

Focus on development goals

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, MARCH 1. Seeking to foster linkages among the Government, non-government organisations (NGOs) and corporates, the All-India Women's Education Fund Association (AIWEFA) is organising a seminar on "Building Partnerships Towards Achieving Development Goals in India" here from March 5 to 7. A three-member delegation from the United Nations, led by the Chief of the NGO Section/ECOSOC, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, at the U.N., Hanifa Mezoui, will participate in the seminar,

To be held at the Parliament House Annexe, the seminar would be attended by representatives from 40 NGOs from all over the country working in the areas of poverty reduction, education, health and sustainable development. The focus will be on the objectives of the development goals propounded by the U.N. for the next two decades and on the efforts at the national and regional levels to achieve development goals specific to the area of work of the NGOs.

"We want to network with as many NGOs as

we can and show the U.N. delegation the kind of work NGOs in India are doing, and identify areas for further progress," said AIWEFA president, Veena Singh. Dr. Mezoui has also been working towards greater participation of NGOs in the work of the U.N., providing opportunities to organisations in remote areas through networking and giving NGOs Consultative Status with the ECOSOC.

On the first day, development perspectives of the U.N., the Government, corporate sector and civil society will be outlined. The second day will have a discussion on building partnerships, and the third day will focus on the role of information technology in sustainable development. The Government's representatives at the seminar will include Member, Planning Commission, N.K. Singh, the Joint Secretary in the Union IT Ministry, R. Chandrashekhar, the HRD Secretary, Vaidyanathan Iyer, and the Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, Najma Heptullah. The Nina Sibal Memorial Award to an outstanding NGO using innovative methods for education will also be awarded on the occasion to Merry Barua and her organisation "Action for Autism".