

**National Advisory Council
Government of India**

Press Release 14 July, 2010

1. The third meeting of the National Advisory Council was chaired by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on 14 July 2010 at 2 Motilal Nehru Place, New Delhi.
2. Members who attended the meeting are Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, MP, Dr. Ram Dayal Munda, MP, Prof Narendra Jadhav, Prof. Pramod Tandon, Dr. Jean Dreze, Ms. Aruna Roy, Shri Madhav Gadgil, Shri N.C. Saxena, Dr. A.K. Shiva Kumar, Shri Deep Joshi, Ms. Anu Aga, Ms. Farah Naqvi, Shri Harsh Mander, Ms. Mirai Chatterjee. Ms Rita Sharma Secretary NAC, Mr K.Raju Joint Secretary NAC and Mr Dhiraj OSD NAC were also present.
3. The Chairperson welcomed the Members.
4. The Working Group on the proposed National Food Security Bill made a presentation. The NAC deliberated on the proposal of the Working Group and reached an initial agreement on the following:
 - 4.1. While time-bound universalisation of foodgrain entitlements across the country may be desirable, initial universalisation in one-fourth of the most disadvantaged districts or blocks in the first year is recommended, where every household is entitled to receive 35kgs per month of foodgrains at Rs 3 a kg.
 - 4.2. In the remaining districts/blocks, coverage of universal PDS with differentiated entitlements (in terms of quantity and issue price), would progressively be expanded to all rural areas in the country over a reasonable period of time. There shall be a guarantee of 35 kgs of foodgrains per household at Rs 3 a kg for all socially vulnerable groups including SC/STs, and 25 kgs for all others, at an appropriate price. There would also be a category that would be excluded based on transparent and verifiable criteria. Further details of this basic framework will be formulated by the NAC.
 - 4.3. In urban areas, eligible households (identified by criteria developed by the Planning Commission based on the recommendations of the Hashim Committee), including slum-dwellers and the homeless, will be entitled to 35 kg per month at Rs 3 a kg.
 - 4.4. Existing allocations for APL in the remaining districts/blocks should not be reduced.
 - 4.5. Comprehensive nutrition support schemes for infants, pre-school children, school children, welfare hostel students, adolescent girls, pregnant women, street-children, homeless, the aged and infirm, differently-abled, those living with leprosy, TB and HIV/AIDS etc., together with community kitchens and destitute feeding will be initiated throughout the entire country.
5. The NAC has decided that the Working Group on Food Security will undertake further work on measures for enhancing agriculture production, PDS and

procurement reforms, ICDS reforms and maternity benefits, community kitchens and destitute feeding. It would look at systems of oversight, transparency, accountability and grievance redressal.

6. The Working-group will prepare a draft Bill based on this framework.

7. The Working Group on the Communal Violence Bill, presented the proposals of the Group, highlighting the salient features of the proposed Bill. The objective of the Bill, it was emphasized, was not to empower the State and Central Government but to ensure action and accountability of public authorities, for the prevention and control of communal & sectarian violence which threatens the physical, social, economic, cultural, political and human security of citizens and the unity and secular fabric of the Nation; the speedy investigation, prosecution and punishment of those engaging in communal and sectarian crimes; justice and security to victims and survivors; the guarantee of the rights of the victims and survivors to comprehensive rescue, relief, rehabilitation compensation restitution and reparation.

8. The NAC supported these principles.

9. It was felt that the current Draft Bill does not fulfil the stated objectives and could not accommodate the various features essential for the achievement of these objectives. Some of these essential features included widening the scope of the law to include sectarian violence, definitions of new crimes, setting up of National Authority, ensuring greater accountability of public authorities, stipulation of national norms from rescue to restitution, specifying compensation norms and ensuring victim-witness rights.

10. It was agreed in the NAC that there was a need to draft a fresh law on the subject that would reflect the letter and spirit of the stated objectives. The Working Group would consult with the legal experts for this purpose.