



THE SOCIETY FOR THE RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY

(AFFILIATED TO THE WORLD FEDERATION OF RIGHT TO DIE SOCIETIES)

NEWS LETTER

VOL.VIII DEC.,1998

ADDRESS:

C/o Dr. B.N.Colabawalla
A3 Ben Nevis, B. Desai Rd.,
Mumbai 400 026, India.
Tel.: 363 00 80

Editor's Note on :

1. The newsletter being devoted to the proceedings of the General Body meeting.
2. Inform members about the availability of the copy of the living will and the Power of Attorney.
3. Inform members about the new rules.
Members wishing to have the new rules should write to the office address given below.
4. Draw attention of the ordinary members to the decision of the executive committee for their membership as per item 4 in the minutes of the executive committee meeting.
5. All members are requested to note that the current address for all communications with the society is as under.
C/o. Dr. N. N. Colabawalla
A-3, Ben Nevis, B. Desai Road,
Mumbai - 400 026. Tel. : 363 0080.

Minutes of the General Body Meeting of the Society held on Saturday September 12, 1998 at 3.00 pm, at IMA House, Mumbai.

Ten members were present.

As the quorum was not fulfilled, the meeting was deemed as adjourned and reconvened at 3.30 pm. The chairman Dr. B.N.Colabawalla took the chair and called the meeting to order.

Bussiness Transacted :

1. Apologies were received for absence were received from Dr. N.H.Wadia, Prof. S.S. Varde and Mr. Arvind Despande. They were granted leave of absence.
2. Tributes to the late Mr. Minoo Masani, the founder of the Society were paid by Dr. B.N.Colabawalla and Mr. S. V. Raju. (This is recorded elsewhere in this newsletter).

One minute silence was observed by all members in memory of the late Mr. Minoo Masani.
The following resolution was adopted unanimously.

"Resolved that this General Body Meeting of the Society for the right to die with dignity records its

deep sorrow at the passing away of its founder, the late Mr. Minoo Masani and extends its heartfelt and sincere sympathies to Mrs. Shaiela Masani and other members of the family. "

3. The chairman made same preliminary remarks as under.

'Ladies and Gentleman,

It is with a sense of disappointment that I make some observations. The greatest source of disappointment is the lack of involvement of the vast majority of the members in the affairs and functioning of this society. An organisation of any nature is as strong and viable as its members make it. It cannot be advanced on the shoulders of the very few who run its affairs, because life being what it is, they may not be there for all time to come and a line of succession has to be ordained. It is in this latter contest that I appeal to the members and particularly the younger ones who unlike many of us on the executive committee are still to attain the status of senior citizens.

There are manifold methods available to members to contribute. I can mention a few like supplying the office material which can be incorporated in the newsletters, or by organising group meetings in their area to propagate the concepts or again to write articles for the news letter or to the press, or to open a dialogue in the press if they find a news item on the topic - Whether it is for or against our concepts. Members can also contribute by inducing their friends to join the society finally they should not hesitate to offer suggestions to the Executive Committee when they feel it is valid to do so. I would like to end this brief peroration by expressing to you that I as chairman feel now a greater moral responsibility to carry forth the pioneering effort of the founder, the late Mr. Minoo Masani. I earnestly request your help and co-operation. Thank you.'

4. Confirmation of the minutes of the last General Body Meeting.

The minutes were read out and as there was no dissent it was unanimously adopted and signed by the chairman.

5. Report of the Executive Committee :

It was presented to the members and is appended to these minutes.

6. Ralification of changes in the Rules Governing the Society was considered :

The chairman informed the members that there was no substantial alteration of the rules except in two areas viz class of membership and to hold the General Body Meetings every three years.

The chairman explained the rational behind these changes. As for class of members, he pointed out that the class of ordinary members paying three-yearly fees should be abolished as experience had shown that over 95% of such members failed to pay their dues and in spite of repeated letters did not respond. This resulted in unnecessary paper work, postage expenses and cost of the newsletter which now exceeds Rs. 7/= per copy. It was suggested that the executive committee should consider ways and means of enticing such members failing which they should **prove** away the dead wood. Hence it was suggested **that** the class of members would be a) Donor members, b) Life members - single, c) Life member - couple, d) Senior Citizen - single, e) Senior Citizen - couple. The fees to be charged would be decided from time to time by the executive committee.

