

National Human Rights Commission has taken suo-motu cognizance in the following cases during the year 2014. The State wise details of cases alongwith case number date of cognizance by the Commission and its first proceedings are given below. The latest status of these cases may kindly be checked on the the website of the Commission i.e. www.nhrc.nic.in by entering the number of the case in the search window “Status of a case filed” on the Home page.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Case No. 308/1/0/2014-BL

Date of Cognizance: 07.03.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English newspaper 'The Hindu' dated 7/03/2014 captioned "Bonded to brick kilns, migrants from Odisha may forfeit vote".

The press report alleges that because of debt bondage, more than 3 lakhs migrant workers from the western districts of Odisha were tied to brick kilns in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and will miss out on voting in the Lok Sabha polls. Odisha is going to the poll in two phases on April 10 and 17. However, most migrant workers must have to slog away at brick making till mid June because they have taken a loan from labour agents promising to work from November to June.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of labourers.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretaries, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No. 735/1/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Despite Govt. claims, leprosy is still raging", published in "The Pioneer" Delhi dated 20.5.2014.

The press report states that though government have declared that leprosy is under control but official data shows that the incidence of the crippling disease has been on increase with 1,26,800 new cases in 2010-11, 1,27,295 in 2011-12 and 1,34,752 in 2012-13 in the country.

Hence timely corrective steps need to be taken to bring it down to level of elimination i.e., less than one case per 10,000 population.

It is further stated that National Leprosy Elimination Programme was a vertical programme being run by specially trained staff under district leprosy officers till 2002-03 but situation started worsening following integration of leprosy services with General Health Care system since 2002-03 to be completed by March 2005. It is alleged that at that time only 25% of the erstwhile vertical staff (paramedical worker, physiotherapist, health educator and others) were retained with NLEP and rest were surrendered to the GHC to work as multi purpose workers and supervisors. The news report further states that during the last six years a number of persons have retired and in most of the states the posts remained unfilled resulting in, shortage of manpower at block level, hence the quality of services was not being attained.

It is further stated that the GHC staff has to perform other programme/activities and therefore to provide one dedicated worker for leprosy work is getting difficult, due care could not be provided to the persons affected by leprosy.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victims of leprosy.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Health, Govt. of India calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.821/1/7/2014

Date of Cognizance: 18.06.2014

“The Commission has come across of a distressing news story in the NDTV, reported and again updated on June 13, 2014, captioned "no electricity for four months at this Hyderabad Hospital". The news report stated that a Primary Health Centre in the heart of Hyderabad, a six-bedded hospital for pregnant women and new mothers was empty, the labour room was dark, dingy and abandoned. Every piece of equipment in the operation theater was covered in dust, allegedly because there has been no electricity in PHC for the last four months due to non payment of electricity bill of Rs. 72,000/-. The electricity department has said it had no choice but to cut the supply as no payment was made despite reminders.

It is further reported in the news bulletin that no doctor has been posted there since January this year and auxiliary nurses and midwives (ANM) have been running the show. The Centre is supposed to cater about 70,000 population. One ANM

reportedly said that they had no option but to stop deliveries and other services, turn away emergency cases as there was no provision for sterilisation.

The Commission perused the report and observed that there has been a serious, violation of human rights of the women who needs maternity medical treatment and care and other public which is being deprived of Primary Health Care in Hyderabad city.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Telengana, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No. 876/1/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 30.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Gail pipeline explosion: "Ignored" gas leak kills 15 in Andhra Pradesh" published in 30.06.2014 edition of "THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS". It is reported that 15 people died and 12 were injured after a pipeline of Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) exploded following a gas leak near Nagaram village in East Godavari district, about 600 Kms. from Hyderabad. It is further reported that the people in the village had complained to the GAIL Authorities about the leak but no action was taken to rectify the same.

The press report, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of human rights of the persons who died and of those who were injured in the incident. The incident could have been averted had the GAIL authorities taken necessary action when the incident of gas leak was reported to them.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Oil & Natural Gas Resources, Government of India, DM East Godavari District and CMD, GAIL calling for a report in the matter within two weeks.”

Case No. 999/1/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 21.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news video being played in the TV News Channel NDTV 24x7 at 5.00 P.M. today. In the said video clipping three physically challenged students are being caned by the Principal and Manager of a residential school in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. All the three students were below 10 years of age.

The news item if true raises a serious violation of human rights of the children who are facing corporal punishment in the residential school where they have been sent by their parents for education.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and DM, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh calling for a report in the matter within two weeks.”

Case No.160/1/13/2014-BL

Date of Cognizance: 10.02.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report through CD from NDTV 24x7 TV channel which was telecast a few days ago. It shows in detail the plight of brick kiln workers working in Medak and Rangareddy districts of Andhra Pradesh. These workers are migratory labourers from Bolangir and Nuapada districts of Orissa. The report shows the labourers are literally kept in bondage by the brick kiln owners. They have been physically tortured and assaulted. They are made to work for 12 to 16 hours each day and are being paid Rs. 500 to 700 per week. There is no provision of safe drinking water, sanitation at the site. Children from the age of 4 years and above are also shown working with the elders. One lady labourer Mithla had accused that her husband has been missing for many days after he went ill and taken for treatment and has not returned. The owners are not giving her any information about her husbands whereabouts.

The brick kilns at Thane and Bhiwandi district are also covered in the programme. The labourers are from Katkari tribe which is one of the five primitive tribes of India. In thane and Bolangir also the condition of workers is similar to that of workers in districts of Andhra Pradesh. They are made to work up to 18 hrs. a day starting work at 4.00 in the morning. The wages are much below the minimum wages. There are no provisions for education of children who are mostly malnourished.

The contents of the CD depict the gross violation of human rights of the tribals and their children. The Commission would like to take suo motu cognizance in the matter calling for report from the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, within four weeks.”

Case No.667/1/7/2014

Date of Cognizance: 21.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned "3 killed as forces fire to quell communal riot", published in "Asian Age" dated 15.5.2014.

The press report states that a communal riot broke at Kishanbagh, Hyderabad, in the wee hours on 14.5.2014. The news report states that burning of a religious flag by unidentified miscreants on 13.5.2014 night triggered the violent clash. The mob mostly young persons, ran around the dense slums and attacked people randomly, most of them were fast asleep. The mob damaged about five houses and set them on fire, about 15 vehicles were either burnt or smashed. The situation went out of control as an opposing force retaliated with heavy stone-pelting. The local police, the RAF and platoons of the BSF were all sent in. The police used teargas but when that failed to disperse the mob, the police and BSF resorted to firing, killing 3 persons and injuring 20 others.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victim.

Issue notice to the DGP, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad calling for a report within four weeks.”

ASSAM

Case No. 215/3/11/2014

Date of Cognizance: 12.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English newspaper 'The Indian Express' dated 5th May, 2014 captioned "Assam violence: 6 forest dept men in custody after complaints by survivors".

According to the press report, a team of CID of Assam Police visited villages in Baksa District to carry out its investigation into the killings in Khagrabari incident in which 20 persons had died. The report mentions that 5 cases had been registered in connection with the incident that occurred in Kokrajhar and Baksa on the 1st and 2nd of May 2014. According to press report, some of the survivors made a specific complaint that when the villagers rushed to the forest beat office in Khagrabari as the armed miscreants attacked them, the forest personnel, instead of helping them, allegedly fired at them and set some of the houses on fire.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the natives of the district.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Assam and DGP, Assam, calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No. 276/3/7/2014

Date of Cognizance: 23.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English newspaper 'Pioneer' dated 20th May, 2014 captioned "Custodial torture; AHRC seeks UN intervention".

According to the newspaper report, a youth Siddharth Kaushik Dutta, was subjected to custodial torture in one of the police stations in Jorhat District of Assam. It is alleged that Rishikesh Hazarika, Officer-in Charge of Pulibor Police Station picked up the victim from his house on 16/04/2014 without any formal complaint against him. He was later transferred to Jorhat Sadar Police Station and falsely implicated. He was repeatedly tortured by the police at the police station. The torture continued till 26/04/2014 which made the victim unconscious. He had to be shifted to Dibrugarh Medical college for better treatment. No action had allegedly been taken on two separate complaints made by the mother of the victim against the police and the other accused. The report also refers to a complaint made to the National Human Rights Commission, which has since separately been received.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim.

Issue notice to the Director General of Police, of Police Assam, calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No. 491/3/15/2014

Date of Cognizance: 15.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Four killed in Assam gas pipeline blast", reported in the English daily, The Indian Express, dated 02.09.2014.

The news paper report stated that a gas pipe line of Assam Gas Company Ltd, an enterprises of Govt. of Assam, which buys natural gas from Oil India Limited and distributes it to different industries. The pipeline ruptured and caught fire on 01.09.2014 killing 4 persons including one pregnant woman and injuring nine other who sustained severe burn injuries. The blast took place near Moran in Sivasagar district in Assam. Since the victims were fast asleep when the incident took place, they hardly got any time to escape. The deceased have been identified as Jyoti Sabar (35 years), Michael Topno (30 years) Bhasan Sarma (35 years) and his wife Paras Sarma (28 years).

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a serious violation of human right of persons who died in the incident and sustained injuries due to the accident.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No. 611/3/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 31.12.2014

The Commission on 24.12.2014 has taken suo motu cognizance of a press report dated 21.12.2014 published in 'The Times of India' that four contractual workers of the Indian Oil Tanking limited (IOTL) died due to lack of oxygen while working inside a storage tank at Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL) at Lepetkata, 15 km from Dibrugarh. It was further informed that Hiren Gogoi, Hari Cheleng, Gajen Gogoi and Hemanta Das had entered in a propylene spherical tank around 9:15 a.m. where the accident occurred. These workers had stepped inside the tank with a capacity of 800 cubic metres without wearing any personal protective gear. After about an hour, other workers raised an alarm after finding them lying in an unconscious state. They were shifted to private nursing home but they were declared dead. The BCPL managing director said that there was negligence on the part of IOTL. After taking cognizance, the Commission directed to transmit a copy of press report to the concerned authority calling for a report within four weeks. Pursuant to the directions of the Commission, DM, Dibrugarh, Assam on 16.1.2015 submitted that an enquiry was conducted in connection with the death of four contract labourers of IOTL addressed to the Principal Secretary to the Government of Assam in which it is mentioned that after receiving telephonic information, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh visited the casualty department of Aditya Hospital and recorded the statements of Senior Manager, BCPL, Senior Engineer BCPL, Safety Officer, Engineer (Quality Control), IOTL, BCPL and Deputy Manager, EIL. From the enquiry, it was revealed that there was a pre-scheduled inspection programme of the sphere No.143-TS-03A at 10:00 a.m. on 20.12.2014 to examine whether the sphere was clean or not. Accordingly, Shri Anil Verma, Shri Manas Roy and Hiren Gogoi (since deceased) of IOTL climbed up the sphere at around 9:10 a.m. along with some safety materials like battery, light hose etc. At that time, the manhole was reportedly under closed condition. Anil Verma informed about this to Dibyajyoti Saikia, who asked them to wait for five minutes till his arrival at the top of the sphere. On arrival, Dibyajyoti Saikia called 3/4 workers, who were busy in some other works, to climb up the sphere and to close one valve. After closing the valve, they open the manhole and Dibyajyoti climbed down. At around 9:40 a.m., Mr. Atul Saxena reached the top of the sphere and assessed the preparedness for the inspection. As stated by Mr. Saxena, he found that the manhole was already open. He told IOTL personnel (Manas Roy & Anil Verma) to carry out the job with full safety measure and safety work permit. As stated by Shri Dibyajyoti Saikia, no official of E.I.L. and Fire & Safety Department of BCPL was present at the site at that time. It was informed that one rubber hose and one hand lamp, battery were in disconnected position lying at the platform. It was stated that the light with wire through the manhole and illuminated the inside of the sphere. In the meantime, Hiren Gogoi fell down into the sphere. The workers tried to open the air valve in instrument air line at ground level for air circulation.

About 10 to 12 minutes, fire safety alarm was raised and ambulance arrived at the spot. At first, the Fire & Safety Personnel Department did not bring all the required safety equipments with them to the spot. Hence, they spent about half an hour to bring the equipments. They entered into the sphere equipped with all the safety measures and they took out four contract labourers from inside the sphere.

After going through the statements of the officials and the field enquiry, it was observed:-

- i. Safety precautions as stipulated in specifications of EIL/BCPL work permit system for confined space entry were not followed prior to entry of the first worker inside the sphere. Permit for confined space entry was not obtained by the contractor as per the safety norms. System of safety permit exist in two forms - one during the construction stage for which M/s EIL issues safety permit for confined space entry work at height etc other is by the BCPL during the time of handing and pre commissioning activities. This incident took place at the second stage where the BCPL was supposed to issue the permit as per OISD norms. As the accident had taken place before the arrival of the joint inspection team of EIL, BCPL and IOTL, the permit was not issued.
- ii. The reason for entry of worker in absence of safety permit and the inspection team is not known. Extreme casual approach was followed by the IOTL/BCPL personnel who were present in the site.
- iii. Oxygen level inside the sphere was not checked.
- iv. Oxygen mask and other safety equipments were not used by either Hiren Gogoi or the other three contract labourers while they entered into the sphere.
- v. Proper arrangements, such as air circulation, proper light arrangement, life security measures, safety belt, oxygen meter, oxygen mask etc were not made available during the time of inspection.
- vi. The three labourers, who were busy in some other work reportedly entered the vessel to rescue the labourer, who fell down and unfortunately, they also met with the accident while trying to rescue Hiren Gogoi. They are neither technically expert in the job (vessel entry) nor experienced in rescue operations. It is surprised that why these untrained/non rescue related people were allowed or not prevented from entering into the vessel

which made the accident worse and caused the death toll raise to four.

- vii. Safety Department of BCPL, EIL did not properly supervise the work in time.
- viii. There seems to be a big communication gap between the IOTL, BCPL and EIL for which all works are not implemented as per norms. During the enquiry, it was revealed that the IOTL personnel carried out jobs of vessel entry without safety permit on earlier occasions though the same is required for each and every vessel entry. They could not produce any such vessel entry permit issued by the EIL which was supposed to be issued at the time of vessel entry. For the hydro test, conducted before pre-commissioning whether the permit of EIL was received is not known. It is doubtful that IOTL persons had obtained it.
- ix. Before entry of the vessel/ isolated/ confined area, the oxygen level, air flow, existence of hydrocarbon to be checked which was not done in this case.
- x. Though air hose was arranged by m/s IOTL but it was not connected to the sphere and hence proper ventilation of air inside the sphere was not ensured.
- xi. As per statement of Mr. Atul Saxena, oxygen level was checked after the accident. The air valves were opened after the accident only.
- xii. Out of the deceased labourers, only one found with helmet. Other three were not wearing helmet and other safety equipments. Though it is told that the three were rushed to rescue the first one, it is surprising that how these three were allowed to work at the work site of danger zone without wearing helmets. They were not the part of rescue team and neither trained in this regard. The Safety Officer of IOTL and the BCPL officials present had failed to prevent them from entering into the vessel otherwise the death of the three could have been averted. It was lastly submitted that the established Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to be followed for the safety and security during the confined area entry were not followed strictly. The officers of BCPL seemed to be so casual and the entry through manhole was allowed in absence of permit and sufficient safety arrangements. No rescue team/equipments were ready to rescue operation in case of any eventuality if takes place. The IOTL staff was not properly trained on safety rules and methods. DM,

Dibrugarh has submitted that action be taken against engineer of BCPL and the staff of IOTL who were present during the accident for their negligence. The report is silent about the action taken against the errant staff of BCPL and IOTL and the report is also silent about the disbursement of amount of compensation to the next of kin of the deceased.

