APPENDIX III.

SCHEME OF WORK FOR THE WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

Object of the Department:

The object of the Department is to bring in more women in the Congress fold and the expansion of Congress activities in general. The Department devises ways and means to popularise the political as well as the constructive programmes of the Congress amongst women. Both the programmes bases as they are on non-violence, are such that they can be easily and efficiently worked by women. A number of Congress women and a few women's organisations are already working in the field, their efforts have got to be systematized, coordinated and extended. It is to help in these directions that a women's department has been established in the AICC office. The detail work however will have to be done in the provinces. The centre can only suggest ways and coordinate effective body of women workers to carry on the work.

Organization of the Department in the Province:

Either an organizer of a committee with an active secretary should be appointed in each province. For local divisions similar bodies should be created. It will be the duty of the organiser or the secretary to see that the work is done regularly and effectively. A report of the work done should be sent to the A.I.C.C. Office every three months.

In our present society it is not possible for women to meet and work together if the local units are wide in extent and area. Efforts must, therefore, be made to make the units as small as would facilitate continual work.
All work should be done under the P.C.C. in order to avoid conflict.

The Work for the Department:

For effective prosecution of the work it is necessary that a body of trained workers should be created. These workers in addition to general training about the work should specialise in particular branches of congress activity. For this women's clubs or training classes should be opened at convenient centres. Wherever possible there should be periodical camps conducted by women themselves.

Workers may be trained in the following activities:

1) Volunteering.
2) Khadi including hand ginning, carding, silver making, spinning, fitting and repairing of different instruments and testing of yarn, conducting charkha centres where all the different processes of spinning taught, organising khadi sales. In this work effort should be made to secure cooperation of the local branch of the A.I.I.A.
3) Training in Harijan uplift work, such as conducting literary classes, improving the sanitation of the mahalla, conducting mother and baby welfare centres, teaching charkha and other handicrafts.
4) Training in village work and village industry work, study circles for better educated workers.
5) Classes should be conducted regularly to give the workers with less education rudimentary knowledge of History, Geography, Economics and Politics, and other general subjects.

GENERAL WORK:

1) Enrolling Congress members - special efforts should be made to enrol women as Congress members. This should be done not with a view to office but as a measure of service to strengthen the organisation.
2) Help to carrying out among women the programme kept before the country by the Congress.
3) Organising women's meetings to awaken the political consciousness amongst the women, to organise the constructive programme of the Congress consisting of village uplift, charkha and khadi, work in the labour area, literacy work, specially adult literacy, etc.

Source: NIL file.