JS(KC)

Appeal where? Victors of other runshies ( where?

Reference queries of JS(KC) on the Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill, 2007. Point-wise replies are as below:

- Appeal Section 18 of the Bill provides for appeal. As per that Section, any aggrieved person not satisfied with the orders passed by the Committee set up for the purpose can prefer an appeal as per the Service Rules, if any exist. The manner for preferring an appeal are also to be laid in the rules that will be framed for implementing the Act which are to be followed where there are no service Rules. This Section has been taken as it is from the Bill that was earlier drafted by the Law Ministry.
- Views of other Ministries May please refer to part 15 of the Cabinet note in this regard. The drafting of this Bill has started much earlier and the Bill of 2005 was circulated to all Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments/UT Administrations, apex level industry associations and professional councils. The draft Bill along with the comments received were taken up by NCW for discussion in a national consultation held by them. On the basis of the comments received, NCW drafted the Bill which was sent to Law Ministry. Law Ministry redrafted this Bill which was quite different from the one that was sent to them. Since many Women's Rights Organisations raised a lot of objection to this Bill, another round of consultation was held with them and the Bill was redrafted. Again it was Je redrafted and the Bill was uploaded for public comments. The current Bill has been prepared after taking into the comments received from the public.
- 3. Unorganised Sector - The current Bill is mainly meant for the unorganized sector. Section 6 of the Bill which provides for setting up the Local Complaints Committee is mainly to cover the employees in the unorganized

heavy ph see the note above n. n. to (R. Savithri) Director the usones naised by seey on x above 14.2.2008

(ग. श्रीमती किरण चड्डा) (Dr. Mrs. KIRAN CHADHA) संयुक्त सदिव, Joint Secre

A pelf-contained with

This is regarding the bill to deal with sexual harassment of women at workplace as redrafted for our consideration by the Legislative Department in February, 2007, vide note on p-43/n. This was examined by WW, further examined in the light of the public comments invited and received on it, submitted to MOS(I/C) who gave some directions (as mentioned on p-64/n) and further examined in respect of some provisions at p-76-

The following are now placed below :-

- (i) Copy of the bill as redrafted for our consideration by the Legislative Department in February, 2007 - flag 'A'.
- (ii) Copy of (i) above as modified by us - flag 'B'.
- A statement showing the modifications made by us in (i) above flag 'C'. (iii)
- (iv) Draft Note for the Cabinet proposing approval of the bill at (ii) above for introduction in Parliament.

Salient features of the Bill are listed at para 16 of the Cabinet Note.

Since the States/UTs do not allocate adequate funds for implementing the Acts (viz. Dowry Prohibition Act, DV Act etc.) resulting in weak implementation of the Act, in the current Bill, it is proposed to provide funds from the Centre for setting up the Committees. The expenditure involved is estimated as Rs. 9.52 crore p.a. (Details of calculation on p-68/cor.).

Views of other Ministries - The Draft Bill of 2005 was circulated to all Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments/UT Administrations, apex level industry associations and professional councils. The draft Bill along with the comments received were taken up by NCW for discussion in a national consultation held by them. On the basis of the comments received, NCW drafted the Bill which was sent to Law Ministry. Law Ministry redrafted this Bill which was quite different from the one that was sent to them. Since many Women's Rights Organisations raised a lot of objection to this Bill, another round of consultation was held with them and the Bill was redrafted. The redrafted and the Bill was uploaded for public comments. The current Bill has been prepared after taking into account the comments received from the public.

Approval of MOS(I/C) may be solicited on the Draft Cabinet Note so that the same can be referred to Department of Legal Affairs for clearance before its submission to the Cabinet.

> San Hi (R. Savithri)

Director 27.2.2008

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JS(KC)

(डा. श्रीमती किरण चड्डा) (Dr. Mrs. KIRAN CHADHA)

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MOS(14) may kindly approve the Broth Cabinet Note. A ruleking 28.2.08 Amil Kunga 30.6.08 30 60 S (डा. श्रीमता करण चड्डा) (DR. MRS. KIRAN CHADHA) संयुक्त सचिव/Joint Secretary Slevite: 30/6/08

MOS (IC) has approved the draft Cabinet Note. It may now be referred to Dept. of Legal Affairs for clearance before its submission to the Cabinet. Submitted please. Legislative Department (डा. श्रामता करण चड्डा) 10 JUL 2008 (DR. MRS. KIRAN CHADHA) संयुक्त सचिव/Joint Secretary Legislative 2 Section Respience votes at page B4/N ante. The administrative ministry has forwarded the serviced doubt Note for the Colonet, which was prepared by considering the Commente of Various Munistries Departments, for Concurrence.