DM, Dibrugarh, Assam be asked to inform the Commission –

1. As to what amount of compensation has been awarded by BCPL and IOTL authorities to the next of kin of the deceased.

2. What action has been initiated against the errant staff of BCPL and IOTL?
Response be submitted within six weeks.”

BIHAR

Case No. 1607/4/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 30.04.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned 'IN BIHAR'S 'MODEL VILLAGE', A CHILD JUST DIED FOR LACK OF MEDICAL AID', published in the English daily 'Hindustan Times dated 27.4.2014. As per the report, a little child Rani Kumari died of diarrhea due to lack of basic medical help in village Dharhara, known as the village of mango girls, where the Chief Minister has been planting saplings for the last three years. He planted a sapling for Rani Kumari in 2013. According to the report, village school teacher Raj Kishore Singh complains that the Health Centre is in shambles and is often locked. The Chief Minister and Health Minister had promised a six-bed hospital during their visit to the village in 2010 but the same has not been constructed so far. The father of the deceased girl also believes that his daughter would have been alive if the Health Centre had been a functioning one. As per the report, after four visits from the State's Chief Minister and several promises later, the residents of the village expected some developments but the situation has not improved.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to serious violation of health of the deceased child.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), Govt. of Bihar to submit a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No. 2199/4/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "2974 Tolo Mai Middle School Nahi", published in "Pratish Nav Vihar" Patna dated 25.5.2014.

The press report states that in the State of Bihar there are acute shortage of middle schools and the children have been walking miles, even for primary education. It states, the State Govt. after conducting a survey has come to the conclusion that there are still 1896 habited locations wherein elementary education is not available within 1 KM and 2974 habited locations have no middle school within 3 KM. The news report further states that in the State there are 2100 locations which are still deprived of education even after independence. The Director of Bihar Education Department has admitted that the Govt. was to open 21419 new primary school but only 20907 could be opened. The remaining 578 are to be opened in the current year. The report states that according to BEP Director, non availability of the land is also one the factor for opening new primary schools.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of rights to education of the children.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar calling for a report about the steps taken by the State administration to fulfill the shortage of Schools in the state; the time frame in which the entitlements as per RTE Act, shall be fulfilled and the status of availability of primary school teachers in the state. Response within 4 weeks.”

Case No.3532/4/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 19.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Ghatia Dava Se Hui Thi Mareej Ki Mot, Dava Ghotala: Swasthaya Vibhag Ki Janch Mein Pushti, BMSICL Ne Hi Kio Thi Dava Ki Supply, Bhagalpur Medical College Aispataal Mein Gai Thi Jaan", reported in reported in the Hindi daily, The Dainik Bhaskar, Faridabad, dated 11.09.2014

The news paper report stated that on 13th May, 2014, one Arvind Kan resident of Belhar Banka, Bihar, was admitted in the Bhagalpur Medical College Hospital for operation. ON 21.05.2014, the patient died during the operation. It was found from the enquiry of the Health Department that the patient died due to sub-standard medicine supplied by BMSSIL.

If, the contents of the news paper report are correct, it is a serious violation of human rights of the patient in general and deceased in particular and the Health Department of the Government of Bihar, has violated Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bihar, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.

Issue notice to DGP, Bihar, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.3623/4/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 19.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Food Security Act beneficiaries yet to be identified," reported in the English daily, The Hindu, Delhi, dated 15.09.2014.

The news paper report has stated that even after a lapse of one year from the National Food Security Act (NFSA) passed the State Governments have failed to identify the beneficiaries. Some of the State Government are said to have changed the criteria for identification of the beneficiaries and therefore the verification process has been delayed. It is also stated that the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) was proposing 2011 as a comprehensive survey to identify socio economic characteristics of the poor which is to be used to identify beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act. This was lagging behind by more than two years as it was to be completed in May, 2012. The agency involved in the process viz., the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) (the nodal agency to provide enumeration devices and data entry operators) and the State Officials, blamed each other for the delays.

The claims and objections process, which follows the draft lists, was under way in 272 districts out of the total 640 districts but Rupees 3,237 crores out of a total allocation of Rupees 3,543 crores have already been spent.

The news paper report further stated that some of the States have proposed their own criteria for the purpose which are less transparent than the process given in Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC). Some of the States like Rajasthan were stated to have added new BPL beneficiaries using old census data of 2004. MoRD and State officials have cited the mis-management and technological difficulties and manpower shortage and delays in payment of the surveyors' wage for delay in Socio-Economic Caste Census.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a serious violation of the human rights of the poorest of poor in providing the food security to them and slackness on the part of the Central Government as well as State Governments for implementing the Socio-Economic policies framed for the poor.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Rural Development, Government of India, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.3907/4/28/2014

Date of Cognizance: 20.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report captioned "Dalit burned alive as goat strays into field" that appeared in the Times of India dated 16.10.2014. As per the report, one Dalit youth named Sai Ram was burnt alive by four upper caste men as the goat of the victim has entered the agricultural field of one of the assailants. The incident took place at village Mohan Pur under Karkat Police Station in Rohtas district, Bihar on 15.10.2014. when one Kumkum Singh and his three associates forcibly entered the house of juit Ram and set his 15-year old son afire after pouring kerosene on him. The boy sustained 90% burns and was rushed to Bikram kerosene on him. The boy sustained 90% burns and was rushed to Bilkram Ganj Govt. hospital for treatment but he died soon after the admission.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to serious violation of human rights of the victim.

Issue notice to the chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Govt. of Bihar to submit a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.4623/4/11/2014

Date of Cognizance: 24.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in Hindi newspaper 'Sanmarg' dated 21.12.2014 captioned "Shivchand ko tel me dubane wala ko police nahi kar rahi girftar". According to the newspaper report, on 02/12/2014 in Gosain bagh Mahuri Vivah Mandal, Shivchand Das son of Late Kishan Das was drowned in oil by Sachin Kumar and Montu Kumar, in District Gaya, Bihar. However, even after 20 days, the police had not arrested the accused. Condition of Shivchand was not good. The local police organized protests against police action and denial of monetary relief to the victim for his treatment.

The contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim.

Issue notices to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, District Gaya, Bihar, calling for a factual report within two weeks. District Magistrate, Gaya is also directed to submit a report, within the same period, on the steps taken for providing treatment to the victim. “

GUJARAT

Case No.238/6/1/2014

Date of Cognizance: 14.02.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned "Principal forces 11-year-old to drink urine", published in the Times of India, Delhi dated 9.2.2014.

The news paper report alleged that a 6th standard student of Don Bosco English School, Vejalpur, Ahmedabad was forced to drink his urine by the School Principal after the student was found urinating in a plastic bottle in his class room. The boy later told her mother that he was found urinating in the class room by the Peon of School and taken to the Principal of School who forced him to drink his urine.

The news paper report further stated that there was no urinal on the floor on which the class room of the student was situated and there was very few toilets in the school. Hence he went to the ground floor for urinating where there was a long queue. The boy had forgotten his snack box in his class room and returned there when he felt an urgent need to urinate and he urinated in a plastic bottle in the class room.

The matter was taken to the PS, Vejalpur. The police said to have stated that the parents had given an application that they do not want to file a complaint in the case as the parties have compromised in the matter and as part of compromise the Principal has quit the post.

The newspaper item, if true, is a serious violation of human rights of the child who was forced to drink his own urine.

Issue notice to the Director Education, State of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, Principal Secretary, Education Department, Govt. of Gujarat and Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.988/6/6/2014

Date of Cognizance: 10.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing media report referred to by Shri Ravi Nitesh in his e-mail communication dated 29/06/2014. According to the e-mail report, a gas leak happened on 28/06/2014 at Alang Ship breaking Port in Gujarat in which five persons got killed and many more were injured. It has been alleged that Alang Port is one of the largest ship breaking port of the world and most of the ships that come to this port may have severe quantities of gas, arsenic and other hazardous materials that can cause severe damage to mankind as well as environment around.

The contents of the media report, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of human rights of the employees engaged in hazardous ship breaking work.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India, Transport Bhawan, New Delhi and Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat, calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.1087/6/25/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.08.2014

The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Kids swimming to school: Authorities promise bridge, GUJARAT: District officers meet village panchayat members" reported in the English daily, The Indian Express dated 4th August, 2014.

The news paper report stated that about 125 students of Chhota Udepur, Gujarat swim across the Hiran river to get to their government school in Utavadi village in Tilakwada taluka of Narmada district. The villagers have been requesting for construction of a bridge over the river for very long time but in vain. The news paper report further stated that the District Development Officer of Chhota Udepur, a local Mamlatdar and the Deputy Engineer of the Roads and Buildings department of the district met the village Panchayat of five villages to assure them of the construction of the bridge that will eventually connect Chamarwada to Kareli in Narmada district across Hiran river.

If, the contents of the news paper report are correct, it is a serious violation of Right to life of the children swimming across the river and of the Right to education of the children who are not able to go to schools due to this problem, of the affected villages.

Issue notice to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks."

HARYANA

Case No.3422/7/9/2014

Date of Cognizance: 19.03.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report captioned, "One-room school for 412 students", reported in 'The Tribune' dated 11.3.2014.

The press report states that in Shakti Nagar Government Primary School, situated at district headquarters town of Kaithal, Haryana there was only one classroom for 412 students, studying in Standard I to V. The one room available in the school is also used as kitchen to cook the mid-day meal during rainy season and on any rainy day. The classes are held in open ground and verandah and some of the classes are held in two separate chaupals, located at a distance of 300 and 500 years, respectively, from the school.

The press report further states that there is only one toilet which is being used by the teachers, staff of the school (men and women) and students (girls and boys). The drinking water is stored in a tank during supply hours but in absence of any supply of the drinking water it has to be fetched from hand or submersible pumps located in the vicinity of the school. The newspaper report further states that the condition of the school building is so dilapidated that it has already been declared unsafe. Moreover, the one room space is also being used to store 200 chairs and 80 benches received in the school, a few months ago.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the children, the staff member and the teachers of the school. Moreover, it is violation of the fundamental rights of these people.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary (Education), Government of Haryana calling upon him to submit a detained report within four weeks.”

Case No.3423/7/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 19.03.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report captioned, "95% kids anaemic in Karnal: Study", reported in 'The Tribune' dated 11.3.2014.

The press report states that there has been an alarming situation on malnutrition in four districts of State of Haryana, namely, Karnal, Yumunanagar, Panchkula and Ambala. The report further states that on an average, 37.4 percent children of these districts were found to be underweight; 42.8 percent children have stunting growth (less height according to age) and 17.5 percent children of these districts are suffering from wasting (less weight according to height). The press report has further given details of the affects of the malnutrition in each of the individual districts. 95 percent children were found anaemic in district Karnal. Dr. Rakesh Gupta, Mission Director, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) stated that children with server acute malnutrition (SAM) have 9 times higher risk of dying and then well-nourished children and 53 percent deaths under the age of five in the State were due to malnutrition. This study was conducted by PGI, Chandigarh.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the children in the State.

Director, PGI Chandigarh be directed to submit the detailed study report referred to in the newspaper report within six weeks.

Let a notice be issued to the Principal Secretary, Health, Government of Haryana calling upon him to submit a report within six weeks.”

Case No.3568/7/19/2014

Date of Cognizance: 26.03.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "3-year old falls into manhole, dies" appeared in the English daily "The Tribune" dated 22.3.2014. As per the report, three year old Divya died after she fell into an open manhole of a sewer pipeline in Saraswati Vihar in sonepat on 20.3.2014. The girl has gone out of her house around 6.30 pm but she did not return and after around two hours of search, her body was recovered form the manhole. The girl was rushed to the Civil Hospital where the doctor declared her brought dead.

The local police said a case of negligence would be registered against the officials of the Water & Sanitation Services Department.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim child.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate, Sonapat to submit a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.5147/7/6/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 13.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned "Rape allegation: Probe ordered against SHO", published in "The Tribune" dated 7.5.2014.

The press report alleges that the victim, a resident of Hisar, who was sitting on dharna outside the police headquarters was taken away by local police and produced before SDM, Panchkula where she stated that she was raped by SHO, in Hisar but senior officials were not taking any action. The report further states that the DGP, Haryana has ordered an enquiry into the rape charges and also directed to send the samples to the Forensic Science Laboratory for examination.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victim.

Issue notice to the DGP, Haryana calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.5429/7/15/2014

Date of Cognizance: 22.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in Hindi newspaper 'Dainik Jagran' dated 17th April, 2014 captioned "Nahi Mila ILLAJ, PARK ME DIA BACHHI KO JANAM".

According to the press report, on 16th April, 2014, on account of non availability of bed and treatment in the General Hospital in Panipat, a pregnant woman suffered in pain and delivered a baby girl in a park of the hospital complex. The child later died. It has been alleged that the victim woman Sonia, who was four months pregnant, suffered from stomach ache in the morning of 16th April. She was taken to

PHC but on account of non availability of doctor there, brought to the General Hospital. She was denied treatment at hospital and referred to Khanpur, PGI. According to doctor Surinder Kaur at the hospital, Sonia was anemic and, therefore referred to PGI Khanpur. According to the Civil Surgeon, there was no prima facie negligence on the part of the doctors. It is also alleged in the report that the hospital did not have any blood unit.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of human right to health of the victim mother and child.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Health Department, Government of Haryana calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.5493/7/15/2014

Date of Cognizance: 28.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in Hindi newspaper 'Dainik Jagran' dated 22nd May, 2014 captioned "Mainhole me girnae se 15 mah ke bachche ki gai jaan.

According to the press report, on 21st May, 2014 (Wednesday), while playing, a 15 months old boy, Abdul Razzak, fell down in an open mainhole and died in Sector 18, Panipat. The father of the deceased, Shri Abdul Mallik, a native of Odisha was working as chowkidar at a building under construction. After the relatives of the deceased failed to trace him, they reported the matter to the police at Sector 6-7 Chowki and the deceased was found in the manhole. He was declared dead at the General Hospital. The report also mentions that at many other places in the city, sewage mainholes were lying open which could lead to accidents.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of right to the child.

Issue notice to the Deputy Commissioner of Panipat, Haryana calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.5730/7/8/2014

Date of Cognizance: 28.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Dept to compile report on water crisis in Jind", published in "The Tribune" dated 20.5.2014.

The press report states that reacting to the news, "in 30 Jind villages, taps running dry for 3 weeks", the Safidon SDM formed a special team of the Public Health Department on the water problem being faced in the region. During inspection it was revealed that though Public Health Department has taken enough steps to provide potable water to villagers, the erratic power supply has been creating problems for the Department. The power supply was being suspended due to unexpected weather conditions. Therefore, the villagers had to suffer for lack of potable water during the power cuts. However, the local MLA, alleged that the Department has not installed required number of pump sets and those already installed were not maintained properly, hence the problem.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victim.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana calling for a report within four weeks."

Case No.6196/7/18/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

"The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "2 leprosy ashram inmates die after inhaling poisonous gas", published in "The Tribune" Delhi dated 26.5.2014.

The press report states that two inmates Rajinder and Gobind of a leprosy centre, Dabwali Kusht Ashram on Chautala road at Sirsa's Dabwali town died after inhaling poisonous gas while cleaning a septic tank on the premises. It alleges that the said home houses 60 members of 16 families affected by the disease has no sewer connection and relies on a 10 ft. tank to collect waste. The tank is cleaned by the inmates periodically and the task was assigned to deceased Rajinder and Gobind. The newspaper report states that when deceased Rajinder opened the cover of the tank, a gush of poisonous gas knocked him unconscious and he fell inside the tank followed by Govind. Though ashram inmates rushed to the tank and took deceased to General Hospital, Dabwali, doctors declared them brought dead. Police has registered a case u/s 174 Cr.P.C.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victims at large.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana calling for a report within four weeks."

Case No.6200/7/8/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Jind water channel awaits repair", published in "The Tribune" Delhi dated 30.5.2014.

The press report states that farmers of Nidani Village, just 14 kms from Jind City, has not been getting irrigation water due to dilapidated water channel. The report further states that the irrigation department had not bothered to repair the water channel for years. The water channel was to cater to Khark Ramji Chawri and Nidani village. However, for past three years Nidani village has been left high and dry. And, due to the lack of water for irrigation the farmers could not produce crops as the ground water is unfit for drinking and cannot be used for irrigation but have no option but to use it. The news item further states that SDO, Irrigation claimed that funds for repairing the canal had to be approved by the government and this would take months.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of farmers at large.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Haryana as also Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.6197/7/4/2014

Date of Cognizance: 10.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Left to fend for herself at PHC, woman delivers on the road", published in "The Tribune" Delhi dated 2.6.2014.

