

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

**24 March, 2011**

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1. The Eleventh meeting of the National Advisory Council was chaired by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 at 2 Motilal Nehru Place, New Delhi.
2. Members who attended the meeting were Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, MP, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda, MP, Prof Narendra Jadhav, Prof. Pramod Tandon, Dr. Jean Dreze, Shri Madhav Gadgil, Ms. Aruna Roy, Ms Anu Aga, Dr.A.K. Shiva Kumar, Shri Deep Joshi, Ms. Farah Naqvi, Shri Harsh Mander and Ms. Mirai Chatterjee.
3. Shri Harsh Mander, Convener, Working Group on National Food Security Bill (NFSB) briefed the members on the progress made in the drafting of the Bill. It is work in progress.
4. In the meeting of the NAC held on 21 January, 2011, it was decided that with regard to the issue of social inclusion under the proposed NFSB. Government of India shall specify the criteria for categorization of population into "priority" and "general" households. The proposed NFSB shall provide for mandatory inclusion of highly vulnerable groups. These Groups also from part of the recommendations of the Saxena Committee Report submitted to the Ministry of Rural Development in August, 2009: In this regard, it was also agreed 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 National Food Security Bill. In the meeting of the NAC today, it was agreed that the NAC should reiterate its earlier recommendations to the Ministry of Rural Development. Members of the NAC will give their inputs to the formulation of BPL survey methodology so that the recommendations of the NAC are operationalised.
5. Ms Farah Naqvi, Convener, Working Group on Communal Violence Bill updated the Council on the progress made in the drafting of the Bill. It is work in progress. The Draft Bill is expected to be placed before the NAC at its next meeting and subsequently placed in the public domain for comments.

6. Ms Aruna Roy Convener of the Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Governance informed the Council that the Working Group formulated its recommendations after several rounds of consultation with members of the civil society and the Dept of Personnel and Training (DoPT). The DoPT and the NAC had worked out an agreement on all issues **except** the one amendment proposed by the DoPT restricting all RTI applications to “one subject matter”. Areas of agreement include, enhancement of word limit from 250 words to 500 words and also to drop the Rules relating to abatement of RTI application upon death of applicant. With regard to restricting all RTI applications to “one subject matter”, NAC decided to recommend that the restriction to “one subject matter” be dropped from the purview of the proposed amendments to the RTI Rules. The final recommendation of the NAC in this regard is as follows:  
*“Provided that the request for information shall ordinarily not exceed 500 words, excluding annexures, the address of the Central PIO and the address of the applicant. Provided further that no application shall be rejected on the above ground”*
7. The Convener of the Working Group on Land Acquisition and Resettlement and Rehabilitation made a presentation on the outstanding issues related to proposed Bills on the subject. The Convener also recalled the detailed suggestions made by the National Advisory Council in 2006 on the National Rehabilitation Policy. NAC agreed that a Consultation Note will be prepared by the Working Group which shall be placed before the Council.
8. The Conveners of the NAC Working Groups on ICDS Reforms, Domestic Workers Issues, Denotified Tribes, Urban poverty, Transparency & Accountability - with regard to Lok Pal Bill and issues pertaining to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Tribal Development - with regard to Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, Natural Resources Management in convergence with MGNREGS with special focus on rain-fed areas presented the work programme of the respective Working Groups.
9. The next meeting of the NAC is scheduled to be held on 28 April, 2011.