Bt 18 Understood from the above noting and relevant noting at page 84/N ante that the administrative musbry sought the Clearance from the Department of Legal Appairs . merepoo, the Department of Legal Appoirs may see the same in the first histonic. Department of Legal Affairs (Adv. B Section) The suffering depot is a desided to incorporate the views all the centres Ministries of UTIS in the note ofor Capinish or offerspring place than the proposal for examination बाल विकास मन्त्रालय ं, को प्राप्त हुआ 140 mild Development

Ref: Note apropos. As por me hodiers I have gone suronger the file. It Seems doubtheifne had obscimed views of one Central moissines on our BRL. Susmitted M. DAM-08-08-200 usow 08/08/2008 The views of the Gentral Ministries/Depth. & State Goots | UT administrations have already been incorporated in the drift Bill by Nicw. Para 2 of Note at Pg 83/V may please be seen in this regard. Depth . of Legal Affective may please see for necessary action. 2524 JUKya (Renu Stige) 13/8/08 Us(ww) Ulhadhf 13/8/08 App follows विधि और न्याय गंत्रालय प्राप्ति तथा प्रेपण अनुभाग 18 AUG 2008 referry 8645 officer to Liscens the matter ente de pott. undersoner. The Salesh Chanc Add L ANH. Lyee Advan MO MCD. meway order (Dopt. of Legal Affairs)

### Dy. No.32296/08-Adv.B

The matter has been discussed with Smt. Renu Satija, Under Secretary, Ministry of Women & Child Development alongwith Shri Yogesh Mehta, Law Officer, National Commission for Women in the chamber of Additional Legal Adviser and Group Incharge Shri Satish Chandra today.

2. The referring Department is advised to suitably draft the Section 12 of the proposed Bill in respect of punishment of false or malicious complaints and false evidence. There should be separate chapter for unorganized sector regarding making inquiry and recommendation. The draft Note for the Cabinet should be suitably amended as suggested above and the views regarding making suitable amendments in Section 11 & 12 be incorporated in appropriate place in the Draft Note.

(O.P.Bagri)
Asstt. Legal Advisor
Dated 23.09.2008

Ministry of Women & Child Development, Attention: Mrs. Renu Satija, Under Secretary,

32296/08

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A meeting was held in the Chamber of the Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice on 7.11.2008 at 4.00 P.M. The meting was attended by Shri Anil Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Smt. Kiran Chadha, Joint Secretary, Ms. 5. Vasudevan, Joint Director, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Shri 5. Chatterjee, Member Secretary and Law Officer of NCW.

The Secretary, Ministry of WCD brought to notice of the Secretary, Ministry of Law regarding the suggestions given by the Additional Legal Advisor, Department of Legal Affairs suggesting suitable changes in the proposed bill with respect to punishment for false or malicious complaints and inclusion of the separate chapter for unorganized sector in the draft bill.

The Secretary, Ministry WCD stressed upon the need to do away with the proposed Section 12 in the Draft Bill which provides for punishment for false or malicious complaints. It was pointed out to the Secretary, Ministry of Law that such a provision would only deter women from filing complaints relating to Sexual Harassment at Work place. Further, as the evidence itself in Sexual harassment cases is not forthcoming and mainly dependent upon corroborative evidence, in such cases there is a possibility that cases not proved may be interpreted by the employer as being false and malicious.

It was agreed to do away with the proposed Section 12 in the draft bill and the Secretary, Ministry of Law while agreeing with the suggestion of the Secretary of Women and Child stressed upon the need to have a separate and a detailed chapter relating to the unorganized sector. This was agreed upon and it was requested that the Ministry of Law and Justice may suitably amend the draft bill at the earliest.

(Sulochana Vasudevan) Joint Director 10.11.2008

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### Ministry of Law and Justice Legislative Department

The proposal of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to enact a legislation for Prevention and Redressal of Sexual Harassment against Women at Workplace was concurred in by this Ministry on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2006 vide our Notes at page 20/ante.