The press report states that the insensitive attitude of staff at PHC at Kulan in Fatehabad, Haryana forced a poor woman to deliver baby on road outside the delivery hut of the PHC. The woman and her new born child spent night on the road and they were shifted to the PHC in the morning. The mother Lovely, was taken to PHC at about 11 pm on 1.6.2014, and on reaching the PHC the relatives of the women found the door of the delivery hut bolted from inside. The woman family knocked at the door repeatedly for more than an hour but no one opened the door. It is reported that there was no doctor or para medic at the PHC premises during night.

Under the scheme to promote clean and save delivery practices in rural areas, Haryana Govt. has set up delivery huts in PHCs where auxiliary nurse midwifery (ANM) and other staff is required to be present on duty round the clock. It is further reported

that the ANM staff on duty was sleeping inside the delivery hut after bolting the door from inside.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victim woman and her born.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary (Heath & Family Welfare), Govt. of Haryana calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.6462/7/15/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission has come across of a distressing news item captioned, "Teenaged girl gang-raped", published in the daily, the Hindu, dated 06.06.2014. The news paper report states that on May 30th a teenaged girl was allegedly gang raped by three persons in Gurgaon, Haryana. The girl was enticed by the culprits and offered a glass of water. After drinking water the girl felt unconscious and later found herself in a room with the trio. Victim was said to have alleged that the trio took turns to rape her. The matter was reported on June 4, and an FIR was lodged and medical examination confirmed rape and one of the victim has been arrested.

If the contents of the news report are true, it is a serious violation of human rights of the victim.

The DGP, Haryana be directed to submit an action taken report within four weeks.”

Case No.8051/7/18/2014

Date of Cognizance: 18.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Bathinda refinery a nightmare for 12 Sirsa Villages", published in the English daily, The Tribune dated 14.07.2014. The news paper report has stated that Guru Gobind Singh Refinery, Bathinda Punjab, owned by Hindustan Mittal Energy Limited, a joint venture of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Mittal Energy Investment Private Limited, Singapore, is emitting heavy smoke and therefore, causing grave health problems for the residents of 12 villages of Dabwali Assembly segment of Sirsa, Haryana. The news paper report further states that residents of these villages have been contracting and are being treated for asthma, cough, eye infections and allergic conditions. However, there was no one to listen to their woes, neither the Govt. of Haryana nor State of Punjab has taken any action. The Refinery is least bothered about the health hazards.

Moreover on 21.06.2014 an accident in VGO unit of the Refinery caused a blast and Metal Splinters measuring one feet, fell in the villages.

If, the contents of news paper report are true, it is a health hazard to the residents of 12 Sirsa villages and is therefore, a serious violation of right to life of the residents.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Punjab & Haryana and CMD, HPCL, calling upon them to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.8701/7/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "50 of every 1,000 infants die in Karnal: Health Dept" reported in the English daily, The Tribune dated 4th August, 2014.

The news paper report stated that sources in the Health Department revealed that in the last financial year, the number of infant deaths increased to around 50 for every 1,000 births from 44 per 1000 earlier, in the District Karnal, Haryana. During the financial year around 34,000 infants were born in the district of which 1692 infants died. Of these 977 died after birth and the remaining 715 were stillborn. The news paper report further stated that an expert said that the lack of iron, nutritional deficiency, less hemoglobin and lack of seriousness about diet among pregnant women were some of the major reasons for such deaths. The news paper report further stated that a Civil Surgeon claimed that the Health Department takes full care of pregnant women.

If, the contents of the news paper report are correct, it is a serious violation of Right to life and right to health of not only the infants but also of their Mothers.

Issue notice to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.8902/7/5/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 13.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "11-year-old girl raped, murdered in Gurgaon" reported in the English daily, The Indian Express dated 5th August, 2014.

The news paper report has stated that a 11-year-old girl, daughter of a Dhobi (washer man) who had gone to deliver the last set of ironed clothes at about 8.30 PM in Sector 27, Gurgaon did not return back. The parents of the girl searched for the girl and went to all the houses they had delivered clothes after washing and ironing. The body of the girl was found after 10 hours near an abundant flat in Sector 29, 100 meters away from where girl had gone to deliver the clothes.

The news paper report further stated that police suspected that the girl was raped and then murdered and more than one person were involved in the incident. The police found a lot of blood on the body, there was no clothes on it and a white substance was oozing out from the mouth. A case has been registered against unknown persons u/s 356/320 IPC.

The news paper report also indicated that this incident has happened merely after four days when a 2-year-old girl was kidnapped from her house in Gurgaon and was raped.

If the contents of the news paper report are true, the State has failed to protect its subject particularly the girl child who are being kidnapped, raped and murdered. The crimes are not abating, this is violation of human rights of the children in particularly and society at large.

Issue notice to Commissioner of Police, Gurgaon calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.

The Commissioner of Police, Gurgaon be also directed to submit the action plan for protection of such vulnerable group of society.”

Case No.9351/7/7/2014

Date of Cognizance: 26.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Awaiting trolley, woman delivers baby outside Bahadurgarh hospital", reported in the English daily, Tribune Express dated 7th August, 2014.

The news paper report stated that due to shortage of wheel chairs or trolleys in the General Hospital, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, Haryana, one Sheela delivered a baby at the Hospital's entrance. While her attendants were frantically searching for a wheel chair or trolley to carry her inside the hospital.

If, the contents of the news paper reports are true, this is a serious violation of human rights of mother and the infant.

The hospital being a Government hospital, should have enough wheel chairs or trolleys to carry the patients and this could not be the only case of such deficiencies in Government hospital.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.10506/7/4/2014

Date of Cognizance: 09.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "1 Child dies, 8 fall ill after vaccination", reported in the English daily, The Tribune, Delhi, dated 15.09.2014

The news paper report stated that a two-month-old child died on 08.09.2014 and 8 others were taken seriously ill after the Health Department administered pentavalent vaccine to them at an Anganwadi Centre in Prem Nagar Colony of Ratia town in Fatehabad, Haryana. The children who were given the vaccine, developed high fever after vaccination. The 02-month-old child who died after the vaccination, also developed high fever and his parents alleged that after the condition of the child started deteriorating, they expressed their desire to refer the child to a private Hospital but doctor warned them that the kid should not be given any medicine. The condition of the child did not improve and he eventually died. The Ratia, SDM has ordered an enquiry into the incident. The Civil Surgeon has stated that the child died due to aspiration (inhaling milk with the air) and not due to fever after the vaccination.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a serious violation of the human rights of the children.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary, Medical & Health, Haryana and Director, Medical & Health Services, Haryana, calling upon them to submit report within four weeks.”

Case No.11313/7/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 27.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Two Nagaland men assaulted in Gurgaon, hair forcibly cut", reported in the English daily, Indian Express, Delhi News Line, dated October 17, 2014.

The news paper report has stated that two people, resident of Nagaland, Newme, 25 and his friend Altoo, 22, were invited by six local men of Sikandarpur Village, Gurgaon, for a drink but after sometime they started beating the victims with Cricket bat and Hockey sticks for no reason. They belted Awang Newme all over his body and forced him to keep drinking. The victims were denied admission in two Gurgaon hospitals and later on, admitted to Gurgaon Civil Hospital. Later they were referred to Safdarjung Hospital in critical condition.

The news paper report stated that this seems to be another racist attack on Northeast people. PS- DLF, Gurgaon have registered a case against 15 people under Provisions pertaining to wrongful confinement and attempt to murder.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a serious violation of human rights of the victim and people from Northeast living in that area.

Issue notice to the Commissioner of Police, Gurgaon, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.12311/7/3/2014

Date of Cognizance: 17.11.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report published in Hindi Newspaper "Amar Ujala" dated 08.11.2014 captioned "Karant se tin bachche jhulsae, ek ki maut". According to the newspaper report, in Jeevan Nagar Gaunchi under Sanjay Colony Police Choki area in the morning of 7.11.2014, three children playing on the roof of their house suffered electrocution on account of coming in contact with a high tension wire. They were taken to B.K. Hospital where one Rajkumar, aged 10 years expired while the other two Manish, aged 7 years and Laxmi, aged 3 years were referred to Safdarjung Hospital for treatment.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the Children.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary (Power), Government of Haryana and Commissioner of Police, Faridabad calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Case No.9/8/4/2014-BL

Date of Cognizance: 13.01.2014

“The complaint pertains to allegations that labourers (60) from Jashpur District of Chhatisgarh are being held as bonded labour at brick kiln (JSP Marka Ent Bhatta) located at Sub Division Jawali in District Kangra, HP. He requested the Commission to get released the bonded labourers from the brick kiln owners and get their wages paid to them. The Commission called for a report in the matter.”

Case No.103/8/8/2014

Date of Cognizance: 10.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in the English daily newspaper 'Indian Express' dated 09/06/2014 captioned "26 B. Tech Students missing in Himachal as power plant releases water without warning"

According to the press report, more than two dozen B Tech students (including six girl students) from Vigyan Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Bachupalli, near Hyderabad, on a trip to Kullu Manali were feared to have been washed away in a flash flood in the river Beas on 08/06/2014 (Sunday) after authorities of Larji Hydel Power Project opened the flood gate of the project's dam reportedly without warning. It is mentioned in the report that the toll could rise as rescue operations were hampered by non availability of search lights and divers. It is also mentioned that the Government admitted that the authorities did not follow the right protocol on use of hooters and other warning signals on the release of the water from the Hydel Project.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious Issue of violation of right to life and safety of the victims.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh and Deputy Commissioner, Mandi calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No. 138/8/2/2014

Date of Cognizance:05.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "X-Ray, Ultrasound Thap, CHC Main Aik Hi Doctor Hone Se Charmarai Vyavastha", published in the Hindi daily, The Amar Ujala.

The news paper report stated that the Community Health Centre, Salooni has been granted status of First Referral Unit (FRU), 08 years back. It caters a population of 15000 and 12 Panchayat of District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. A FRU has to have 08 doctors. However, there is only 1 doctor in this CHC and that doctor has to give service through-out, 24 hours of all the days. The patients coming from 60 to 80 kilometers away, have to face difficulties due to non availability of doctor. Moreover there is no X-ray machine and Ultrasound facility in the CHC. No action has been taken even after the matter was brought to the notice of the authorities concerned.

Another news item captioned "Kshetriya Haspatal Main Dakhil Garabhvati Ki Bachhe Samait Maut", reported in the Amar Ujala, stated that in the Regional Hospital, Chamba, one pregnant woman and her new born baby died due to negligence on the part of the doctors and non availability of any medical facilities in the hospital. As a result thereof, Ms Halima wife of Mohd. Haneef of village Mandha Panchayat Rajera was taken to the hospital, the patient was admitted in the hospital but later referred to TANDA, where her family members were directed to bring the necessary things & articles for delivery of child, but at 10 'O' clock they were told that both the new born baby and the mother had died. The family members have alleged negligence on the part of the doctor for the deaths.

Another news item captioned "Aspatal Ke Toilet Main Delilvery, Bachhe Ki Mout", published in the news paper Amar Ujala, alleged that a delivery took place in a toilet of the Civil Hospital, Teesa and the Medicos declared the new born, dead and allowed to keep the body there in the toilet. The relatives of the pregnant women stated to have said that the patient was taken to the hospital at Teesa. She was checked by a doctor and some medicines were prescribed but no medical attention was given. She had to wait for 2 hours to take the admission in the hospital. In the meantime she went to the hospital toilet where she delivered a child. When the matter was reported to the medical staff, they declared the child, dead. However, after sometime when the doctor came he gave oxygen to the new born child and the child was referred to the District hospital where he was declared brought dead. The family members have alleged that the death took place due to negligence of the doctors and the medical staff.

The Commission observed that there has been a series of lapses by the Doctors and Medical staff and lackness of in the medical facilities available in the hospital in the State leading to violation of right to life. If, the contents of the news paper items are correct, these are also serious violation of human rights of the patient.

Let a notice be issued to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks."

Case No.152/8/12/2014

Date of Cognizance:11.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Alarming sex ratio in 24 Panchayats of Una district" reported in the English daily, The Tribune dated 4th August, 2014.

The news paper report stated that though the overall sex ratio in Una district of Himachal Pradesh is 972 female per 1000 male but there are about 24 Panchayats in the district where this ratio is less than 500 female infant born against 1000 male infant, during the last 2 years.

The news paper report further stated that in Una block of the district there were 11 Panchayats with a sex ratio less than 500 at birth; in Amb block 5 Panchayats were in the red zone; in Bangana block there were 4 Panchayats in the red zone in Gagret and Haroli block there were 3 and 1 Panchayats with sex ratio less than 500 at birth, respectively. The news paper report further stated that the data available with the District Health Department revealed that the Amb-Tilla Panchayat in Amb block and Dangoli village had sex ratio of 111 and 167 at birth, respectively. The news paper report has further given the details of the Panchayats having sex ratio below 350, below 500 and at 500 at birth.

The news paper report has further alleged that statistics prove that forced abortions were rampant and continued despite a ban on sex determination. Though the Health Department had organized awareness programme about Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act, but in vain. The Chief Medical Officer said to have stated that the department was keeping a tab on Ultrasound Centres. The Dy. Commissioner of the District is said to have described the issue shameful for the society, and directed the officials of Health Department to convene a meeting of stakeholders, including Panchayats Pradhan, Panchayats Secretary, Anganwadi workers and local police personnel of all the 24 panchayats to discuss this social issue.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a serious social issue which is the violation of human rights of babies in the wombs of their mothers and the society at large.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Case No. 314/9/2/2014

Date of Cognizance: 05.11.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Clashes in Srinagar over killing of youths in Army Firing" published on the website "Zeenews.india.com" on 04th November, 2014. The report states that two youths were killed and two others were injured when they were fired upon by army personnel in Chattergam area of Budgam district. The youths were travelling in a car. The Army claims that the youths did not pay heed to signals to stop at the barriers set up by security forces. The report further states that because of this incident clashes have broken out between the protestors and security forces in Nowgam area. An FIR has been registered and investigation is in progress.

The Commission has perused the news report. Prima-facie, it appears that the army personnel resorted to firing to stop the youths and not in exercise of their right to self defence.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India and SP, Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir calling for a report in the matter within two weeks. A copy of the news report be enclosed with the notice.”

KARNATAKA

Case No.30/10/11/2014-BL

Date of Cognizance: 22.01.2014

“The Commission has come across a news item captioned "Employer smashes 12-year-old's hand in Karnataka" that appeared in local news paper 'Mail Today, Delhi on 20th January, 2014. The press report alleges that one Sushant Kumbhar a child labourer was physically assaulted by a brick kiln owner with an iron rod on 05.11.2013 in Gulbarga district of Karnataka.

It has been further reported that the said child labourer who hails from Bolangir district of Odisha faces the prospect of losing his left hand and is now undergoing treatment at VSS Medical College and Hospital.

The news item has also depicted the miseries faced by the migrant labourers from Odisha in Karnataka State at the hands of touts and brick kiln owners and that the State Authorities are not taking any effective action in the matter. Citing the incident of last December, it has also been alleged that a labour contractor chopped off the palms of two migrant labourers from Kalahandi district.

Contents of the above news items, if true, raise serious human rights issues.

Let a Notice be issued to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka and Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha, calling upon them to submit a report within 2 weeks.”

Case No.649/10/1/2014

Date of Cognizance: 21.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Sexual assault on girl came to light after stranger called mother" published in 18.07.2014 edition of Times of India.

It is reported that one six year old girl was sexually assaulted by two male staff in the School. The sexual assault was confirmed after the parents took the kid to the private hospital.

The news report, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of human rights of a child who was sexually assaulted at her School by her own teachers. The act of the male staff also attracts penal provisions of POSCO Act.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore, DGP, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore and District Collector, Bangalore calling for a report within two weeks.”

Case No.807/10/1/2014

Date of Cognizance: 09.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Midday meal lands 350 kids in hospital", reported in the English daily, The Asian Age, Delhi, dated 20.09.2014.

The news paper report stated that about 350 children of government run Urdu Primary School fell ill after taking the Mid-Day-Meals on 19.09.2014. These children complained headache, stomach ache and vomiting and were admitted to Dr. Ambedkar Medical College Hospital. The news paper report further stated that doctors were told by a school teacher that a lizard fell in the food served to these children. As soon as the lizard was found in the meal, they stopped serving it to other children.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a serious violation of human rights of the children of the school.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.1096/10/7/2014

Date of Cognizance: 24.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing article captioned "Their Cross to Bear" published in the Outlook Magazine, December 29, 2014 Edition.

