

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Press Release 1st July, 2010

1. The second meeting of the National Advisory Council was chaired by Smt. Sonia Gandhi on 1st July 2010, at 2 Moti Lal Nehru Place, New Delhi.
2. All members namely, 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. Shiva Kumar, Shri Deep Joshi, Ms. Anu Aga, Ms. Farah Naqvi, Shri Harsh Mander and Ms. Mirai Chatterjee, attended the meeting. In addition, Smt Rita Sharma Secretary, Sri. K.Raju, Joint Secretary and Sri. Dhiraj Srivastava, OSD attended the meeting.
3. Secretary NAC apprised the Council the work carried out by the NAC Working Groups on National Food Security Bill and Communal Violence Bill.
4. The NAC Working Group on Communal Violence Bill had held consultations with senior officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Legislative Affairs, and representatives of anti-communal groups on certain issues concerning the Communal Violence Bill.

5. The Working Group on National Food Security Bill had held consultations with senior officials of Dept of Food and Public Distribution, Dept of School education and Planning Commission to discuss in depth, scope of the proposed Bill, the entitlements to be provided in the Bill, the target group and the implementation issues. The NAC members also met with the Right to Food Campaign group to take input from civil society groups working on Food and nutrition security.
6. Prof MS Swaminathan and Mr Harsh Mander made presentations highlighting the need for moving for universal entitlements under the National Food Security Act, duly focusing on efforts towards increasing overall availability of food grain through the stepping up productivity of agriculture and also larger procurement of foodgrains. The Working Group advised that special care should be taken to cover the poorest among the poor namely, disadvantaged groups such as the aged, the infirm, the destitute, the homeless, the differently-abled, street children, primitive tribes and persons suffering from debilitating diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV AIDS and leprosy. The need for systemic reforms to improve the functioning of PDS was also emphasized.
7. It was decided that both the Working Groups will continue their consultations with other stake-holders and submit their recommendations to NAC in the next meeting.
8. The council's website ([www:nac.nic.in](http://www.nac.nic.in)) has been operationalised.