- 2. However, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, after making consultation with various Non-Governmental Organisations, the National Commission for Women and other concerned/interested persons about the contents of the draft Bill, has forwarded a proposal for making certain modifications in the draft Bill, viz., omission of clause 12 of the Bill and for extension of the provisions of the Bill to unorganised sector.
- 3. The said proposal for modification was discussed with the Joint Secretary (Smt. Kiran Chadha) from the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Member-Secretary (Sri. S.Chatterji) and Law Officer (Sri. Yogesh Mehta) from the National Commission for Women, in the Chamber of JS&LC (Shri S.R. Dhaleta) where the undersigned was also present.
- As regards the proposal to omit clause 12 is concerned, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is of the view that the provisions of clause 12 which provides punishment for false or malicious complaint and false evidence may deter women from filing complaints relating to sexual harassment at workplace and mere failure to prove such complaints may be interpreted adversely against women thereby attracting provisions of said clause 12. In this regard, it may be stated that such view is totally unfounded. Retention of clause 12 is essential to check false and malicious complaints being filed and giving false evidence. If clause 12 is omitted, it may lead to situations similar to those being faced in respect of Domestic Violence cases, Dowry Harassment cases, etc. In order to have a law which is balanced, neutral and gender-equal, it is important to retain the said clause 12. Further, our view is in consonance with the view of the Department of Legal Affairs in this regard. So, we may retain clause 12.
- As regards the proposal to extend the provisions of the Bill to unorganised sector is concerned, it may be stated that the provisions of the draft Bill, covers unorganised sector has already been covered within the ambit of the proposed legislation and definitions of employee, employer and the workplace include the unorganised sector also. As there is no ambiguity about the unorganised sector falling within the ambit of the legislation which is agreed to by the above referred officers in the meeting, there is no need to make any changes in the draft Bill in this regard.
- 6. In the above said meeting, the Ministry of Women and Child Development requested that the definition of "aggrieved woman" be widened to include the university students, research scholars, etc. since a large number of sexual harassment cases are being reported by them. If agreed to by the said Ministry, the definition of "aggrieved woman" may be amended as under-
  - (a) "aggrieved woman", in relation to a workplace, means a woman against whom the act of sexual harassment has been committed;"
  - '(a) "aggrieved woman", in relation to a workplace, means a woman against whom the act of sexual harassment has been committed and includes an employee, student, research scholar, patient, etc.;'.

7. We may, in the first place, seek confirmation from the Ministry of Women and Child Development for amendment of definition as above. JS&LC may please see for approval.

(Veena Kothavale) Deputy Legislative Counsel 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2009

JS&LC (Shri S.R. Dhaleta)

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Moward by Legislett. on 21. 03. 01 (p20)N

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4. Leg-Sefett. her opmed that retention of Clause 12 is essential to check follow and malicious complaints to have a balanced and notingal and gentle squal.

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7. Leg department has requested Monami's confirmation to the propeded clefinition of "aggreed Womami's.
8. Submitted pl.

18/03/2009

US (WW)

The following definition is briggented for Coniduction Plean:

"aggrieved women" in belotion to a women place means a women (including a minor girl) against when the act of lemand haranness. is alleged to have been committed"

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Dept, M/ Rom o Justice at P 91/Al may pl. be seen.

we need to take a view on

(1) The issue of vetention or otherwise of the provision velating to Julse & malicions complaints (clause 12).

On this issue the MS, NZW was of the corong in that oneh a provision will disconnge lickins to come ferward with their complaints.

The views of the Legislative Dept.,
M/Ram a Justice (Parra 4) may pl. be seen at 891/M

On my parst, I fail to appreciate the apprehensions of NZW. I think there there would be no two opinions on the fact that a special giece of legislation line this whould, not the very least, aim to be a complete code in itself.

for example, the Indian Penal lode, which is the primary a supreme criminal law, watering provisions relatins to forged documents, false evidence etc. and prescribe purishment for much offenes. I am aware of several special legislations which worksins provisions to true care of false a malicious complaints.

It must be kept in mind that I un proved allegations are not false/malicions. On the oinstant case, a sesponder would & segnired to produce evidence to the effect that the complaint made against him is talse or filed with malafide intention. If buch evidence is produced, it would be unseasonable to hold that ozmedy against such false/ mahicione action has to be complet else where.

On view of the above I am of the opinion thank we may not airself on removal of clause 12.

(2) So fars as the agrission of the coverage of the act to womes who may not be employed in a worne place is uncerned, the rouggessions of the Legislative Department, MI Law & Justice and the US(WW) may be perused.

I longgest the following definition in respect of Bouls-clange (e) of clange 2.