The article reported that Churches have been vandalized and incidents of arson, stone pelting, attack on Pastors and forcible conversion have been reported at Chitradurga, Devangere, Karwar and Udupi in Karnataka.

If the contents of the magazine are true, this tantamounts to violation of the fundamental right to freedom of religion.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks. He may send a report regarding the

action, the State has taken, regarding the incidents which had taken place as also about the action taken to prevent reoccurrence of such incidents in future.”

KERALA

Case No. 280/11/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 09.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned 'Jharkhand Officials confirm child trafficking to Kerala' carried by one India news on 01.06.2014. As per the report, a team of Jharkhand Labour Department has confirmed trafficking of over 500 children brought to Kerala from Eastern States. Eight persons reported to have been arrested for their alleged involvement in an Inter-state child racket supplying children to orphanages in North Kerala, mostly from Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar. The racket was busted by the railway police when the children arrived at Palakkad Railway Station and the adults who accompanied them were found not having any valid document for taking the children from the home State. They claimed that the children had come with the consent of their parents but they could not produce any document to support their claim. The arrested persons have been booked under the Juvenile Justice Act and remanded to judicial custody.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to serious violation of rights of the victim children.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretaries of Govts. of Jharkhand and Kerala and Director Generals of Police, Jharkhand and Kerala to submit a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No. 406/11/12/2014

Date of Cognizance: 08.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report published on Page-8 of the 8th August, 2014 edition of “Malayala Manorama”, regarding the insensitive act of the Kerala Public Service Commission in conducting a Special Recruitment Test for the Physically Handicapped persons on the second floor of the T.T.I., Manakkad in Thiruvananthapuram District. According to the report, around 200 candidates were physically handicapped and some of them had to be physically carried to the examination hall on the second floor. A photograph showing three physically

handicapped girls on crutches climbing down the stairs is also published along with the news.

If the report is true, a serious violation of human rights has taken place. It also violated the guidelines issued by the NHRC in respect of physically handicapped persons.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Kerala Public Service Commission, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram and the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Kerala, Govt Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram calling for a report in the matter within two weeks. They may also be requested to identify the persons responsible for this serious violation of human rights and to inform the action taken against them. A photocopy of the news report may be forwarded to them for ready reference.”

Case No.582/11/13/2014

Date of Cognizance: 24.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing article captioned "Their Cross to Bear" published in the Outlook Magazine, December 29, 2014 Edition.

The article reported that Churches have been vandalized and Sunday Services had been disrupted at Thrissur and Mallappuram in Kerala.

If the contents of the magazine are true, this tantamounts to a gross violation of the fundamental right to freedom of religion.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks. He may send a report regarding the action, the State has taken, regarding the incidents which had taken place as also about the action taken to prevent reoccurrence of such incidents in future.”

MADHYA PRADESH

Case No.1293/12/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission has come across of a distressing news item captioned, "A dalit groom beaten up in MP", reported in the daily the Hindu dated 09.06.2014. The news paper report states that a dalit groom was allegedly forced to get down from a horse he was riding as part of pre-wedding ritual and beaten up by upper caste men in Sadwa village of District Chhattarpur, MP. The incident took place on 07.06.2014 when Manoj Ahirwar, the groom, went around the village on horse back seeking blessings of village elders since as per "village tradition" only upper caste grooms were allowed to ride on a horse while lower castes have to go on foot to seek blessings of the elders. It is also reported that someone from the groom procession made some remarks leading to scuffle. The police is said to have arrested seven persons and six other accused were at large.

The facts of the news paper report, if true are serious violation of human rights of the dalits in the village.

Issue notice to Principal Secretary, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.1441/12/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 20.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in Hindi newspaper 'Punjab Kesari 'dated 02/05/2014 captioned "Adivasi Behano ko ardh nagan kar gaon me gumaya"

According to the press report (referred by Shri Rakesh Verma, Panipat, Harayana) in village Chunahjuri under Bijadehi Police Station of District Betul Madhya Pradesh, one adivasi woman eloped with a youth of other community. On the basis of a decision by Panchyat of Adivasi, the villagers beat up the woman and her sister, cut hair on their heads and took them for a round in the village in a semi nude condition. The incident occurred in the night of 29/04/2014. On the basis of a complaint by the victim, a case u/s 354A, 294, 323, 504 and 34 IPC had been registered against seven accused at the police station. One of the victims had been admitted in the district hospital for treatment while the other victim was being treated at her house.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of rights to liberty, life and dignity of the victim women.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Supdt of Police, Behtul Madhya Pradesh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.1572/12/56/2014

Date of Cognizance: 25.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published by 'The Radio Sangarsh.org' on 19/6/2014 captioned "children are dragged into construction work in budher; women receive threats".

According to the e-mail report (referred by Shri Amitra Sudan Chakraborty, MANAB, West Bengal) a company Mahan Coal Limited in District Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh is engaged in constructing pillars in the forest. Since the people of the village Budher, police station Sarai, refused to work for the company, Shri Vyasjee Jaiswal, a middleman of the company dragged minors forcefully from the village, to the construction site and coerced them to work. It is also reported that if any woman is found alone in the house, the middle man along with one other beats up and threatens the woman.

The contents of the report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the children as well as right of life and liberty of the women.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Supdt. of Police, Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.2007/12/37/2014

Date of Cognizance:17.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "In this Madhya Pradesh town, autopsies are carried out in the open", published in English daily, The Hindustan Times dated 14.07.2014. The news paper report has stated that for over three years, residents of Bhagat Singh ward in Garhakota, town of Distt. Sagar of Madhya Pradesh are living a "hellish life" due to conducting of autopsy in open room by the government hospital there . It is further stated in the news paper report that the post-mortem building situated away from the hospital premises, collapsed over three years ago and since then the autopsies were being conducted in this broken room, which is located right in the middle of a residential locality and on an average, 07 to 10

post-mortem are carried out every month. The news paper report further states that one of the resident of the locality said that often, stray dogs and pigs bring in human body parts, the residents do not venture to go on the roof-top for the fear of seeing at cadavers, cut open and internal organs hanging out. Further the smell of rotting flesh hangs in the air making their lives hellish. The residents further stated that repeated complaints have failed to evoke any response from the hospital authorities.

If, the contents of news paper report are true, it is a health hazard to the residents and is therefore, a serious violation of right to life of the residents.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary (Health), Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.2041/12/37/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 23.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report captioned "bina kapro ke dori rape peedita, high tension tower se kood kar de jaan" carried by Aajtak.India Today on 3.7.2014. As per the report, a 19-year old tribal girl was gang raped in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh and the victim was so terrified that she ran in a naked condition and jumped from a 17 feet tower and died. As per the report, the police did not take any stern action and in fact they tried to hush up the matter. However, it has been proved in the postmortem report that the victim was raped. It has been reported that the victim, a resident of Dindauri was going to Indore in search of job but she was raped in the way. Police have recovered a bag from the place of occurrence which contains mark sheet, ticket, security belt and some clothes of the victim.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to serious violation of rights of the victim.

Issue notice to the Superintendent of Police Sagar to submit a detailed report in the matter within two weeks.”

Case No.2080/12/29/2014

Date of Cognizance: 30.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in the 'The Hindustan Times' dated 23/7/2014 captioned "Dalit woman sarpanch not allowed to hoist flag". According to the report, Badami Devi, a dalit woman sarpanch has been

deprived of the honour of hoisting the national flag on the Republic Day and the Independence Day at her village Puravas Kalan in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh during the past four years. Instead, a former sarpanch, who belongs to upper caste hoists the flag on the two occasions. The report also mentions that the husband of the woman sarpanch had lodged a complaint before the Commissioner of Chambal Division.

The contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the dalit woman.

Issue notice to the Divisional Commissioner, Chambal and District Magistrate, Morena, Madhya Pradesh, calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.2100/12/17/2014

Date of Cognizance: 01.08.2014

“Shri Vijay Kumar Taneja, C.L.S. (Retd) Formerly Chief Adviser (Labour Welfare), Ministry of Labour & Employment vide his letter dated 24/07/2014 has forwarded a press report published in the Hindi newspaper 'Dainik Bhaskar' dated 24/7/2014 captioned" Safai ke liye bacche ko 8 feet gahare gadde me ulta latka diya". According to the report, a child was hung up side down in a pit for cleanliness, which had been dug for erecting an electric pole at Railway Station Guna, Madya Pradesh.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of children.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate, Guna and Supdt of Police, Guna, Madhya Pradesh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.2256/12/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 14.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in the Hindi newspaper 'Jansatta' dated 11/08/2014 captioned “Panchayatn ke Tughlaque farmano ke beech dum todta insaf”. According to the newspaper report, in village Harpura under police station Bamitha in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh, a 15 year old minor belonging to Raikwar community was raped by her own uncle on 31/07/2014, while she was going back to her house after attending school. Her parents work as labourers in Delhi. On receiving the information, they came to Harpura on 04/08/2014 and went to the police station Bamitha for lodging FIR. The police, however, did not register the

case. The accused made efforts to create pressure on the family of the victim by involving the community Panchayat. The Panchayat imposed monetary fine of Rs 30,000/- on the accused and Rs 10,000/- on the victim. The Panchayat also threatened the family of the victim of ostracisation from the caste and the village in case they approached the police. The police registered the case only on 07/08/2014 under the provisions of the Child Protection Act and section 376 IPC. The accused was, however, not arrested.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim women.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Chhatarpur Madhya Pradesh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.2791/12/29/2014

Date of Cognizance: 17.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Cops rub chilli, thrust rod into boy's pvt parts," reported in the English daily, The Times of India, Delhi, dated 26.09.2014.

The news paper report stated that the SHO of a Police Station in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh, hanged a youth up-side-down and the police officials rubbed chilly on his private parts and thrust rod inside his private part after petrol was poured over him by them. The youth identified as Anwar, was admitted to a hospital in Gwalior.

If, the contents of the news paper are true, it is a violation of human rights of the youth.

Issue notice to DGP, Madhya Pradesh, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.3104/12/38/2014

Date of Cognizance: 19.11.2014

“A team of the officers of the Commission was deputed to visit Satna and Rewa districts of Madhya Pradesh on 1st, 2nd & 3rd September, 2014 to carry out an assessment of implementation of various flagship programs and other welfare schemes. Accordingly, the team has visited these two districts and submitted its observations in

individual cases as well as common conclusion. According to the report, the quality of the education in the Government schools of urban and rural area was not found satisfactory. Attendance of the students was very low in the rural schools. The schools have no safe drinking water facilities, furniture, usable toilets and sanitation. Preparation, supply, service, quality and quantity of the mid-day meal were not found proper in both the districts. The Anganwadi system needs close monitoring, and buildings and other amenities provided in the AWCs are required to be improved. Services of PDS are very poor. The prescribed food grains, sugar, kerosene oil etc. are not being provided to the beneficiaries. During a sample check of the Public Distribution Shop at Raipur Karchulian, in District Rewa, and some other PDS in District Satna, conducted on the request of the team, it was noticed that there is rampant corruption in the Public Distribution System which must be curbed urgently. The team has also noticed that there are lapses in providing houses under Indira Awas Yojna, as the prescribed waiting lists are not maintained as per the guidelines issued by the Central Government in this regard. Most of the Panchayat offices are not being opened regularly, and the needy persons are being deprived from the MNREGS works. Health services were found very poor in both the districts as there are huge vacancies of the doctors and other health workers. The team has suggested frequent inspections of the schools, PDS, Anganwadi Centres, Mid-day meal system and hospitals by higher officials of the Government, and to maintain an inspection register having separate compliance columns in each of the institution.

The major issues mentioned in the report of the team were already discussed during camp sitting at Bhopal with the Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, who has ensured to do needful.

Let a copy of the report of the team be transmitted to the Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal asking him to submit within ten weeks an action taken report on each of the observation and suggestion mentioned therein.”

Case No.3740/12/14/2014

Date of Cognizance: 24.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing article captioned "Their Cross to Bear" published in the Outlook Magazine, December 29, 2014 Edition.

The article reported that Churches have been vandalized and incidents of arson, stone pelting, attack on Pastors and forcible conversion, etc have been reported at Dewas, Satna, Katni, Indore, Bhopal, Alipur and Mandla, Madhya Pradesh.

If the contents of the magazine are true, this tantamounts to a gross violation of the fundamental right to freedom of religion.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks. He may send a report regarding the action, the State has taken, regarding the incidents which had taken place as also about the action taken to prevent reoccurrence of such incidents in future.”

MAHARASHTRA

Case No.1/13/4/2014

Date of Cognizance: 02.01.2014

“The Commission came across through the news published in the Hindustan Times on 29th December, 2013 captioned as "Delay in MGNREGA wages forcing debt-ridden labourers to end life". As per the news report seven families across Maharashtra and Jharkhand have lost members who have killed themselves owing to delayed payments under the MGNREGA scheme.

It has been stated that a landless Datta Maghade, 50 year along with his wife Parvati and two sons Gajanand Datta Maghade, 25 year and Namdev Datta Maghade, 22 year, residents of village Titvi, district Buldhana, worked in Sillod Tehsil of Aurangabad district under the scheme for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 but did not get their wages. The family also worked for a month in their village Titvi but could get nothing. Due to this Datta Maghade took loans totalling Rs. 1.5 lakhs, and afterwards hanged himself on 07th July, 2013 as he could not take the humiliation of not being able to repay the loans. A committee was set up under Additional CEO, Aurangabad which has reported that several workers who worked were not paid their wages and the money had been deposited into fake accounts. The news also reported death of Changunabai Dakore, 29 years on 24th December, 2012 and Prahlad Kokate, 38 year, on 14th October, 2012 at the same village under the similar circumstances.

It has been further reported that four more persons namely Tapas Soren, 34 year, resident of village Birakhap, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, Jaggu Bhuiyan, 49 year, resident of village Karma Tand, Palamu, Jharkhand, Madhav Sonaji Raut, 44 year, resident of village Gotra, Buldhana, Maharashtra and Amruta Gore, resident of village Gotra, Buldhana, Maharashtra have also committed suicide due to non-payment of their due wages under the MGNREGA, for which nexuses of the public servants have been found responsible. The labourers have claimed that they were paid merely a meagre amount of Rs.150/- in a week, while their wages are still to be paid. The report states that 27,00,000 labourers in West Bengal 18,20,000 in Bihar, 13,40,000 in Kerala, 11,00,000 in Rajasthan and 8,70,000 In Andhra Pradesh are still waiting for their wages under MGNREGA.

Let a notice be issued to the Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and Chief Secretaries of the Govt. of Maharashtra, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Kerala, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh calling for a report in the matter within six weeks.”

Case No.816/13/23/2014

Date of Cognizance: 07.04.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Pune RTI Activist Commits Suicide" published in "BEYOND HEADLINES" It is reported that a RTI activist named Vilas Dattatrey Baravaker, aged 53 years, committed suicide by hanging himself. The suicide note left by him blames several prominent politicians of Maharashtra including top serving and retired officers of the Indian Police Service for his suicide. It is also mentioned that he had been harassed several times in the past.

The news report, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of human rights of an RTI activist who was fighting for a social cause.

Issue notice to Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra and DGP Maharashtra calling for a report in the matter within two weeks.

Put up after two weeks.”

Case No.1421/13/23/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission has come across of a distressing news item captioned, "Meet Bhai, man who heads Hindu group blamed for techie's murder", reported in the Indian Express dated 06.06.2014. The newspaper report states that Dhananjay Desai @ Bhai is known to be a rabble rouser whose aim is to draw the youths, particularly from rural areas and slums to the Radical Hindutava Ideology. The police record shows that he has been named in 23 cases. Despite the past cases the State authority seems to be taking serious note of Desai and his organization Hindu Rashtriya Sena (HRS) only after a Muslim techie Mohsin Sadid Shaikh was allegedly murdered by the activists of HRS. While 17 HRS activists have been arrested in the case so far, none of them have a criminal record.