It was however suggested that currently the fees for donor memebbers would be Rs. 5000/= & over, for Life-membership-single Rs. 1200/=, for Life membership - couple Rs. 2000/=, for Senior Citizens - single Rs. 800/= and for Senior Citizens - couple RS. 1200/=.

The chairman explained that having an annual General meeting seems to be a waste of effort as evidenced by the lack of attendance and interest by members. Besides it takes more than a year to implement ant programme. Hence a Three-Yearly meeting is suggested. This was agreed upon by all the members. The chairman clarified that the report and balance sheet would be circulated annually to all members. The changes in the rules were there after adopted unanimously.

7. Election of the Executive Committee :

The following were unanimously elected :
Dr. B. N. Colabawalla, Prof. S. S. Varde, Dr. Nagraj Huilgol, Mrs. Perin Lalkaka, Mr. Feroze Patch, Mr. S. V. Raju, Dr. (Mrs.) Nargis Sorabjee and Mr. Arvind Despande and Mr. B. Khote.

8. The accredited balance sheet for the year ending March 1996 was presented and adopted.

The balance sheet for the year ending March 1997 is under preparation and would be circulated.

In the context of the audited accounts it was pointed out by Mr. S. V. Raju that the new law required submission of returns to the I.T. Office. Mr. Patch was requested to verify the same from our auditors.

9. Ms. Subramanium and Co. were appointed as auditors on the same remmerration as here for further period of three years.

10. Any other Business :

Mr. Khote suggested that our two main immediate objectives were creating public awareness of the issues including the economic implications and of trying to have the "Living will" recognised by law.

Dr. (Mrs.) Soranjee suggested that talks should be arranged at service clubs like Rotary etc. The chairman agreed that these were valid and attempts would be made towards that end.

As there was no other business, the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on Sept. 12, 1998 at 4.30 pm, at IMA House, mumbai.

Business Transacted :

Meeting chaired by Dr. B.N. Colabawalla.

1) The following members were proposed as office bearers and unanimously elected.

Chairman : Dr. B. N. Colabawalla.
Vice chairman : Prof. S. S. Varde.
Hon. Secy : Mrs. Perin Lalkaka.
Hon. Secy : Dr. Nagraj Huilgol
Hon. Treasurer : Mr. Feroze Patch.

2) The following Resolution was proposed from the chair :

"Resolved that all bank accounts and cheque transactions be jointly carried out by any two of the following office bearers

Dr. B. N. Colabawalla
Mrs. Perin Lalkaka
Dr. Nagraj Huilgol
Mr. Feroze Patch "

The bank would be informed of the above.

3) The suggestion at the General Body Meeting (held on the same day) for fees to be charged for membership was adopted.

(see minutes of the General Body Meeting and adopt here).

4) As per suggestions of the General Body meeting pertaining to ordinary members, the following decision was unanimously made.

"All ordinaay members on the list would be offered a compounded life membership at Rs. 500/= those who wished to continue on the 3 yearly subscription basis would be charged Rs. 150/=. They should forward these dues which would be removable as on 31 March 2000 within 30 days failing which their membership would be taken as terminated."

5) As there was no other business the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 31ST MARCH, 1998.

PREV. YR.	EXPENDITURE	CURR. YR.	PREV. YR.	INCOME	CURR. YR.
	Service charges for the use of office premises		16206.00	Donation	17471.00
1500.00		1800.00	1395.00	Membership subscription	841.00
12075.00	Salaries	16197.00	19720.65	Bank interest	21022.37
3155.00	Postage & Telegram	404.00		Miscellaneous income	
3670.00	Conveyance	60.00			
4474.25	Printing & stationary	239.00			
330.00	Repairs & Maintenance				
31560.00	Tours & Travels				
	Books & Periodicals				
	Affiliation fees to world Federation	3201.00			
104.00	Bank Charges	65.00			
500.00	Auditors Honararium	500.00			
	TDS on Interest	1216.00			
	Office Expenses	500.00			
	Meeting Expenses				
195.15	Depreciation	175.63			
20,242.50	Surplus this year	14976.74			
<u>37321.65</u>		<u>39334.37</u>	<u>37321.65</u>		<u>39334.37</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 1996.