" Agrieved woman, with suspect to the provisions of this Act means a female, of any age, against whom any act of of seponal harassment is alleged to have been committed, whether not buch safemale is employed in the work place whose touch and of Sexual harrassment is alleged to have been committed."

I feel, certain other amendments may be required in the proposed legislation. They are as follows:

Clause 3: "No female" in stead of "No urman employee". And in the end, "which may include, but not limited to..."

Clause 16(1): "Any person - -- or where no bulk service rules have been

made or applicable to the person so aggreened --- "

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The matter was discussed with the Secretary(WCD) on 1.4.2009.

Accordingly, in view of the recommendation of the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice at para 4 (p.91/N) we may not press for deletion of cl. 12 in the draft Bill.

- 2. The recommendation of the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice regarding change in definition of "aggrieved woman" may be agreed to with a minor correction as follows:-
- "Aggrieved woman" in relation to a work place means a woman, of any age, against whom an act of sexual harassment has been or alleged to have been committed and includes an employee, student, research scholar, patient, etc.'
- 3. In view of the proposed change in the definition of 'Aggrieved Woman' in sub-clause(a) of clause(2) the following consequential amendment would be required:-
- (i) The clause 3 of the proposed legislation may be replaced with the following as under:
  - "At any workplace, no woman, of any age shall be... or by other actions, which may include, but not limited to,..."
- (ii) In sub-clause (1) of clause 16 after the words "or where no such service rules have been made", the following words "or applicable to the person who is so aggrieved" may be added.

This is needed to take care of the situation described in para 10 of the judgement of the Apex Court w.r.t. third party harassment.

(iii) In sub-clause(h) of clause 17 after the words "the conclusion of the enquiry" the following words "or without waiting for the enquiry where the perpetrator is not an employee in the workplace where the incident of sexual harassment has taken place" may be added.

This is also for taking care of third party harassment.

[Dr. (Mrs.) Kiran Chadha] Joint Secretary

2.4.2009

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MOS (I/C) may kindly see the Note of JS(KC) on page 97/N. I generally agree with the Note of JS(KC) except point 3 (iii). In my opinion the original provision that the criminal action should be initiated under the penal code or any other law for the time being in force against the perpetrator should be after the inquiry should remain unchanged. Natural justice also demands that before initiating a criminal action that at least a preliminary inquiry is conducted.

(Anil Kumar)

Secretary (WCD) 6/4/2009

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## Ministry of Women & Child Development **WW Section**

Subject: The Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill.

The Supreme Court of India, in its judgement dated 13.8.1997 delivered in the Visakha's case, for the first time recognised, acknowledged and defined sexual harassment of women at work place as serious discrimination against women and violation of their human rights. The court laid down guidelines in the judgement putting the onus on the employers to provide harassment free work environment by taking preventive measures and providing complaint resolution mechanisms for redressed of complaints. The court ordered that the guidelines and norms set out in the judgement would be strictly observed in all work places whether in the public or private sector and these directions would be binding and enforceable in law until suitable legislation is enacted to occupy the field.

- In the context of the Supreme Court's judgement, the Ministry of Women and Child Development had drafted a Bill titled 'The Protection against Sexual Harassment of Women at work flow Bill' in consultation with the NCW and other stake holders. The Ministry is in the process of fine tuning the draft Bill.
  - 03. Salient features of the Bill are given below:-
  - (a) the Bill provides that no woman employee at a workplace shall be subjected to sexual harassment including unwelcome sexually determined behavior, physical contact, advances, sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography, sexual demand, request for sexual favours or any other unwelcome conduct of sexual nature whether verbal, textual, physical, graphic or electronic or by any other actions, which may include implied or overt promise of preferential treatment in employment, implied or overt threat of detrimental treatment in employment or about the present or future employment status or any conduct which interferes with work or creates an intimidating or offensive or hostile work environment or humiliating conduct constituting health and safety problems,
  - (b) by appointing an Internal Complaints Committee under the legislation, the employer has to ensure safe environment free from sexual harassment including prevention and deterrence of sexual harassment and the responsibility to facilitate initiation of disciplinary proceedings,
  - (c) the Bill provides for appointment of the District Magistrate or the Additional District Magistrate or the Collector or the Deputy Collector as District Officers in every districts under the legislation to carry out the functions laid down therein,
  - (d) the Bill provides for constitution of Local Complaints Committee by the District Officer to deal with complaints of the employees working in those establishments or organisations where constitution of Internal Complaint Committee is not possible or practicable or where the complaint is against the employer himself,
  - (e) complaints committee is to be set up at every workplace by every employer consisting of not less than three members headed by a woman to deal with cases of sexual harassment and the Local Complaints Committee is to include the Protection Officer appointed under the Domestic Violence Act also as a Member,
  - (f) A period of ninety days has been prescribed for the completion of inquiry by the committee.