The newspaper report further states that Pune police has started compiling a dossier of the HRS with criminal records of Desai and other members of his organization, for proposing a ban on the organization.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, are serious violation of human rights of the youths of the State of Maharashtra.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Maharashtra, calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.1756/13/30/2014

Date of Cognizance: 18.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Mistaken identity: Innocent Babu dead, cops clueless about the other", published in English daily, E-Paper, 'The Indian Express' dated 14.07.2014. The news paper report has stated that a Thane tribal boy, Babu Thakre, 16 years of age was "tortured" in police custody, succumbs. The news paper report further stated that Babu was picked up by two constables from Nizampura police station in Bhiwandi for theft of two kg of gold, and was allegedly tortured by them in police custody. He tried to commit suicide by hanging on June 21 when asked to return to the police station for further questioning. He later died at a hospital.

The news paper report further stated that Babu's detention, however, now appears to be a case of mistaken identity, because instead of a criminal on record named Babu, who also lives in the same neighbourhood, they went after the teenager.

The facts of the news paper report, if true, are serious violation of human rights of the tribal teenager and his next of kin.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary (Home) Govt of Maharashtra, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.2919/13/27/2014

Date of Cognizance: 26.12.2014

“Commission came across a distressing news published The in 'News 24 Web' dated 26.11.2014 captioned "Dalit girl raped and paraded naked in public". According to the report, a 32 years old dalit woman was beaten, stripped and paraded naked by at least ten persons belonging to an upper caste at Mulgaon village in Karad, Satara, Maharashtra on 24.11.2014. It had been reported that an upper caste girl had eloped with the son of the victim more than a month ago. Upset over this, the girl's parents and relatives assaulted the woman publically in the village. Six men have been arrested in connection with the incident.

The contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the dalit woman.

Issue notices to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Satara, District Maharashtra, calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

MEGHALAYA

Case No.43/15/0/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news "Woman Molested, killed in Front of Her Children by Alleged Militants in Meghalaya", published in the NDTV.Com dated 4.6.2014. The News item states that in South Garo Hills District of Meghalaya, alleged militants of Garo National Liberation Front shot a women, 35 years old, through her head at point blank range with an automatic assault rifle for resisting their attempt to molest her outside her home on Tuesday evening. It is stated that the woman's five children, locked up in the house alongwith their father by the assailants, first saw the millitants assault their mother and then blow her head off. The assailants fired six rounds directly at the woman's head. It is further alleged that there has been outrage in the country and globally after two young girls were gang raped and found hanging from a tree in UP last week.

There has also been international outrage at the horrified sexual violence and murders in the country.

The contents of these reports, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of human rights of women in general and the women in question, in particular.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya calling for a report within four weeks.”

NAGALAND

Case No.2/17/1/2014

Date of Cognizance: 09.01.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned "9 decomposed bodies found in Nagaland", published in the Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated 5.1.2014.

The newspaper report revealed that highly decomposed bodies of 9 people were found in the cover polythene sheets in gorge in Nagaland's Dimapur District adjacent to Assam. The report further stated that the bodies were blindfolded with hands tied and shot from close range on the head. One of the bodies has been identified to be of a missing Karbi student leader from Bokajan, a town in the trouble torn Karbi Anglong District in Assam. The other 8 bodies were yet to be identified.

The news item raises a serious question of violation of human rights of the deceased.

Issue notice to the DGP, Assam and DGP, Nagaland calling for a report within four weeks.

Issue notice to the SP Dimapur, Assam calling for a report within four weeks.”

ODISHA

Case No.4149/18/2/2014

Date of Cognizance: 14.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English Newspaper "The Pioneer" dated 30/09/2014 captioned "Seven year old boy sacrificed in Balangir". According to the newspaper report, referred by Shri Sudhir Mishra, Journalist, in yet another superstition driven inhuman act, a seven year old male child was sacrificed in Jhalapadar village under Bangomunda police station in Bolangir District of Odisha on 26th September, 2014. It was reported that the accused Bankanidhi Behera had lured the victim Dasarath Parabhue aged 7 years to catch a hen, took him away and killed him. The accused was advised by a sorcerer to offer a child to a goddess for preventing further illness. The body of the deceased was found on a village pond with his tongue cut.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim child.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police, Bolangir, Odisha, calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.4540/18/32/2014

Date of Cognizance: 02.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Twin new born girls sold in Rayagada District in Odisha", reported in the Odia daily 'Samay', Bhubneshwar, dated 10th November, 2014.

The news paper report has stated that one Saraswati Naik, mother of the twin girls born on 03.10.2014 at District Headquarter Hospital, Rayagada, District, Odisha, gave her girls to an Anganwadi worker to foster and better care due to her acute poverty. The Anganwadi worker assured the mother, repeatedly that she and her sister would look after the twin sisters and whenever the mother wanted them back, she could have them.

The news paper report further alleged that Saraswati's husband Puala Ankedi is a bonded labourer working outside the State. Taking advantage the poverty of the family, the Anganwadi worker sold the twin sisters for Rs. 20,000/- (one in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, and other in Rayagada, Odisha).

If, the contents of the news paper are true, this is a grave violation of human rights of the twin, newly born girls and their parents.

Issue notice to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha, calling upon to submit report within four weeks.”

PUNJAB

Case No.509/19/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 21.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned "Rs.14 lakh spent, but villagers yet to get potable water supply", published in "The Tribune" dated 15.5.2014.

The press report states that due to poor planning of the Punjab Water Supply and Sanitation Department, a scheme to augment the water supply at Haripur and Harnampur villages in District Ludhiana, Punjab has proved to be a nightmare for the local residents. Though the authorities have spent more than Rs. 14 lakh on the scheme but villagers are yet to get chlorinated water, and an overhead water tank. It is alleged that the contractor who laid the water supply pipes was paid for the work that was never carried out by him. It is stated that the storage tank, which was provided in old scheme had over lived its life, therefore, in absence of any storage tank, the villagers have to depend on power supply for drinking water, as the supply was started from a tubewell.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victim.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.563/19/18/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Moonak Dalits allege social boycott", published in "The Tribune" Punjab dated 30.5.2014.

The press report states that 15 Dalits living in Baopur village of Moonak sub division of District Sangrur, Punjab have been facing social boycott by upper caste people since May 15. The News Item states that around 106 Scheduled Caste families have been living in the village, and the upper caste people had been boycotting them socially since they decided to cultivate 26 acres of Panchayat land reserved for the SCs. This land was earlier being cultivated by upper caste people on contract basis through auction in the names of Dalits.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of Dalits.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.1164/19/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 15.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Children at anganwaris go without food", reported in the English daily, The Tribune, dated 01.09.2014.

The news paper report has stated that lakhs of children below six years of age have not been given any food because no ration was supplied to 26652 Anganwaris in different parts of the state of Punjab during last four months. The report further stated that the Social Security and Women and Children Development Department is stated to have said that the advance bill to purchase ration under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) were not cleared by the Treasury in December last and secondly the Accountant General (AG), Punjab delayed delegating powers of DDO to them in the new Fiscal Year leading to the problem. The report further stated that /approximately Rupees.80/- crores including 90% of the matching grant from the Centre is spent under SNP of the Integrated Child Development Service Schemes, catering around 10 lakhs poor children, pregnant women and lactating mothers enrolled with Anganwaris for preventing them from suffering due to mal-nutrition. But, due to non availability of funds approximately 50,000 children at 857 Anganwaris in Ropar district could not be supplied rice, dalia and panjeeri since April, 2014. Report further stated that this a violation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 07.10.2004 directing to allocate all the State Governments and Union Territories Rs. 6 (initially Rs. 1/-) per day per beneficiary for 300 days p.a., for feeding to the target group. Therefore the number of Blocks in District Ropar, District Navanshahar, and Fatehgarh Sahib have been affected.

If, the contents of the news paper reports are true, this is a serious violation of human rights of the children below six years of age, the pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Issue a notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab, calling upon him to submit a detailed report alongwith the information on the following points:

- i) District-wise break up of number of Anganwaris in each district of the State;
- ii) District-wise break up of the number of Anganwaris in which ration for supply of eatables under SNP had not been issued along with the dates and months from which it was so; and
- iii) Intimate as to what action does the Chief Secretary propose to take to remedy the situation. Response within four weeks.”

Case No.1212/19/11/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 19.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Nirbhaya Ka Ilaaz Karne Wali Nurse Se Bhi Gang rape", reported in the Hindi daily, The Punjab Kesari, dated 11.09.2014.

The news paper report stated that one nurse who was a Member of the Medical team which treated 'Nirbhaya', the famous gang rape victim of Delhi, was also gang raped in Budlada, Punjab. The victim alleged that she was gang raped in a tube well room, situated on a agricultural farm.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a serious violation of human right of women in general and the victim in particular.

Issue notice to DGP, Punjab, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.1376/19/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 21.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Police Ne Do Bhaiyon Ko Goli Mari, Mout", reported in the Hindi daily, The Amar Ujala, Delhi, dated 28th September, 2014.

The news paper report has stated that the police personnel of police station, Machhiwara, Khanna, Punjab, killed two brothers in a firing when they were attempting to arrest some accused named in a murder case at Ahluwalia Colony of Jamalpur. The two brothers killed in the firing were identified as Jatinder and Harinder Singh of village Goapur. The news paper report has alleged that Khanna police was operating in District Ludhiana but they neither intimated the Ludhiana police nor informed them of death of two persons in the police firing. The police initially said to have stated that this was an encounter death. But on objections from public, later on they arrested three

constables and one Gurjeet Singh for murder and under the Provisions of Arms Act.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a gross violation of human rights of the deceased. Moreover the police officials seem to have not followed the due procedure of law in the incident.

Issue notice to the DGP, Punjab, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.1521/19/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 25.11.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report published in English Newspaper "Times of India" dated 24.11.2014 captioned "5 newborns die in a day at Ludhiana hospital." According to the newspaper report, two days after its inauguration five newborns (four boys and a girl) died at Mother & Child Hospital in Field Ganj, Ludhiana on Sunday, the 23 November, 2014. All the five patients were under the treatment of gynaecologist Dr. Alka. The hospital, a special wing for expecting mothers in the premises of Lord Mahavira Civil Hospital was inaugurated by the Punjab Health Minister on Friday. The hospital was set up to provide free health care to expecting mothers from poor families. However, lack of facilities at the hospital were reported. The Minister had ordered an inquiry into the deaths by a three member probe panel headed by the Health & Family Welfare Special Secretary.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim women and children.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Punjab calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No. 1639/19/6/2014

Date of Cognizance: 05.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Punjab ke Gurdaspur main doctoron ki laprvahi se gayi 60 logo ki ankhon ki roshini" published on the web site Aajtak.intoday.in on 5th December, 2014. It is reported that sixty persons lost their eye sight after surgery in an eye camp at District Gurdaspur, Punjab.

The news report, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of human rights of sixty persons who lost their eye sight after the surgery.

Issue notice to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab, Secretary(Health), Govt. of Punjab and DM, Gurdaspur, Punjab calling for a report in the matter within two weeks.”

RAJASHTAN

Case No.1110/20/17/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 09.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "15-year-old gang-raped, killed in Raj CM's bastion", published in "The Times of India" Delhi dated 5.6.2014.

The press report states that two of the three men accused in recent gang rape and murder of minor girl in kholi village Jhalawar District of Rajasthan have been were remanded in police custody. It further states that 15-year old girl who had gone to graze goats near Kholi village on 31.05.2014, was reported missing on Saturday and her body was found the next day in nearby forests. It alleged that the police appeared reluctant to register a complaint by her family. It further states that the deceased was gang raped before being killed as medical report states she was seven months' pregnant.

In another incident a 5 year old girl was allegedly raped on the terrace of her house, where she was sleeping with her brother. The girl was recovering in the Hospital now. The two incident of the rape in same night in the area has raised question on law & orders.

The content of press report, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of human rights of victims.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary and DGP, Rajasthan calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.1168/20/14/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned "Girl immolates self after rape in Jaipur", published in Asian Age dated 06.06.2014.

The news paper report states that a 14-year-old girl was raped by her neighbour named Manish who enticed her to his room and raped her. The culprit threatened to kill her if she disclosed this incident to any one. The girl later tried to immolate her-self and sustained 50% burn but is said to be out of danger now. The culprit has been arrested.

In another incident reported by this news item three government employees were suspended for making video recording of a woman's pregnancy and sharing it through mobile.

The Commission perused the news report and observed that there has been increase in the crimes against women in Rajasthan. If the contents of the news reports are true, it is a serious violation of human rights of the women.

Let Principal Secretary, Home, Rajasthan and DGP, Rajasthan be directed to submit an action taken report on the above incidents within four weeks."

Case No.1167/20/17/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 13.06.2014

"The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned "In Jhalawar, the other rape victims who wait for justice". The newspaper has reported 3 incidents of rapes in Jhalawar district of Rajasthan. In the first incident a 16-year-old schedule tribe girl was gang raped in the Gram Panchayat Office by three youths including a Gram sevak. The news paper report states that a woman from the village asked the victim to accompany her to the Gram Panchayat Office for some paper work on her ration card. The girl went to the Panchayat office. She was locked up in the office and was gang raped there. It is further reported that no action has been taken on the complaint of the father of the said victim even after a month of the incident.

The second incident reported in the news item pertains to Richwa village of Jhalawar district, Rajasthan in which a 23-year-old MNREGA worker was allegedly gang raped by eight youths when she was coming back from work on 12.05.2014. After the incident her family has been forced to shift out of her rented house to other end of the village.

The news paper report further states that two recent rapes in Kholi village and Narayan Kheda where one of the minor victim was murdered. News paper report further states that there has been several cases of rape in Jhalawar district of Rajasthan and the State machinery has not taken any action. The report further states that there has been an increase of 13.5% in the rape case in the State of Rajasthan and the Jhalawar District appears sixth in rape cases, third highest in child rape cases and highest in molestation cases. It further states that one NGO alleged that there is no specific planning despite the district is being represented by the CM as MP (5 times) and now as MLA (3 times). Region- specific planning needs to be done with a mechanism for prevention, elimination and redress of violence against women.

If the contents of the newspaper report are true, these are serious violation of human rights of women in general and the victim narrated in the incidents in particular.

Issue a notice to Chief Secretary, State of Maharashtra calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.2691/20/2/2014

Date of Cognizance: 17.11.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Parents keen to move out of diphtheria-hit Alwar villages", reported in the English daily 'The Times of India', Jaipur, dated 06.11.2014.

The news paper report has stated that 9 children were tested positive for diphtheria; 6 children died out of which 4 had diphtheria symptoms in Village Gothri in Laxmangarh area of Alwar District, Rajasthan.

The News paper report has stated that Diphtheria is a contagious disease and is victimizing mainly children under the age of five years. Some of the common symptoms of the disease are fever, anorexia and swelling in throat. Serious patients need to be put on ventilator support as they suffer respiratory problems too. The mortality rate is quite high amongst diphtheria victims

Since this disease is infectious/contagious, villagers are worried about spread of the infection to other children. Therefore, some of them are planning to move their children out of their village.

The news paper report further alleged that the spread of the disease is seen as a major lapse in National Immunization Programme because this indicates that the children had not been properly vaccinated. The Medical authorities had stated that the situation is under control and they have been able to treat the ailing children, vaccinations have been given to others. Anti diphtheria serum was being obtained from other districts and three of the positive cases have been shifted to Jaipur's JK Lon hospital for better treatment. 25 children have been kept under observation at Alwar District Hospital.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a serious violation of human rights of the children due to serious lapse on the part of the authorities of National Immunization Programme.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary (Health), Govt. of Rajasthan, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.3094/20/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 29.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a disturbing news item published in The Hindu dated 29.12.2014 under the caption "Huge population at fluorosis risk". It is reported that drinking water in 14132 habitations in 19 States contains fluoride above the permissible level. It is feared that the huge population is at risk of a very serious health condition such as skeletal fluorosis.

The issue raised in the press report is serious as it affects the citizens Right to Health.

Let Secretary, Drinking Water and Sanitation Ministry, Government of India be invited to make a presentation on 09.02.2015 on the gravity of the problem and the steps taken by the Central government and various State governments to combat it.”

Case No.3036/20/4/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 31.12.2014

“The Commission has taken su-motu cognizance of a news report captioned "CASTE COURT WANTS RAPE VICTIMS NOSE CUT OFF", appeared in “ THE HINDUSTAN TIMES” dated 24.12.2014”. The Commission has called for a report from the concerned authority.”

TAMIL NADU

Case No.419/22/49/2014

Date of Cognizance: 24.03.2014

“The Commission has come across a news report published in 'The Indian Express' on 19.03.2014 captioned "7 Workers of TN Dyeing Unit Die of Asphyxiation".