PREV. YR.	CAPITAL & LIABILITIES	CURR. YR.	PREV. YR.	ASSETS & PROPERTIES	CURR. YR.
	<u>SOCIETY CORPUS FUND</u>			<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>	
109078.13	Prev. Balance 109078.13		1756.31	Typewriter 1756.31	
	Add : Life Membership 1510.00	110588.13		Less : Depreciation 175.00	1580.68
	<u>MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RECEIVED IN ADVANCE</u>			<u>INVESTMENTS</u>	
			15000.00	Fixed Deposits	15000.00
			145000.00	Deposits with Companies	145000.00
500.00	Auditor's Honararium payable	500.00			
	<u>INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS</u>		0.00	<u>LOAN TO STAFF</u>	500.00
				<u>CASH AND BANK BALANCES</u>	
70832.18	Balance b/d 70832.18				
	Add : Surplus this year		18654.00	Cash At Bank	34816.37
		85808.92	0.00	Cash in Hand	0.00
<u>180410.31</u>	<u>14976.74</u>	<u>196897.05</u>	<u>180410.31</u>		<u>34816.37</u>
					<u>196897.05</u>

Verified with the book of accounts
by The Society For The Right To Die With Dignity

FOR THE SOCIETY FOR THE RIGHT TO DIE WITH DIGNITY

MUMBAI

DATED :

Chartered Accountant

TRUSTEE

Tribute to the late Mr. Minoo Masani.

It is with a deep sense of pain that we have to initiate this meeting. I refer to the passing away of the founder of this society, the late Mr. Minoo Masani. Minoo has embellished life in this country with manifold contributions as a writer, historian, economist, parliamentarian and espouser of many social changes needed in our policy and society.

In whatever endeavour he undertook, the character of his personality was evident in his intellectual integrity, transparent honesty and the courage of his courcious to carry on with any activity regardless of obstacles. As he has started in his biogaraphy he was often "swimming against the tide". This is clearly identifiable in his founding of this society. Minoo had a passionate belief in freedom, liberalism and democracy. He was not a nationalist in the poverted sense we see today, but he was undoubtedly a true patriot. It behoves us then in this society to continue the herculian task started. It will be a filling tribute to his memory.

There have been many individuals who had been closely associated for decades with Minoo.

Amongst than we have Mr. S. V. Raju of freedom fast Journal, which Minoo founded on request.

Mr. Raju offered a few words on the personality of Minoo Masani.

May I request you all now to pay our homage to the late. Mr. Minoo Masani by observing a minutes silence.

A suitable resolution will be formulated and forwarded to Mrs. Masani & members of his family.

Report of the Executive Committee :

1. Meetings of the Executive Committee have been held from time to time to discuss various issues concerning the society.

2. News Letters have been published at intervals when enough material for the same was available.
3. Dr. Colabawalla, Prof. Varde and Dr. Huilgol have appeared on separate programmes on T.V. on the subject. Prof. Varde has also addressed meetings of group whenever feasible.
4. The society was represented by Dr. Huilgol at the Biannual conference of the World Federation of the Right to die societies held in Australia in 1996. The report has appeared in a previous newsletter.
5. A round table discussion on the legal and ethical aspects of the Living Will and the law was held with a selected group of individuals. The response was encouraging and positive views were expressed.
6. Five new lfe members joined the society.
7. The following donation were received and gratefully acknowledged.
 - i) Rs. 5000/= from Mrs Vijayanti Ranade.
 - ii) Rs. 5000/= from the Leslie Sawhney Programme. through courtesy of Mr. Arvind Despande.
- 8) The following projects were proposed for the future :
 - i) A seminar on the Right to Die and Voluntary Euthanasia with selected group of individuals from various walks of life
 - ii) Essay competetion on the topic at the level of college students.
 - iii) The draft of the bill to be submitted to legal experts for finalising the same. There after an attempt will be made to identity a setting legislator who would be willing to table a private members bill.
 - iv) A memorial lecture in honour of the late Mr. Minoo Masani.
 - v) Communication with Mr. H. D Showrie of common cause to see if public interest Litigation can be filed in the Supreme Court.

Book-Post

Stamp

To,

Name: _____

Address : _____

If undelivered Please Return to:

DR. B. N. COLABAWALLA
A/3, Ben Nevis, Bhulabhai Desai Rd.,
Mumbai - 400 026.