( - Carbel)

- O4 The Ministry of Women & Child Development after making consultation with various non-governmental organisations, NCW and other concerned/ interested persons about the contents of the Bill and suggested to the Ministry of Law & Justice for omission of clause 12 of the Bill and for extension of the provisions of the Bill to unorganised sector.
- The Ministry of Women & Child Development is of the view that the provisions of clause 12 which provides punishment for false or malicious complaint and false evidence may deter women from filing complaints relatin g to sexual harassment at work place and mere failure to prove such complaints may be interpreted adversely against women thereby attracting provisions of said c lause 12. However, the Ministry of Law & Justice is of the view that our stand is totally unfounded and retention of clause 12 is essential to check false and malicious complaints being filed and giving false evidence. The Ministry of Law & Justice further added that in order to have a law which is balanced, neutral and gender equal, it is important to retain the said clause 12.
- Of As regards the proposal to extend the provisions of the Bill to the unorganised sector is concerned, the Ministry of Law & Justice has clarified that the unorganised sector has already been coveredwithin the ambit of the proposed legislation and definitions of employee, employer and the work place include the unorganised sector also and hence there is no need to make any changes in the draft Bill in this regard.
- On the suggestion of the Ministry of WCD to widen the definition of aggrieved woman to include the university students, research scholars etc. since a large number of sexual harassment cases are being reported by them, the Ministry of Law have suggested the definition of aggrieved women as under:-

Aggrieved woman in relation to a work place, means a woman against whom the act of sexual harassment has been committed.

Or

Aggrieved woman in relation to a work place means a woman against whom the act of sexual harassment has been committed and includes an employee, student, research scholar, patient etc.

08. The suggestions of the Ministry of Law & Justice have been examined on p.97-98/ante and it was felt that we may not press for deletion of clause 12 in the draft bill. It was also felt to define aggrieved woman as under:-

Aggrieved woman in relation to a work place means a woman of any age against whom an act of sexual harassment has been or alleged to have been committed and includes an employee, student, research scholar, patient etc.

- 09. In view of the proposed change, the following consequential amendments are required.

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 (ii) In sub clause (1) of clause (16) after the words ' or where no such service rules have been made', the words 'or applicable to the person who is so aggrieved may be added.

The above suggestions may be placed before Hon'ble MOS (IC), WCD for orders on the stand to be taken on clause 12 of the draft Bill and the definition of the aggrieved woman so that the file can be referred back to the Ministry of Law & Justice (Legislative Department) so that the draft Bill can be finalised before initiating action for introduction of the Bill in the Parliament.

(D.V.K. Rao) US(WW) 16.6.09

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to retain clause 12 or not.

There have been feveral representations

from NGO etc regarding allowing

clause 12 to remain.

The since regarding the definition of aggreed women of covering the women in unarganised sector, the matter has been pushed.

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## Ministry of Women and Child Development

The proposed *Clause 12* of the Protection of Women agasinst Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill reads as under :-

- "(1) Where the Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be, arrives at a conclusion that the allegation against the respondent is false or malicious or the aggrieved women or any other person making the complaint has produced any forged or misleading document, it may recommend to the employer or the District Officer to take action against the woman or the person who has made the complaint in accordance with the provisions of the service rules applicable to her or him or where no such service rules have been made, in such manner as may be prescribed.
- (2) Where the Committee or the Local Committee, as the case may be, arrives at a conclusion that during the enquiry any witness has given false evidence or produced any forged or misleading document, it may recommend to the employer of the witness or the District Officer to take action in accordance with the provisions of the service rules applicable to the said witness or where no such service rules have been made, in such manner as may be prescribed."
- 2. The perusal of the proposed provision would reveal that it aims to discourage false or malicious complaints, giving false evidence and adducing forged and misleading documents. It may be pointed out here that this proposed provision is not intended to discourage women from making complaints of sexual harassment but to discourage malicious proceedings. Therefore, the view of the Ministry of Law and Justice that this particular provision should exist in the proposed Act should be supported.
- 3. It may be appreciated that we are proposing this legislation to take care of a particular deviant behavior and as a special piece of legislation our effort should be to ensure that the proposed legislation is a complete code in itself. This particular provision have been discussed in detail at pp.94-95/N. The then Joint Secretary. Dr. (Mrs.) Kiran Chadha's note at p.97/N may please be seen where there is a proposal not to insist on deletion of Clause 12 in the draft Bill. The recommendation of the Secretary(WCD) at p.98/N agreeing with the views of JS(KC) may please be seen. Therefore, so far as the officials of the Ministry is concerned, there appears to be a unanimity with the Ministry of Law and Justice with respect to retention of Clause 12.
- 4. With respect to Hon'ble MOS(IC)(WCD)'s directions that expert opinion in this matter should be sought from a cross section of experts, it may be submitted that the proposed legislation has been prepared by the National Commission for Women(NCW), presumably on the basis of opinions from experts working in this field. It is also understood that NCW has held national level consultations to ascertain the views of the various stakeholders on this issue and accordingly has addressed their concerns in the draft legislation. If further expert opinion is to be obtained on this issue, the names of such experts need to be indicated. Two lists of such experts available with the Women Welfare Division is placed below at F/'X'. It may be suggested whom among the list placed below should be consulted.