The press report alleges that seven workers of a private dyeing unit died of asphyxiation and several others were taken ill after inhaling toxic gas from a waste treatment tank at Perundurai area in Erode district of Tamil Nadu on Tuesday i.e. 18.03.2014. The incident took place when one P. Anand, a Mechanic went inside the tank to work on a faulty pump and fell as he was climbing down. Others followed him for his rescue and fell prey to the toxic gas. These workers, as mentioned in the news report, were employed at the processing facility of KPR Mill in the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) industrial complex.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victims. Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, calling for a factual report within 4 weeks. He is also directed to inform whether any interim relief has been provided to the next of kin of the deceased workers.”

Case No.829/22/13/2014

Date of Cognizance: 28.05 .2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "6 injured in Kudankulam nuclear plant mishap", published in "The Indian Express" dated 15.5.2014.

The press report states that six workers, a Supervisor, 2 technicians and 3 contract workers were injured when hot water spilled on them from a pipe line, while undertaking maintenance work at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project. Since there has already been an incident of hot water spillage, in which three departmental personnel and three contractor personnel sustained injuries while carrying out maintenance work on a Valve in Turbine Building of Unit of the plaint. This new incident has sparked rumours about safety of the plant. Though the workers were given first aid at KKNPP site, and shifted to Anuvijay Township Hospital and subsequently to a specialty hospital at Nagercoil for further treatment but the Activists alleged that this was another instance of poor safety record.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victim.

Issue notice to the CMD, Nuclear Power Corporation and Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chennai calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.999/22/13/2014

Date of Cognizance: 30.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Chennai building collapse death toll rises to 18, 23 rescued" published in 30.06.2014 edition of "THE TIMES OF INDIA". It is reported that 18 dead bodies were recovered and 23 people were rescued from the debris of a building in Chennai that collapsed on Saturday evening. The Chief Minister of the State has stated that building collapsed due to constructional defects and the builder violated various norms.

The press report, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of human rights of the persons who died and of those who were injured in the incident.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for a report in the matter within two weeks.”

Case No.1240/22/45/2014

Date of Cognizance:25.08 .2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in the 'The Times of India' dated 21/08/2014 captioned "Boy's hand cut off for 'showing disrespect". According to the newspaper report, three men allegedly severed the hand of a 17 year old boy, Karthik, in Virudhnagar District, Tamil Nadu on 19/08/2014 because he disrespected one of them (Krishnan), husband of the village panchayat president, a few days ago. Karthik was on his way to Sivaganga when Krishnan and his two brothers way laid him and attacked him. They dragged him to the nearby bushes and severed a portion of his left hand.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the child.

Issue notice to the Supdt of Police, Virudhnagar District, Tamil Nadu calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.1777/22/13/2014

Date of Cognizance: 14.11.2014

“Dr. K.R. Shyam Sundar, Special Rapporteur of the National Human Rights Commission has forwarded a news clipping which appeared in the "The Hindu" dated 27.10.2014 showing a photograph of a person going down in the manhole. The clipping captioned "Blow to Humanity". The clipping further reads "A group of labourers was spotted going down manholes on Santhom High Road on Saturday, after the city received a heavy spell of showers over the past week. Despite legislation that prohibits the employ of manual scavengers, the abhorrent practice continues unchecked in many parts of the city".

The Commission takes suo motu cognizance of the above named clipping. Manual Scavenging is considered to be one of the worst surviving symbol of inhuman and untouchability. People in Manual Scavenging are Dalits which the many people still consider to be untouchable. Having no other work to earn their little meal, they are forced to do the Manual Scavenging work. Manual Scavenging violates Fundamental Right guaranteed by the Constitution of India against discrimination on the basis of caste. Human Rights postulates human dignity and recognizing that every human being, irrespective of castes, colour or race is born equal and with certain rights attached as human being. In spite of the enactment of "The Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013", the practice is still prevalent in many parts of the States and the authorities turn a blind eye to the provisions of the Act and the inhuman work, these people are forced to perform. Certainly, it is a blow to the community.

The Act seeks to ensure Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers, the manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks without protective equipment and the construction of insanitary latrines. It also seeks to rehabilitate manual scavengers and provide alternative employment. The Act mandates responsibility on the local authority for surveying insanitary latrines within its jurisdiction. The District Magistrate and the local authority shall be the implementing authorities. In spite of the above responsibilities casted upon the authorities, it appears that there are total indifferent to these responsibilities and allow such inhuman practice. The Commission views the prevalence of manual scavenging as a serious intrude on human dignity and right time to abolish the practice of scavenging which should be taken up as a national mission.

Considering the plight of the people belonging to Dalit communities who are forced to work as manual scavengers and has been serious violation of human rights, issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu to file a report on the

steps taken to implement the provisions of "The Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013", within a period of eight weeks."

Case No.1835/22/6/2014

Date of Cognizance: 21.11.2014

"It has been highlighted by the Print and Visual Media that large number of infants / babies have died in a period of one week at Dharampuri Government Hospital and at the Government Mohan Kumar Mangalam Medical College Hospital, Salem, Tamil Nadu on account of malnutrition and Medical negligence. The contents of the media reports, if true, raises serious concern of human rights violations.

Let a notice be sent to the Principal Secretary, Medical & Health Department, Government of Tamil Nadu and District Magistrates of Salem and Dharampuri, Tamil Nadu calling for a report in four weeks."

Case No.1891/22/16/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 03.12.2014

"The Hon'ble Member Justice Shri D. Murugesan received a whatsapp message on 2.12.2014 showing a photograph of one Nisha who was a leading actress during 1980s. Along with this photograph, another photograph of her lying on the street with sickness is also shown. It is stated that "look the fate of Tamil actress. She is a Muslim lady. She had acted in various Tamil films as Heroine with leading actors like Kamal Hasan, Rajnikant and under the directions of Bal Chander, Vishu and Chandra Sekar in various Tamil films. She is found lying in front of Nagore Dargah affected by serious ailments with insects and ants all over the body. Nobody was there to take care of her."

The Commission having taken suo motu cognizance, instructed orally the DIG, Shri Viplav Kumar Choudhry and Shri O.P. Vyas, Assistant Registrar (Law) to contact the District Revenue Officer for immediate action so that she could be retrieved and admitted in the hospital.

Pursuant to the said directions, Shri Viplav Kumar Choudhry, DIG, NHRC contacted the District Revenue Officer, Nagapattinam, Mr. A. Benjamin and Superintendent of Police, Nagapattinam, Mr Abhinav Kumar at 17.20 hrs. on 02.12.2014 and requested them for their intervention and to arrange immediate medical treatment to the lady. The Commission received the feedback informing that the lady

has been evacuated, secured and that she was admitted in the hospital where she is undergoing treatment.

The Commission has considered the matter. The facts of the case are disturbing where a hapless and helpless lady was lying unattended in critical condition in full public view and nobody was there to help her out violating her Right to Life. The Commission appreciates the efforts made by the District authorities in evacuating and getting treated the victim immediately on receipt of information from the Commission.

The Commission having taken suo motu cognizance in the matter directs the District Collector, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu and Superintendent of Police, Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu to submit the status report and the details of medical treatment being provided to the lady within four weeks.”

Case No.1892/22/6/2014

Date of Cognizance: 04.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report published in Tamil Newspaper "Dinamalar" dated 22.09..2014 captioned "30000 fake doctors in Tamil Nadu." According to the newspaper report, during a meeting of Indian Medical Association held at Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, the State President of the association stated that there are 30,000 fake doctors in Tamil Nadu. Particularly, in the backward districts of Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri a number of fake doctors are working which has badly affected the health of the people.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the citizens of Tamil Nadu.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, Secretary, Medical Council of India, New Delhi and Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Medical Council calling for a factual report within two weeks. They are also directed to submit a report on the action taken to prosecute the fake doctors.”

Case No.2079/22/11/2014

Date of Cognizance:24.12 .2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing article captioned "Their Cross to Bear" published in the Outlook Magazine, December 29, 2014 Edition.

The article reported that Churches have been vandalized and incidents of arson, stone pelting, attack on Pastors (arrest/harassment by police), have been reported at Karur and Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu.

If the contents of the magazine are true, this tantamounts to a violation of the fundamental right to freedom of religion.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks. He may send a report regarding the action, the State has taken, regarding the incidents which had taken place as also about the action taken to prevent reoccurrence of such incidents in future.”

UTTAR PRADESH

Case No.7/24/54/2014

Date of Cognizance: 01.01.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report captioned, "Warmer Radiant Main Rakha Shishu Jhulsa, Maut" that appeared in 'Amar Ujala', Delhi dated 31.12.2013.

The press report alleges that a two months premature baby, named Ishrat, was born on 25.12.2013 at a private nursing home in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh. The baby had a abnormal low birth weight. Hence, the parents brought the baby to Lal Lajpat Rai Medical College, Meerut on 27.12.2013, where he was placed in a Radiant Warmer. However, he died due to burn injuries caused when the warmer was over heated.

The contents of the press report, it true, raise a serious issue of violation of human right to health of the deceased.

Issue notice to the Principal, Lal Lajpat Rai Medical College, Meerut and the District Magistrate, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh to submit a report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.140/24/13/2014

Date of Cognizance: 06.01.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Bandook Taan Dalit Se Uthuaya maila" Published in the journal Dalit Gatha. It is reported that some influential people of Village Adra, PS Badasarai forced a dalit named Fateh Bahadur Gautam, at gun point, to carry out manual scavenging. The alleged victim has stated that he reported the matter to the police but the police did not register the case under relevant Sections.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of a dailt youth.

Issue notice to DM and SP Barabanki (Uttar Pradesh) calling for a report I the matter within two weeks. Enclose a copy of the news report with the Notice.”

Case No.1541/24/28/2014

Date of Cognizance:16.01 .2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "DGP Saheb... yeh hai aapki police', appeared in Hindi daily 'Navbhart Times', Lucknow edition dated 16.01.2014. As per the report, police personnel were caught on camera kicking and lathi charging women protestors in Ferozabad district and it happened only when the newly appointed DGP Shri Rizwan Ahmed had asked the police force to be sensitive towards women. The women and others were protesting against death of two persons in an accident at village Rajpura, Matsena, Ferozabad, Three constables are reported to have been suspended.

The contents of the reports, if true, amount to serious violation of dignity of women and their human rights.

Issue notice to the DGP, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh calling upon him to submit a detailed report in the matter within two weeks.”

Case No.3308/24/43/2014

Date of Cognizance:29.01 .2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned"19 din mein 13 bachchon ki maut", that appeared in Kanpur edition of Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran' dated 21st January, 2014. As per the report, four children died on 19.1.2014 as they were not given proper treatment by the doctors in the Child Hospital, Helat, Kanpur. The report further reveals that 13 children have died in the Hospital during the last 19 days. There is a shortage of beds and three patients are accommodated on a single bed. However, no steps have been taken by the hospital authorities for increase in the number of beds in the hospital. The photograph given in the news report shows two children on a single bed in the emergency ward of the hospital and pediatric ICU closed.

It has been reported that despite the claim of the Chief Minister that all types of medicines are available in the government hospitals and indoor patients should not be asked to purchase medicines from outside, the attendants of the patients admitted in the Child Hospital, Helat have to buy even syringes from outside for administering injections to the patients.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to the violation of rights to life of the children/ victims.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh to submit a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.4209/24/54/2014

Date of Cognizance: 04.02.2014

“Shri Satish Kumar Sharma, Secretary General of Global Humanitarian and Environment Protection Trust, Meerut, U.P. has forwarded a copy of news report captioned "Kambal dalkar peeta that bal bandi ko", that appeared in Meerut edition of Hindi daily 'Hindustan' dated 13th January, 2014. As per the report, Fahim, an inmate of Reformatory House, Suraj Kund, Meerut was assaulted, tortured and physically abused. It has been reported that the victim has cigarette burn marks and marks of injuries caused with sticks and belts on his body. The victim is reported to have been admitted to the medical college hospital, Meerut following protest by his family members at the Reformatory Home on 11th January, 2014. The condition of the victim is reported to be serious. The victim disclosed to his family members that he was forced to administer drugs and when he refused to do so, he was assaulted by other inmates of the Home.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to serious violation of human rights of the victim.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh to submit a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.4444/24/24/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance:26.02 .2014

“As per the directions of the Hon'ble Commission in case No.15070/24/24/2013-DH, the NHRC's team visited Ayodhya, Faizabad to enquire into the death of one Ms. Pushpa Nishad in the Government Women Shelter Home. The team also investigated the other Homes of Faizabad including the Children Protection Home. The inspection team was asked by the Commission to inspect the shelter homes in order to assess the living conditions of the inmates. The team carried out the directions of the Commission and submitted to it a detailed inspection report with regard to the living conditions of the inmates and its recommendations to improve the infrastructure and facilities of the Homes.

The Commission has considered the detailed report of the team, which has pointed out shortcomings and has made observations for improvement of the conditions.

Let a copy of the inspection report (page Nos. 1 to 11) be sent to the Government of U.P. to take appropriate action on the observations of the NHRC's team and problems raised by the Superintendents of Old Age Homes mentioned in the report and to send within eight weeks a report on action that has been taken in this regard."

Case No.5797/24/37/2014

Date of Cognizance: 19.02.2014

"A human right/RTI Activist has brought to the notice of the Commission, a press clipping, captioned "JHOLACHHAP NE DI KISHORE KO MAUT, alleging that precarious conditions are prevailing in the District Hospital, Hathras, U.P. The press report inter-alia alleged that one Sheetal, a four year old boy, of village Parasara of Hathras, U.P. was suffering from pain in abdomen and vomiting. He was treated by a quack doctor of the village who prescribed some medicine to him. When he consumed the medicine, his condition further deteriorated. He was rushed to the District Hospital, Hathras, but he was not provided even first aid by the District Hospital, but referred to Aligarh. It is further reported that the boy, expired within few minutes after that.

If the contents of the press report are true, it raises serious issues of human right violations of the victim boy, particularly by the doctor on duty, who did not care even for first aid, and the district health authorities, who have reportedly failed to check the doctor quacks practicing in the area.

Let a copy of the press report be transmitted to the D.G., Directorate General of Health Services, Government of U.P., Qaiser Bagh, Lucknow. He is directed to look into the allegations made in the press report and to take appropriate action. An Action Taken Report is also to be sent within four weeks for perusal of the Commission."

Case No.7867/24/30/2014

Date of Cognizance:05.03 .2014

"The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Bablu made to go in again to remove polythene cover, says eyewitness", that appeared in 'The Indian Express' dated 28.2.2014, regarding death of two persons in a manhole in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. According to the report, one Bablu Valmiki, the 26 years old cleaner at EIS hospital was forced to reenter the manhole after his contractor spotted a polythene cover as he refused to pay Bablu his wages unless the manhole was clean enough. When Bablu did not surface from the manhole on his second entry, one of Bablu's relative Shyamveer entered the hole in an attempt to rescue him. After a while,

one Ramu also jumped in to try and save the other two. However, Ramu had taken precaution of tying a rope to his body before entering the manhole which helped him to save his life. Bablu was asphyxiated in the manhole while Shyamveer died at the ESI hospital a while later. According to Ramu, Bablu was not feeling well when he had come out of the manhole first time. Bablu is survived by his wife and three minor children. According to the wife of Bablu, she had never seen any protective gear with her husband. Police is reported to have registered an FIR u/s 304 against the contractor Sardar Singh.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to serious violation of human rights of the victims.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh to submit a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.9130//24/4/2014

Date of Cognizance: 19.03.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report captioned, "Hostel tank built, unused", reported in 'The Indian Express' dated 11.3.2014.

The press report referring to an Audit Report on the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) pointed out the stark realities of these schemes such as an overhead tank was built at Muslim Boarding Hostel at Allahabad University in 2009 at a cost of Rs.15 lakh was not operational for long. The overhead tank had cracks and was leaking. It was not maintained well. In another incident at Phulpur, Rs.5 lakh was spent in a college, for construction of five rooms but only two rooms were constructed. There has been delay in completion of many of the projects. There was gap of about 375 days in submitting the completion report from the date of financial year instead of 30 days as prescribed. In 38 out of 51 sample works, the utilization certificates were submitted but never within 30 days. No registers or records, required to be maintained, in individual project were being maintained by the District Authorities for any of the recommended works.

