

**Government of India**  
**National Advisory Council**

**21 January 2011**

1. The Ninth meeting of the National Advisory Council was chaired by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on 21st January, 2011 at 2 Motilal Nehru Place, New Delhi.
2. Members who attended the meeting were Prof Narendra Jadhav, Dr. Jean Dreze, Ms. Aruna Roy, Naresh Saxena, Ms Anu Aga, Shri Deep Joshi, Ms Farah Naqvi, Shri Harsh Mander and Dr A.K. Shivakumar.
3. Shri Harsh Mander, Convenor, Working Group on NFSB presented a detailed framework note summarising all the recommendations of NAC covering the main features of the proposed National Food Security Bill. NAC approved the Framework Note. Further, it decided that before the Draft Bill is taken up for consideration by the NAC, the approved Framework Note shall be placed on the website inviting comments.
4. On the issue of social inclusion under the proposed NFSB, it was reiterated that Government of India shall specify the criteria for categorization of population into "priority" and "general" households. The proposed NFSB provides for mandatory inclusion of highly vulnerable groups, as given below, to protect these groups from exclusion errors. These Groups also form part of the recommendations of the Saxena Committee Report submitted to the Ministry of Rural Development in August, 2009:
  - i. Households "Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups" (PTGs).
  - ii. Designated most discriminated against SC Groups, called "Maha Dalit Groups" if so identified by the state
  - iii. Single women headed households.
  - iv. Households with disabled person as bread earner.
  - v. Household headed by a minor.
  - vi. Destitute households which are dependent predominantly on alms for survival.
  - vii. Homeless households.
  - viii. Any member of the household is bonded labourer.

In this regard, it was agreed in the NAC, that after the inclusion of these categories, the highest priority should be given to the inclusion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the identification of "Priority groups" under the NFSB. This recommendation will be communicated to the Government.

5. The Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) sent their comments to the issues raised by the Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Governance on the proposed amendments to the RTI Rules. Responses to the comments of the DOPT were presented by Ms. Aruna Roy, Convenor of the

Working Group. The NAC after discussion proposed a consultation with the DoPT before finalising its recommendations.

6. In its last meeting, the NAC constituted a Working Group on ICDS Reforms. Joint Covenor of the Working Group, Dr. A.K. Shivakumar, briefed the NAC on the proposed course of action by the Working Group.
7. The next meeting of the NAC is scheduled to be held on 26 February, 2011.