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(M. R. Mohanty)

Additional Secretary This wish come up for discursion in Mos (IC)'s parliament of the to-day. She said that she would

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All drove women's Dosovietern (Gromatic All drove women's Dosovietern (Gromatic and Guild of Sosivice and Select lawyers who have worked in gender consumption 3979) Such as Aparap Bhat; Fry a Hugorani (9810001064), Manale Signal (98105 28055). Misushian Adad Seey (wood) It is felt that we may windhade the organisations suggested by E.A in addition to the Cellier suggestions given in my Me.

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(MRS. VIJAYALAKSHM' K. GUPTA)
Additional Secretary

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/It would be recalled that the Ministry of Law & Justice has sought the view of the MWCD on the definition of 'aggrieved women' and the need to retain Clause-12 in the proposed legislation for Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Work Place. After examining, it was felt to define "aggrieved woman" is as under:-

- " Aggrieved woman in relation to a workplace means, a woman of any age against whom an act of sexual harassment has been made or alleged to have been committed, it includes an employe student, research scholar, patient, etc."
- Regarding Section-12, which seeks to provide punishment for false or malicious complaint, Hon' ble MOS (I/C.) (WCD) had a discussion with women MPs on sth of August, 2009. There had been a consensus about the need for such a provision in the proposed legislation to prevent misuse of the Act.
- In view of the above position, Hon' ble MOS (WCD) may like to take a view on the definition of 'aggrieved woman" and on the need to retain Clause-12 in the proposed legislation.

Du we (DVK Rao) US (WW) 11.8.2009

1006. Segf. May kindly approve the

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### Reference:- Note on pre-page.

Ministry of law & Justice has sought the view of the MWCD on the definition of 'aggrieved women' and the need to retain Clause-12 in the proposed legislation for Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Work Place.

Hon'ble MOS (I/C) WCD has approved the definition of 'aggrieved women' and the need to retain Clause 12. The file may now be referred back to Ministry of Law & Justice, Legislative Department (Smt. Veena Kothavale, Deputy Legislative Counsel) so that draft Bill can be finalized before introducing the same in the Parliament.

Submitted please.

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### Ministry of Law and Justice Legislative Department

The proposal of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to enact a legislation for Protection of women against sexual harassment at work places was concurred in by this Department on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2006 vide our Notes at page 20/ante.

- 2. The draft Bill on the said subject was forwarded to the Ministry for confirmation, to which they suggested certain changes and the said changes were made and the draft Bill was once again forwarded to the said Ministry for confirmation. They have now confirmed the contents of the draft Bill. In the mean while there was a change of the Government and new Cabinet was formed after elections.
- 3. In this regard, the attention of the Ministry of Women and Child Development is drawn to Office Memorandum No. 1/13/5/2009-Cab. dated the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 from the Cabinet Secretariat regarding fresh approval of the Minister-in-charge and Cabinet after formation of the new Government.
- 4. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is advised to prepare a fresh draft Note for the Cabinet taking into consideration the procedure specified in Chapter IX of the Manual for Handling Parliamentary Work in Ministries and after consulting Ministries, Departments of the Central Government and State Governments and other interested authorities/persons and forward a copy of the same to the Department of Legal Affairs.
- 5. While attempting the draft Note for the Cabinet, the Ministry may take into consideration the latest guidelines issued by the Cabinet Secretariat vide their D.O. No. 1/13/6/2007-Cab., dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2009.
- 6. The proposed definition of "aggrieved woman" does not fit in the scheme of the Bill, so it may also be made clear in the said draft Note for the Cabinet that, how an employer-employee relationship can be established in respect of a student, research scholar and patient and how can a "work place" also be established or determined for a student and patient.
- 7. A copy of the said draft Note for Cabinet may be forwarded to the Department of Legal Affairs for examination of its feasibility from legal and constitutional point of view.
- 8. A copy of the said draft Note for Cabinet may also be forwarded to this Department so as to enable us to draft the Bill on the subject.