The report further stated that in UP there was no review committees for the scheme, whereas a review committee is to be formed and it should be headed by an officer of level of Chief Secretary. The Members of Parliament were not able to review the projects due to paucity of time and other technical reasons. Therefore, the monitoring mechanism/ tools were biggest shortcomings in the scheme.

If the contents of the press report are true, the State Government has not been able to implement the MPLD funds which violation of human rights of the residents of these districts of the State.

Issue a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

“The Commission takes suo motu cognizance of the report of Joint Registrar (Law) of the Commission, who was on official tour to Varanasi, Chunar and Mirzapur from 26th to 27th March, 2014.

It has been stated that on the way to Chunar, a large number of Brick Kilns on both the sides of the road (Varanasi-Mirzapur Highway) are functional. It was observed that a large number of children, women along with men are working in the Brick Kilns. Small huts were noticed which appeared to be used for residential purpose of these workers. On inquiries from the driver and other NGOs, it was revealed that most of the workers were from the State of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. It was also informed that these workers live in pathetic conditions and there is no effective control of government machinery over them. No raids reportedly, are being conducted by State machinery due to terror of mafia.

In view of the facts and circumstances noted above, the District Magistrate, Varanasi and District Magistrate, Mirzapur are directed to submit the following information:-

1. Number of surprise checks/ raids conducted by the District Vigilance Committees in the last one year.
2. Total number of Brick Kilns operating in Varanasi and Mirzapur, UP, with their names and addresses.
3. Whether all the Brick Kiln owners have obtained license to run the Brick Kiln from the competent authority. If yes, the details thereof. If not then as to how these Brick Kilns are allowed to operate and forward the names of officers with designation responsible for allowing illegal running of such Brick Kilns in their jurisdiction?
4. Total number of labourers male, female and children with their residential addresses and age.
5. Number of labourers belonging to SC/ST/OBC.
6. Whether provisions of SC/ST Act are being followed.
7. Whether the wages paid to the labourers are in conformity with the notified minimum wages

8. Mode of payment of wages. Amount of wages paid to them - monthly/fortnightly. Is it in conformity with the notified minimum wages?

9. Whether the labourers were employed directly or through an agent/thekeदार/ contractor and whether such an agent obtained a license under the law or not?

10. Whether the recruiting agents obtained a license under the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act 1979. Whether the Principal employer obtained a Registration Certificate under the Act or not, and whether the brick-kiln operator paid benefits under the aforesaid Act and the Rules made thereunder or not. If there is failure, forward the names of officers with their designations.

11. Whether the brick-kiln owner has followed all the provisions contained in the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the Rules made thereunder or not. If not, what action is taken?

12. Forward the legible copies of wages register, muster roll, wage slips, copies of Registers required to be maintained under various labour legislations (Payment of Wages Act, Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act.

13. Whether Vigilance Committee as mandated under the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolitions) Act, 1976, was constituted or not. If not, the reasons thereof. If functioning, since when? You may give all the details of the Committee constituted according to law.

14. Whether the members of the Vigilance Committee belonging to SC & ST accompanied the team or not? If not, the reasons of the same to be conveyed.

15. In view of the averments made in the complaint and in absence of documents required to be maintained and in absence of benefit to be extended as mandated by law, you are duty bound to raise the presumption. Your attention is drawn to the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in cases i.e. (a) Bandhua Mukthi Morcha delivered on 16.12.1983 in Writ Petition No.2135. (b) People's Union for Democratic Rights v/s Union of India (1982) 3 SCC at 259. (c) Sanjit Roy v/s State of Rajasthan (1983) SCC 525 at 535. (d) Neeraja Choudhary v/s State of M.P. (1984) 3SCC 243 at 250.

The District Magistrates, Varanasi and Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh are asked to submit the complete report on the aforesaid points in respect of all the Brick Kiln operating in their District together with the Action Taken Report within eight weeks.”

Case No.13167/24/13/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 21.04.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned 'Mother wanted revenge, In UP, gang rape to avenge rape, published in the English daily 'Asian Age' dated 15.4.2014 As per the report, the mother of a rape victim got the wife of the accused gang raped by four men in Haidergarh area in Barabanki district on 13th April, 2014. The husband of the woman who was gang raped is already in Jail on charges of raping the teenage girl. Being unsatisfied with the jail sentence for the rapist of her daughter, the victim's mother got her husband and three others to rape the wife of the accused in a bid to avenge the wrong done to her daughter. The victim was found in a critical condition by villagers who got her admitted to a nearby medical facility.

According to the news report, no FIR has yet been registered in the case.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to serious violation of human rights of the victim.

Issue notice to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh to submit a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.14717/24/30/2014

Date of Cognizance: 05.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report, which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times, Delhi' dated 1st May, 2014, captioned, "Kanawani clas not communal, say victims's kin." The press report inter-alia stated that violence ensued killing of one Rahul Kasana, (22yrs) a Gujjar, on 28.04.14, at village Kanawani, at the Noida-Ghaziabad, border over a land dispute. It is reported that over a dozen people were injured in the incident, and houses of dalit community including Siddhartha Public School owned by Subhash Chand Siddhartha . a jatav, were ransacked and demolished. It is further reported that many jatavs and their tenants have left the village after the violence.

If the contents of the press reports are true, it raise serious issue of the human right violation of dalits of village Kanawani.

Let a copy of the press report be transmitted to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. and District Magistrate, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. They are directed to look into the allegations made in the press report and submit a report in the matter within 2 weeks for perusal of the Commission.

Meanwhile, DG(I) may also be asked to depute a team for enquiry at the spot and to submit a report. Put up thereafter.”

Case No.15242/24/30/2014

Date of Cognizance: 12.05.2014

“The Commission came across a distressing news report, captioned "RTI activist who took on Noida land mafia dies, family calls it murders", which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 3.5.2014. According to the press report, RTI activist, Chandra Mohan Sharma, aged 38 years was charred inside his car on 2.5.2014. It is further stated in the report that the wife of the deceased alleged that the deceased had been receiving threats from land mafias, but the police allegedly did not take any action in the matter despite his requests for protection. She further alleged that the deceased was murdered, but the police was trying to convert the killing into a mishap. The report also mentions that his was the third episode of RTI activist being targeted in Greater Noida within the last six months.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of an RTI activist.

Issue notice to SSP, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh calling for a report within two weeks.”

Case No.17886/24/30/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 09.06.2014

“The Commission has come across adistressing news item captioned, "Sex crimes continue unabated in UP", published in the "Pioneer", Delhi dated 31.5.2014.

The press report states that after the Badaun gang rape, in which 2 dalit girls were raped, strangulated and then left dangling from a Mango tree, two other cases

from Etawah and Azamgarh, have drawn sharp criticism. There were protest againsts the government on the deteriorating law and order situation in the State of UP.

The report further states that in Etawah mother of a rape victim was allegedly beaten up by family members of one of the accused when she refused to withdraw the FIR in the case. The report further states that a 16 years old girl was allegedly raped by two men Sunny and Umesh on 12.5.2014 in the Home District of Samajwadi Party superemo Mulayam Singh Yadav. On the complaint of the victim's mother, one accused was arrested and after the arrest of the accused his family members started pressurizing the victim's mother to withdraw the complaint. When the mother refused, she was allegedly assaulted by the family members of the accused on 25.5.2014, leaving her seriously injured. An FIR against the culprits has been registered.

Another incident took place in Azamgarh, in which a teenage dalit girl was allegedly gang raped by 4 persons in Sarai Meer area in the wee hours of Thursday. The incident came to notice after the victim was found in unconscious state and the accused has been identified as Mukesh, Arvind, Vikram and Durgesh and a case has been registered but no one has been arrested.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victim women.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary (Home), Govt. of UP and DGP, UP calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.17980/24/14/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 10.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "22-year-old girl gang-raped, murdered in Bareilly", published in "The Times of India" Delhi dated 2.6.2014.

The press report states that a 22 year old girl was allegedly gang raped, forced to drink acid and later strangulated to death in Beheri area on Monday. It is alleged that the victim's body was recovered from a field in Aithpura Village on Saturday with her face mutilated. It is stated that the postmortem report confirmed that the victim was gang-raped and later strangulated. It states that the acid was detected from the stomach of the victim. The DySP Baheri has been investigating the case.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victim woman.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary (Home), UP calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.18382/24/46/2014

Date of Cognizance: 10.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in the English daily newspaper 'The Times of India' dated 07/06/2014 captioned "Fire in Dilwar Nagar”

According to the press report, at least, 300 hutments were reduced to ashes after a fire broke out in Dilwar Nagar settlement in Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh on Friday, 06 Jun 2014. The cause of fire could not be known.

A newspaper report in Hindi forwarded by Vikalp Social Organization, Saharanpur, UP, also mentions that the fire brigade team reached the spot three hours after the incident. The local authorities did not reach the spot even after six hours of the incident. One other connected newspaper report also mentions that the victims leveled allegations of involvement of the Forest Department and threatening by them in the past. The victims were forced to live under the trees in the open.

The contents of the newspaper reports, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of right to life and shelter of the victims.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh and District Magistrate, Lakhimpur calling for a factual report within two weeks. The State Government shall also inform relief has been given or proposed to be given to the affected persons”

Case No.18849/24/48/2014

Date of Cognizance: 16.06.2014

“The Commission, on 16.06.2014 (today), received a distressing mobile call from one R.D. Dwivedi, R/o 555/74, Bhola Khera, P.S. Krishna Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. from Mobile No.9450316652. Shri Dwivedi, stated that on 19.05.2014 one O.P. Singh along with this accomplice trespassed his house and pulled his son Praveen Kumar Dwivedi, out of the house, beaten him severely causing fractures in his left hand. He alleged that despite FIR u/s 147,148,308,352,452,506 IPC, in the matter, having been registered at PS Krishna Nagar, the police did not arrest the assailants who are

wandering freely and threatening to kill the complainant's son. It is also alleged that a police constable is master mind behind the attack.

The allegations above, if true, raise serious issue of human right violation of the victim.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Lucknow, U.P. is directed to get the allegations urgently enquired into by an officer not below the rank of DSP, and to ensure that appropriate protection, if the circumstances warrants so, is provided to the complainant's son. An action taken report be also sent within two weeks, for the perusal of the Commission.”

Case No.18937/24/4/2014

Date of Cognizance: 17.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in the Hindi daily dated 8/6/2014 captioned "High Tension tar toot kar girne se lagi bhishan aag: do ki mauth, Chakka jam"

According to the press report referred by Imtiaz Khan of Jai Hind Anti Corruption Society, Sant Ravidas Nagar, UP, in Dighiya village under Manda Police Station in Allahabad district, in the night of 07/06/2014, a high tension wire broke and fell on several houses causing fire. Two persons, Ram Anugreh, aged 45 years and Chhavishankar Kesarwani, aged 40 years, got trapped in the fire and died and more than half dozen persons reportedly sustained injuries. Agitated villagers caused road blockage on Allahabad Mirzapur Road blaming electricity department of negligence.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of right to life of the victims.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Senior Supdt of Police, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.22733/24/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 15.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in Hindi Newspaper 'Pioneer' dated 04/06/2014 referred by Shri Imtiyaz Khan, Vice Chairman, UP State, Jai Hind Anti Corruption Society, Sant Ravidas Nagar Uttar Pradesh. According to the newspaper report, on Balia District Hospital, a youth died on account of

non availability of medicine in the hospital. The youth, Azad, aged 30 years son of Majid Khan, a resident of Manikpur Village under Fejana Police Station was bitten by a poisonous snake in the morning of 02/07/2014. His relatives took him to the District Hospital for treatment. However, although timely taken to the hospital, he could not be saved since anti snake venom injection was not available in the hospital. The relatives were informed by the doctor that anti snake venom injection was neither available in the district hospital nor in the entire district. The report also mentions that many people have died in the district on account of the absence of anti snake venom injection.

The contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the residence of the district.

Issue notice to Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh and District Magistrate Balia, calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.24682/24/37/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 23.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report under the caption "can't do anything to get them behind bars, says victim's mother" that appeared in the Indian Express dated 17.7.2014. As per the report, a 22-year old dalit girl immolated herself on 14.07.2014 after she was allegedly gang raped in Sikandarau, Hathras. The victim told her mother that she had been raped by three men who lived in their neighbourhood. The mother of the victim is reportedly disturbed due to the fact that her daughter killers are still at large. The victim's mother has expressed her helplessness as her daughter died meters away from her house but she could not do anything to save her. As per the report, police and agitators also clashed in the Sikandarau area on 15.7.2014 when the body of the deceased was being taken for cremation. SHO of the area is reported to have been suspended in connection with the case.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to serious violation of rights of the victim.

Issue notice to the Superintendent of Police Hathras to submit a detailed report in the matter within two weeks.”

Case No.25331/24/52/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 30.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report released by 'Press Trust of India, dated 22/07/2014 captioned "Teenage dalit girl gang raped in Mathura". According to the report, a dalit teenage girl was allegedly gang raped by six youths in Pingri village of Mathura District, Uttar Pradesh on 19/7/2014. It has been reported that the victim had gone to a temple for an overnight religious event. In the night she went to a nearby field to relieve herself, from where she was abducted by the youth, and taken to a field.

The contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the dalit woman.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.26633/24/35/2014

Date of Cognizance: 12.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Dabangon ki dehshat se paani ke liye tadap rahe hain dalit, dekhiye dil jhakjhor dene wali tasveeren" published in the website www. Bhaskar.com. The report states about the deplorable state of the dalits in a village named Bhabhaura in Hamirpur (UP). The dalits are denied access to wells and handpumps by the higher caste and they have to travel miles away from the village for drinking water. The dalits are not allowed to even touch the handpumps.

The contents of the news report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the dalits residing in the village.

Issue notice to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and DM, Hamirpur (UP) calling for a report in the matter within two weeks. Enclose a copy of the news report for ready reference.”

Case No.32801/24/31/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 19.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Tezab Hamle Ki Pidita Ghar Se Nahin Nikal Rahi", reported in the Hindi daily, The Hindustan, dated 12.09.2014.

The news paper report stated that in Bhikanpur village of District Muradnagar, UP, a newly married woman was attacked with acid some motorcycle bound culprits threw acid on her. The lady and the family members were in a state of shock and they have not been coming out of their house since then.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, it is a serious violation of human rights of the newly married woman as well as family members of the lady.

Issue notice to the SSP, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.35027/24/50/2014

Date of Cognizance: 25.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in Hindi Newspaper "Rashtriya Sahara, Delhi" dated 22/09/2014 captioned "Rihai ke liye paise na dene par bandhi ko garam sarye se daga va hunter se peeta". According to the newspaper report, Halke son of Barati Lal Busore and a dalit accused in a murder case was released on bail on 20/09/2014 in Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh. The jailor, however, demanded Rs 5000/- for his release. On refusal to pay, the prisoner was subjected to stamping with a hot iron rod and brutally beaten using a whip and thereafter thrown out of the jail. He was got admitted in district hospital by some other released persons. The victim had earned Rs 10,000/- by labour during his detention in jail. The jailor alleged demanded Rs 5,000/- for his release and the victim asked the jailor to deduct Rs 5000/- from the money earned and pay the balance. This annoyed the jailor and then resorted to torture. The newspaper report also mentions that the jailor was also involved in other incidents of beating in the past.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the prisoner.

Issue notice to Director General of Prisons, Uttar Pradesh and Superintendent of Police, Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No. 35026.24.40/2014

Date of Cognizance: 25.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English Newspaper 'Asian Age' dated 20/09/2014 captioned "Dalit forced to eat human excreta in U.P." According to the newspaper report, in a shocking incident a dalit youth in Jhansi district was brutally thrashed and then forced to eat human excreta. The victim was set on fire and also forced to shave his head. He was undergoing treatment in a hospital for his injuries. The incident occurred in Khera village under Raksha Police Station in Jhansi on 18/09/2014. The victim, Sujan Singh, claimed that he had a land dispute with some influential people of the area and had been threatened with dire consequences earlier. The father of the victim alleged that the family had been receiving death threats and had informed the police but no action was taken. On the instructions of the SSP Jhansi, a case was registered against five people with Raksha Police.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim scheduled caste family.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.35008/24/6/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 01.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Ladki Ko Peid Mein Bandh Kar Jalaya", reported in the Hindi daily, Rashtriya Sahara, Delhi, dated 11.09.2014

The news paper report stated that one Saroj Bharti (22-years-old) daughter of Ram Charan, resident of Village Bharoli, Ibrahimpur Poorva, Police Station Mubarakpur, Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh. During the night when she came out of the house, was beaten and put on fire due to a land dispute. The girl is said to have been studying in 3rd year of graduation and her father, a CRPF personnel, was posted at Varanasi, and her mother had gone to Delhi. The victim was alone at home with her younger sisters. She was caught by about a dozen Pattidar of land, was beaten and her clothes were torn off. Later she was tied with a tree and was put on fire by pouring kerosene on her. She was taken to the hospital in a critical condition.

