

## COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

On the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March, 1996, two identical resolutions for constituting a Standing Committee of both the Houses for improving the status of women were moved in the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.

In pursuance of the aforesaid resolutions, the matter was considered by the Rules Committee (Eleventh Lok Sabha). The Rules Committee in their Second Report laid on the Table of the House on 6th March, 1997 recommended that a Committee for the purpose may be constituted. Accordingly, the Committee on Empowerment of Women was constituted on 29th April, 1997.

### **Composition**

2. The Committee on Empowerment of Women is constituted every year under Rule 331O of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The Committee consists of 30 Members, 20 nominated by the Speaker from amongst the Members of Lok Sabha and 10 nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha from amongst the Members of the Rajya Sabha.

### **Appointment of Chairperson**

3. The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst its Members.

### **Minister not to be a Member of the Committee**

4. A Minister cannot be a Member of the Committee and if a Member after her/his nomination to the Committee is appointed a Minister, she/he ceases to be a Member of the Committee from the date of such appointment.

### **Term of Office**

5. The term of the Committee does not exceed one year.

### **Functions**

6. The functions of the Committee on Empowerment of Women are:—

1. To consider the reports submitted by the National Commission for Women and to report on the measures that should be taken by the Union Government for improving the status/condition of women in respect of matters within the purview of the Union Government including the Administrations of the Union territories;

2. To examine the measures taken by the Union Government to secure for women equality, status and dignity in all matters;
3. To examine the measures taken by the Union Government for comprehensive education and adequate representation of women in Legislative bodies/services and other fields;
4. To report on the working of the welfare programmes for the women;
5. To report on the action taken by the Union Government and Administrations of the Union territories on the measures proposed by the Committee; and
6. To examine such other matters as may seem fit to the Committee or are specifically referred to it by the House or the Speaker and the Rajya Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

**Selection of Subjects for Examination**

7. At the first sitting of the Committee which is held after its constitution, the Committee selects subjects for examination relating to empowerment and welfare of women. The Committee may also examine any other subjects/matters for improving the status/condition of women which come within its purview.

**Matters referred to the Committee by the House/  
Speaker and the Rajya Sabha/Chairman, Rajya Sabha**

8. Apart from the subjects selected by the Committee for examination, other subjects relating to empowerment and welfare of women may also be referred to the Committee for examination from time to time by the House or the Speaker and the Rajya Sabha or the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

The subjects selected by the Committee are published in Bulletin—Part II for information of the Members.

**Calling for Information from Government**

9. The Committee calls for preliminary material from the Ministries/Departments concerned with regard to the subjects selected for examination. Based on the background/preliminary material furnished by the Ministry/Department, detailed List of Points covering various aspects in relation to the subject under examination is prepared and sent to the Ministry/ Department for eliciting written information.

**Memoranda from Non-Officials**

10. The Committee may also call for memoranda on the subjects under examination from Non-Governmental Organisations/individuals etc. who are experts in the relevant field.

### **Constitution of Study Group/sub-Committee**

11. The Committee may, from time to time, appoint one or more sub-Committees/Study Groups for carrying out in-depth examination of selected subjects. A sub-Committee may also be constituted for scrutiny of action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the previous Reports of the Committee. The Convenor of the sub-Committee/Study Group is appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee from amongst the Members of the sub-Committee/Study Group.

### **Study Tours**

12. The Committee may undertake on-the-spot Study tours/visits to various places in connection with the subjects under examination and also can interact with the women/officials on issues pertaining to women.

### **Evidence of non-officials**

13. The Committee/sub-Committee may call upon individuals, experts/representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations who have submitted memoranda on the subjects under its examination to appear before it to share their considered views.

### **Evidence of Officials**

14. For detailed examination of the subjects the Committee takes oral evidence of the representatives of

the Ministry/Department concerned after the receipt of written information on the subject. A verbatim record of the proceedings is kept.

**Ministers not called before Committee**

15. A Minister shall not be called before the Committee either to give evidence or for consultation in connection with the examination of subjects by the Committee.

**Report and Minutes**

16. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on a subject are contained in its Report, which, after its adoption by the Committee, is presented to the Lok Sabha by the Chairperson or in her/his absence by any other member of the Committee who has been authorised by the Chairperson to present it on her/his behalf. The Minutes of the sittings of the Committee are annexed to the Report. Simultaneously, a copy of the Report is also laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha by a member of the Committee who has been authorised by the Chairperson to do so.

The Reports of the Committee are adopted by consensus among the members. Accordingly, there is no system of appending minute of dissent to the Report.

### **Action Taken Reports**

17. After presentation to the Lok Sabha, the Report is forwarded to the Ministry or Department concerned which is required to take action on the observations/recommendations contained in the Report and furnish action taken notes thereon within six months. Action taken notes received from the Ministries/Departments are examined by the Committee/Action Taken sub-Committee and Action Taken Reports of the Committee are presented to the House and forwarded to the Ministry/Department concerned for compliance. A statement containing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Action Taken Report is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

*[The constitution and working of the Committee on Empowerment of Women is governed by Rules 253 to 286, 331O, 331P and 331Q of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and Directions 48 to 73 of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha.]*

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EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
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## **PREFACE**

This Abstract is part of the Parliamentary Procedure Abstracts Series and describes the procedure regarding working of Committee on Empowerment of Women. It is based on the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Directions issued by the Speaker under the Rules of Procedure, the well-established conventions and past precedents. It is intended to serve as a handy guide for ready reference.

The information contained in this Abstract is, however, not exhaustive. It will, therefore, be prudent to refer to and rely on the original sources for full information.

NEW DELHI

*Secretary General*