(Sunita Anand) Assistant Legislative Counsel 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 Ph.23384065.

JS& LC (Shri S.R. Dhaleta)

Solohalets 6/10/8

Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Molawa Justice, Legislative Dept: U.O.No. 1(35)061-2 dt. 07/10/09

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Reference:- Note on pre-page.

The draft bill regarding Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Work Place, was forwarded to Ministry of law & Justice for finalization of bill before introducing the same in the parliament vide note on page number 109/N

How ever Ministry of Law & Justice has raised an objection on Para No. 6, which is appended below:-

The proposed definition of "aggrieved women" does not fit in the scheme of the Bill, so it may also be made clear in the said draft Note for the Cabinet that, how an employer – employee relationship can be established in respect of a student, research scholar and patient and how can a "work place" also be established or determined for a student and patient.

Submitted please.

9/11/2009

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Dr (mkm)

We have included Mo xer's observation and over overpose on the issue of definition of 'agricultumen' in the doorfd calorat note.

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Secy (win)

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# Ministry of Women & Child Development W.W. Section

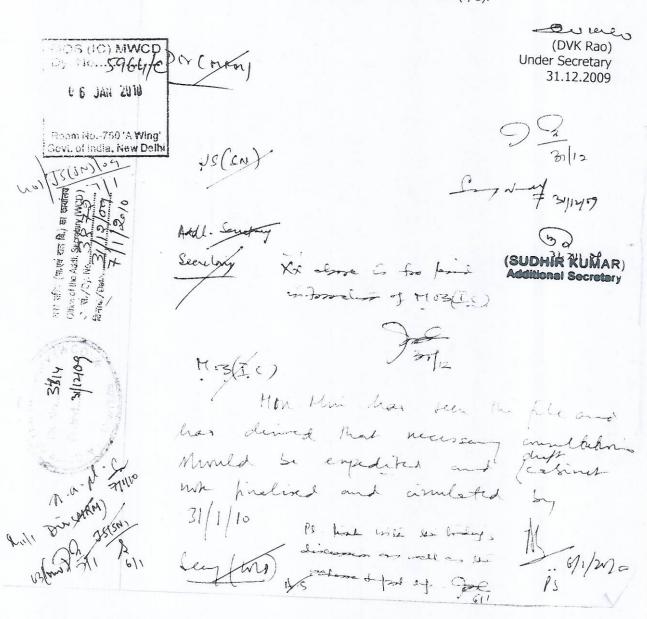
Subject:-Draft Bill on Protection of Sexual Harrasement at Work Place.

Office of Hon'ble MOS(I/C) has requested that the file dealing with Prohibition of Sexual Harrasement at Work Place may be submitted to her today positively.

It will be recalled that the Ministry of Law & Justice has advised us to prepare a fresh Cabinet Note incorporating the views of the Ministry as to how reseach scholar and patient could be brought under the ambit of the proposed legislation. To review and fine tune the bill in light of the observations of the Law Ministry, we have vide order dated 30.12.2009 constituted an Inter Ministerial Group. A copy of the OM issued in this regard may be seen at page 427-428/Corr. The first meeting of the group is scheduled on 7.1.2010.

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The file may be submitted to Hon'ble MOS(I/C).



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#### F.No.19-5/2004-WW (Vol.III)

The Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) constituted to discuss the draft Bill for 'Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill, 2010' met on  $7^{\text{th}}$  January, 2010 and deliberated on the provisions included in the draft Bill. A copy of the minutes of the meeting may be seen at p.429-432/cor. In brief, decisions taken/issues raised are as under:-

