of grievances and advises the government on all policy matters affecting the women. It enjoys all the powers of a civil court.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

MISSION : To strive towards enabling women to achieve equality and equal participation in all spheres of life by securing her due rights and entitlements through suitable policy formulation, legislative measures, effective enforcement of laws, implementation of schemes/policies and devising strategies for solution of specific problems/situations arising out of discrimination and atrocities against women.

VISION : The Indian Woman, secure in her home and outside, fully empowered to access all her rights and entitlements, with opportunity to contribute equally in all walks of life.

COMPOSITION

- *The commission shall consist of a chairperson, a member secretary, and other five members.*
- *Chairperson: The chairperson should be nominated by the central government.*
- *Five members: The five members are also to be nominated by the central government from amongst the person of ability, integrity, and standing. They should possess an experience in various fields like law or legislation, trade unionism, management of industry potential of women, women's voluntary organization, education, administration, economic development and social good-being.*

Member secretary: Member secretary is also nominated by the central government. He/ she should be either an expert in the field of management, organization or an officer who is a member.

SOME IMPORTANT FACTS

- **The first commission was constituted on 31st January 1992 as Jayanti Patnaik as the chairperson.**
- **Mrs Rekha Sharma is the present Chairperson of National Commission for Women (NCW).**
- **Alok Rawat IAS is the first male member of the National Commission for Women (NCW)**

FUNCTIONS OF NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Inquiry and Investigation

The National Commission of Women enjoys the powers of a civil court. It investigates and examines the matters related to the safeguards ensured for feminine society under the Constitution of India.

Action Research

NCW members take part in the planning process of socio-economic development of women, propose measures to encourage their representation in all spheres and review their advancement. It also reviews the safeguards provided for women in the Constitution and other laws study their working, recommend amendments

Legal Intervention

The Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalat, (PMLA) is an innovative component with its roots in the traditional Nyaya Panchayats. It is created by NCW for the redressal and speedy disposal of cases. It has taken up 7500 cases so far. The essential feature of PMLA is cordial mutual settlement and flexibility in implementation, aiming to empower women in the justice delivery mechanism.

The Commission shall perform all or any of the following functions:

Investigation and Examination: Investigate and examine all the matters relating to the safeguards provided for the women under the Constitution and other laws

Presentation of Reports: Table reports to the Central Government, every year and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the Working of those safeguards

Recommendations: Make in such reports and recommendations, for the effective accomplishment of those safeguards for enhancing the conditions of the women by the Union or any State.

Review every now and then, the current provisions of the Constitution and other laws distressing the women and prescribe alterations and suggest curative legislative measures meet any break, inadequacies and incapacity in such legislation.

Cases of Violation: Take up cases of infringement of the provisions of the Constitution and of other laws relating to the women with the relevant authorities

Suo Motu Notice: It looks into complaints, and takes *Suo Motto* notice of matters relating to – deprivation of women's rights, Non-implementation of the laws and Non-compliance of the policy decisions guaranteeing the welfare for women society.

- Special Studies and Investigation: It conducts special studies or investigation on the concerning issues or circumstance emerging out of segregation and outrages against ladies and recognizes the limitations in order to suggest techniques for their expulsion
- Research: Undertake the promotional and educational research so as to propose ways of ensuring due representation of the women in all fields and identifies the factors responsible for impeding the support services and technologies for decreasing drudgery and professional health hazards and for escalating their efficiency.
- Participation in all spheres particularly in Planning – take part and advice on the planning process of socio-economic development of women

Evaluation – assess the progress of the development of women society under the Union and State.

Inspection – investigate or cause to be inspected a jail, remand home women's establishment or other places of guardianship where ladies are kept as detainees.

Funding – fund litigation, relating issues affecting a large body of women.

Reporting – make periodical reports on any issue pertaining to women and in particular various difficulties under which women toil.