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NCW head criticised for 'rude behaviour'

New Delhi, June 19: It was an embarrassing situation for the chairperson of National Commission for Women Poornima Advani when she was criticised for her "rude behaviour" by one of the presenters at a function organised by the commission here on Saturday but Ms Advani refuted the charges. Taking everybody by surprise, Ms Surekha Sule, one of the key speakers presenting an NCW-commissioned survey, after concluding her speech, suddenly took on Ms Advani, stating that the NCW chairperson has been "rude" to her and alleged that the commission was also holding up the payment for the survey. "She made me wait for three hours when I came to meet her for some official matter. "And after that she gave me just two minutes and was very impolite to me," claimed Ms Sule after presenting a part of the survey on the status of women journalists in India.

Rebutting the claims, NCW chairperson said, "I don't remember any instance when I have offended you (Sule). NCW keeps its doors open to everyone at all hours." During her 10-minute verbal attack against NCW and its chairperson, MS Sule also charged the commission with "non-cooperation" and holding up her payment for the survey. Ms Sule, a member of Press Institute of India, which carried out the survey, also alleged that she and other members of PII involved in the study suffered financial losses due to cancellation of a programme by NCW earlier this year to release the report as they were not informed in time. (PTI)

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LETTERS

NOT AN EMPLOYEE

Sir, With reference to the PTI news item *NCW head criticised for "rude" behaviour* (*The Asian Age*, June 20) at a function organised to release a study on the status of women journalists in the country, I would like to state categorically that Ms Surekha Sule who accused Dr Poornima Advani of the National Commission of Women of being rude to her is not an employee of the Press Institute of India. Her remarks on Dr Advani have nothing to do with the study. I would also like to point out that the study was not done by the NCW, but by the Press Institute of India. The Press Institute worked closely with a team of six senior journalists from across the country to put together the report based on a lengthy 20-page questionnaire in three languages. In fact, a major focus of the report was the difference in status between women working with the national English language press and the regional language press in different parts of the country. Several newspapers neither give a designation nor an appointment letter. Many of the journalists are paid on a voucher at the end of the month.

USHA RAI

*Project Coordinator for the study
and Deputy Director
Press Institute of India*