- i) The definition of the "aggrieved women" and "workplace" as given in the draft Bill may be retained.
- ii) Though the provision of penalizing employers for not constituting committees under proposed legislation was considered crucial, the cause of concern could be its enforcement. A suggestion was made to incorporate a coercive provision such as cancellation, non-renewal, rejection of license/approvals by the Government/ Local authority that such organization requires to carry on its business. We may include such a provision in the draft Bill.
- iii) The requirement of appointment of chairperson and other members of the local committee by the appropriate Government under Section 6(2) of the draft Bill be deleted as the provision clearly states that the District Officer shall constitute the Committee. **This may be agreed to.**
- iv) Section-11(3)(b) cannot be made applicable to Government servants as no provision exists in the Disciplinary Rules to provide for compensation and only penalties prescribed there in can be imposed on the charged officer. The provision in the draft Bill may be suitably modified so that either of Sub Clause (a) and (b) is applicable in a particular case.
- v) Section-14 & 15 of the proposed Bill might not be required as adequate provisions are available under RTI Act, 2005 for exemption in the case of inquiry proceedings and personal information.

Under Section-8 of RTI Act, 2005, information which would impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders need not be given to any citizen. Information which relates to personal information, the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest or which would cause unwanted invasion of the privacy of the individuals need not be given unless the Public Information Officer (PIO) /Appellate Authority, as the case may be, is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies disclosure of such information. In view of this, there may not, perhaps, be any need for Section-14 & 15 of the draft Bill.

- vi) There was a consensus to retain Section-12 to prevent misuse of the Law.
- vii) Under Section -11 (3)(b) relating to deduction from the salary or wages of the respondent, such sum of compensation to be paid to the aggrieved women or to legal hirers, ceiling prescribed in Gr.PC. may be followed. This may be agreed.
- viii) Under Section-16 (2) it was suggested that instead of restricting the kind of orders to leave, transfer or restraining the order, the expression "or any other order, as may be deemed appropriate" may be added. **This may be agreed** to.

### F.No.19-5/2004-WW (Vol.III)

ix) The coverage of the proposed Bill under Section-1(2) must be revised to provide an exception in case of the State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

The issue of application of the proposed law in the State of J&K was earlier examined by the Department of Legal Affairs and it was felt that the proposed Law can be made applicable to the State of J&K in view of the entry made by the Constitution (application to J & K) Order 1954. As such, the proposed Law may be made applicable to the whole of India.

- x) The definition of 'Chairperson' under Clause-2 (C) of the draft Bill to be revised so as to read 'Chairperson' means Chairperson of the Internal Committee or of the Local Committee. This may be agreed to.
- 2. It was decided that NCW would make appropriate amendments to the draft Bill and submit it to the MWCD for getting it vetted by the Ministry of Law & Justice before the Cabinet Note is circulated. Though NCW has not so far provided us the revised draft, a draft Cabinet Note, keeping the above issues in mind, has been attempted and placed on file. If agreed, we may forward this draft Cabinet Note to the Ministry of Law & Justice to enable them to draft a revised Bill on 'Protection Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace'.

For consideration pl.

Direction (DVK Rao)
Under Secretary
18.1.2010.

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F.No.1 (35)/2006 L-I

## LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE-I SCETION

Subject: The Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill, 2010-reg.

## Dy.No.134/10 L-I Dated 27-01-2010

We have received file from Ministry of Women and Child Development, on the above cited subject wherein they have forwarded to us a copy of the draft Cabinet Note along with a copy of the revised draft Bill on "Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace" for vetting.

In this regard, they have mentioned that it was decided that NCW would make appropriate amendments to the draft Bill and submit it to the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) for getting it vetted by this Ministry. Though NCW has not so far provided them the revised draft Cabinet Note which has been attempted and placed on file.

Submitted Please.

JS&LC(Shri S.R.Dhaleta)

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Addl. R.C. (Ms Vosishla)

Thou the perisal of the Notes on the per-pages, it appears that The proposal has not been concurred in by The expentenent of Ligal Affairs. 24 approved, we may forward the same to the said o Expendence for Their Concurrence.

J.S.2 L.C. (SL. S. R. Dhalder)

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Ministry of Law & Justice Department of Legal Affairs

## FTS No.679/2010-Adv.B

The Ministry of Women & Child Development has forwarded a draft note for Cabinet on "the Protection of Women against Sexual harassment at workplace Bill, 2010" for our examination and concurrence.

2. The referring Ministry is advised to place on record copy of revised Draft Note for the Cabinet. The referring Ministry is also advised to ensure that the decision taken in the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) on the various Section of the said Bill have been incorporate in the revised Draft Note for the Cabinet for our examination.

(O.P.Bagri) Asstt. Legal Advisor Dated 05.02.2010

Ministry of Women & Child Development

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