If, the contents of the news paper are true, this a serious violation of human rights of the victim.

Issue notice to the DGP, Uttar Pradesh, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.35029/24/43/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 25.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English Newspaper 'Times of India' dated 21/09/2014 captioned "Panchayat to girls: Skip school to avoid harassment". According to the newspaper report, a panchayat in Kanpur Rural District ordered around 150 girls from Tyonga village to stop going to schools and colleges to save them from harassment. The orders were issued on Friday the 19th September, 2014, after some local goons harassed some girls returning from a coaching institute two days earlier. When the girls resisted and raised an alarm, the goons not only threatened them with dire consequences but also thrashed a victim's sibling. Although the parents had allegedly informed the police about the harassment, no action was taken. The residents thereafter staged a protest in front of the local police station.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim girl students.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police, Kanpur Rural, Uttar Pradesh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.37337/24/7/2014

Date of Cognizance: 14.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English Newspaper "The Indian Express" dated 01/10/2014 captioned "Budaun won PM award, don't tell that to Dalit mother who carries excreta on her head". According to the newspaper report, on the one hand Budaun district received six of thirteen awards in 2011 from the Centre in respect of sanitation status, while on the other hand women as 'metranis' were working as manual scavengers in Ramzanpur and adjoining Mirzapur Midholi in the district. There were about 200 families engaged in the practice of cleaning dry toilets. It was further reported that most of the 'metranis' being widows from the dalit community, have no alternate source of income. Officials from the district panchayati raj office were trying to counsel them and urged gram panchyats to help them financially. The villages in the district, it is reported, were also deficit in toilets forcing people to defecate in the open.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the dalits.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate, Buduan District, Uttar Pradesh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.37771/24/33/2014

Date of Cognizance: 17.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "RPF JAWANO NE PEET PEET KAR RAIL YATRI KI JAAN LEE", reported in the Hindi daily, The Jansatta, Delhi, dated 06th October, 2014.

The news paper report has stated that one Abdul, having a General Class railway ticket, boarded into a Sleeper Class Coach in 'Rapti Sagar Express' at Lucknow Railway Station. The passenger said to have come out of the train to fetch drinking water from the Station but in the meanwhile the train started moving and therefore, he had to board the sleeper class. The TTE caught the passenger and called the RPF Constables who beaten him to death. A complaint has been filed against two Constables of RPF.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, it is a serious violation of human rights of the deceased 'Abdul'.

Issue notice to Chairman, Railway Board, New Delhi, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.

Issue notice to IG, Railway Police, UP, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.39492/24/34/2014

Date of Cognizance: 27.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Train Mein Prasav Ke Baad Platform Per Dhai Ghante Tarpati Rahi Mahila", reported in the Hindi daily, The Hindustan Times, Delhi, dated 13th October, 2014.

The news paper report has stated that one pregnant woman delivered a child in Shaheed Express and she remained un-attended at Old Delhi Railway Station for about 2.1/2 hours. The news paper report further stated that one Rekha (name

changed) wife of Ramesh (name changed) were traveling in a general bogey of Shaheed Express train. Labour pains started to the lady at Gorakhpur. The train was late by about 12 hours and in the meanwhile she delivered a child in the train itself. The train reached Old Delhi Railway Station at about 1325 Hours. The victim's husband somehow carried her to Platform No. 1. The Railway Officials stated to have called up on Phone No. 102 and 1099 for ambulance but the ambulance reached there after 2 hours. Meanwhile the police was also informed but the police officials refused to carry the lady to hospital.

In the meanwhile the condition of the infant and the lady started deteriorating. The Railway officials called a doctor and the victim was taken to Station Manager's room where the Umbilical cord of the child was cut. At about 3.45 PM an ambulance came to the station and the lady was taken to the hospital.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, it is a serious violation of the human rights of the infant and his mother.

Issue notice to the Chairman, Railway Board, New Delhi, Health Secretary, NCT of Delhi and Commissioner of Police, NCT of Delhi, calling upon them to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.39485/24/75//2014-AFE

Date of Cognizance: 27.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Gangsters kill home guard in UP encounter", reported in the English daily, The Mail Today, Delhi, dated 7th October, 2014.

The news paper report has stated that a gang of animals stealers, shot dead a Home Guard Amar Singh, under the Hayatpur police circle. The news paper report further stated that on an intelligence tip-off about hiding of some criminals in the fields, three Home Guards started combing the area. Suddenly the criminals opened fire at them and shot dead one of the Home Guard. One of the criminals was also nabbed. It is alleged that SHO Naresh Chandra Katariya failed to fire even a single shot despite having his Service Pistol on him.

The arrested criminals revealed that they were a part of a gang that steels domestic animals and sell them to other gang. ASP of the area is said to have stated that SHO Naresh Chandra Katariya has been transferred to the Police Line and an enquiry was being conducted into the incident and the SHO Katariya is being

questioned as to why he took with him Home Guards instead of armed Constables. Compensation would also be announced to the next of kin of the deceased Home Guard.

The Commission perused the news paper report and observed that death of a Home Guard took place as the SHO Sh. Naresh Chandra Katariya, failed to retaliate in self defence in time leading to the death of the Home Guard.

If, the contents of the news paper report are correct, this is a serious violation of the human rights of the deceased Home Guard and negligence on the part of the SHO Sh. Katariya.

Issue notice to the SP, Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.39486/24/31/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 27.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Gangrape Ki Saja Bus Panch Jute", reported in the Hindi daily, The Amar Ujala, Delhi, dated 7th October, 2014.

The news paper report has stated that a 10th class student was gang raped while she was returning home from her school, by four youths of her village near a village in Murad Nagar Police Station on 30.09.2014. She was kidnapped and was taken to the near-by field and gang raped. A complaint has been given in the Police Station clearly stating names of all the four accused. However, the Panchayat of the village has been pressurizing the family of the victim not to file any complaint, and the Panchayat in a judgment pronounced the punishment of beating with shoes, five times and let them go. The news paper report has alleged that police has not registered an FIR and they were in connivance with the culprits. And the police was also pressurizing the family of the victim to compromise the matter.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a serious violation of the human rights of the victim and her family members.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate, Ghaziabad and SSP, Ghaziabad, calling upon them to submit report within four weeks.”

Case No.41931/24/65/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.11.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report published in Hindi Newspaper "Daily News" dated 20.10.2014 captioned "Asptal se bhagai gai mahila ne sadak per bachhi ko diya janam". According to the newspaper report, a pregnant woman was turned away by the woman surgeon and employees at District Women Hospital, Sant Kabir Nagar on 19.10.2014 on account of her inability to pay Rs.4,000/- for the surgery. The deaf and dumb woman, Kismati Devi, wife of Ram Lakhan, aged 27 years delivered a girl child on the road. She had been brought to the hospital in the night of 18.10.2014 and admitted there. She was not attended to by the staff in the hospital despite labour pain during the night and examined by the senior woman surgeon, Dr. Uma Srivastava, next morning.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the women.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh and District Magistrate, Sant Kabir Nagar calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.45055/24/55/2014-BL

Date of Cognizance: 04.12.2014

“The Commission takes Suo Motu cognizance on a News item published in the Indian Express on 2.12.2014 caption as "50 Bonded Labourers Freed From Brick Kiln in UP". It has been reported that as many as 50 alleged bonded labourers were rescued from a brick kiln in Sinhar Village area at Mirzapur on 2.12.2014, a senior government official said. On reports of bonded labourers being used in brick kiln, a raid was carried out in which a large number of workers belonging to Bihar were found working there, Additional Labour Commissioner Pankaj Singh Rana Said. Prima facie, this a matter of bonded labour, Rana said adding that the kiln owner failed to provide minimum wage register and a case has been registered against the employer. So far, 50 labourers have been freed, but their numbers could rise with further investigation, he added.

The Commission has considered the matter. As per the above Clipping, admittedly there has been bonded labourers. The owner had not maintained Registers as per the Act & Rules. Still more bonded labourers are to be rescued. The rescued and to be rescued bond labourers are entitled to Monetary Relief and further rehabilitation. Issue Notice to the District Magistrate, Mirzapur, UP Labour

Commissioner, Government of UP, Kanpur and Labour Commissioner, Government of Bihar calling upon them to submit the report in two weeks.”

Case No.46241/24/37/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report published in Hindi Newspaper "Hindustan" dated 27.11.2014 captioned "Police ki darindagi, yuvak ko petrol dalkar jalaya" According to the newspaper report, one Deepak Kumar son of Om Prakash, a resident of Mandoo Gate under Kotwali Sadar, Hathras, Uttar Pradesh was picked up by three police constables in the night of 24/11/2014 on the suspicion of involvement in stealing of a motorcycle. He was brutally tortured in custody for 24 hours after hanging him from the ceiling in the police station, his fingers were broken and after pouring petrol, his buttocks were set on fire. He was later left at his house in a critical condition.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim.

Issue notice to the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh, calling for a factual report within two weeks. District Magistrate, Hathras is also directed to submit a report, within the same period, on the medical condition and treatment provided to the victim.”

Case No.48852/24/31/2014-CL

Date of Cognizance: 23.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report published in English daily Newspaper "The Indian Express" dated 17.12.2014 captioned "Child worker tied up and beaten for Rs 100 theft". According to the newspaper report, the Ghaziabad police was investigating the incident of alleged tying and beating of a child worker in a coal shop on Monday, the 15th December, 2014. The boy had allegedly stolen coal worth Rs. 100/- and sold it off. The case surfaced when a photograph of the boy with his hands tied above his head was published in a local newspaper.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim child.

Issue notices to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.48849/24/14/2014

Date of Cognizance: 23.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report published in English daily Newspaper "The Times of India" dated 17.12.2014 captioned "Fees pending, principal beats boy to death" According to the newspaper report, a child Mohammad Aaraj, a seven year old student of upper KG, was thrashed by the Principal of the DSR Public School, at Rath (Deoria), as his parents had not been able to pay an amount of Rs. 4500/- that was due to the school. The severely wounded boy was rushed to the hospital by the Principal and School Manager, where the doctors declared him dead. Thereafter the school authorities reportedly dumped the body of the child on the highway.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim child.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary, Education Department, Uttar Pradesh, as well as Superintendent of Police, Deoria, calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.49635/24/3/2014

Date of Cognizance: 24.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing article captioned "Their Cross to Bear" published in the Outlook Magazine, December 29, 2014 Edition that the Christian community is in mortal fear as the sangh parivar attacked over conversion.

The article reported that the convener of the Aligarh unit of the Dharam Jagaran Manch Sh. Sat Prakash Navman has disclosed that the "Ghar Wapsi" programme of non-Hindus had only been postponed, it had not been called off. "Our focus is now on Christians, but we will not leave anyone. We will target Muslims after this. Over the last 20 years, we have reconverted at least a lakh people in Brij Pradesh alone, the part of UP which has Mathura, Lord Krishna's birth place," he goes on to boast.

It has been further reported that the VHP, Bajrang Dal etc. will be back in a not-so-distant future with "Ghar Wapsi" events.

It has further been reported that although no direct attempts at forced reconversion have taken place so far, the constant threats and abuse along with media reports of the imminent 'ghar vapasi' in the city have left a majority of the Christian converts, primarily Dalits and other backward castes, extremely anxious.

Newspaper reports say certain villages in Meerut are the new targets for reconversions. Maliana, a nondescript village 10 km. from Meerut City, where several Dalit Families converted to Christianity some decades ago, is one such.

The article reported that there are incidents of forcible reconversion of Christians in Jaunpur, Aligarh, Bulandshahar, Maliyana, Meeurt, Agra and Greater Noida.

If the contents of the magazine are true, this tantamounts to a violation of the fundamental right to freedom of religion.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks. He may send a report regarding the action the State has taken regarding the incidents which had taken place as also about the action taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.”

WEST BENGAL

Case No.14/25/15/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 06.01.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report captioned, "Rapists set girl on fire, Kolkata erupts in anger" that appeared in the 'Hindustan Times, Delhi dated 2.1.2014.

The press report alleges that a 16 year old girl was gang raped by more than six youths on 26.10.2013 and again the next day after she lodged a police complaint. She was allegedly set on fire by the goons on 23.12.2013 because her family refused to withdraw the police complaint.

It has been further alleged that the victim, who sustained extensive burns, died in the hospital, after which the police was in a hurry to cremate her themselves instead of handing over the body to her family. The report has further alleged that the father of the deceased has filed a complaint against the Medical Superintendent of RG Kar Hospital for causing his daughter's death due to negligence.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim.

Issue notice to the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, State of West Bengal to submit a report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.414/25/11/2014-WC

Date of Cognizance: 09.04.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Village court lets off rapist, woman kills self", carried by English daily 'The Times of India' dated 4.4.2014. As per the report, a mother of three committed suicide on 2nd April, 2014 after a village Court questioned her character and let off her rapist by merely seeking forgiveness in Maida district of West Bengal. The Village Court decided that the accused would apologize to the victim by touching her feet and that in future cases the rapist would have to pay Rs. 25,000/- to the survivor.

The report says that the woman who was prepared to fight her case in Court, could not accept the humiliation as she did not sleep all night and set herself on fire at

dawn. It is reported that a neighbour of the victim allegedly barged into her house and committed rape on her.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim girl.

Issue notice to the Director General of Police, West Bengal, Kolkata calling for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.707/25/3/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 09.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Minor Girl Allegedly Gang-Raped by Three Boys from Her School in West Bengal", downloaded from "NDTV.com", dated 2.6.2014.

The news item states that a class 6 student was allegedly gang raped by three students of her school on Thursday in Birbhum District of West Bengal. The police has arrested two of the accused and it is alleged that though father of the girl had approached an "unofficial village court" but was dissatisfied with its order, approached Police for filing FIR. It is alleged that the Headman of village prevent victim's father from filing an FIR.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victim girl.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary (Home), West Bengal calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.721/25/11/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission has come across of a distressing news item captioned, "Disease that kills kids reaches Bengal. Encephalitis Symptoms - Affected children are largely from around a litchi plantation in Malda", reported in the daily the Indian Express dated 09.06.2014. The newspaper report said that atleast 9 children aged between 3 to 5 years died in 3 days in village Kaliachak in Malda District of West Bengal, from a disease showing symptoms that suggested "Acute Encephalitis Syndrome" (AES), loosely described as Litchi syndrome. The news report further states that some experts have said that whether the colouring agents and insecticides used on litchi crop are the

cause behind the disease and this is so because the parents of the affected children were either involved in litchi cultivation or working in the litchi gardens or living around them, hence the children have been living in the vicinity of the litchi gardens.

It is further reported that the symptoms of this disease are that of AES, which affects the brain. The children suffer convulsions and vomiting and have high fever with extreme shivering. The disease does not allow much time to the doctors to treat the child.

The facts of the news paper report, if true, are serious violation of the human rights of the children of the Kaliachak village of Malda district of West Bengal.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, calling for a report within four weeks. He may also report as to whether similar deaths have been reported from other parts of the State of West Bengal also.”

Case No.967/25/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 23.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Encephalitis Toll Climbs to 52 in West Bengal" published on 21.7.2014 in an Internet Edition of NDTV. It is reported that 52 persons have died due to Encephalitis in West Bengal and many more are still undergoing treatment.

The news report, if true, raises serious issue of violation of right to health of the people in West Bengal. It is a matter of grave concern for the Commission that there is outbreak of encephalitis in the State of West Bengal almost every year. The Commission is distressed to note that despite encephalitis posing such a major health hazard the State has not been able to formulate and implement a strategy to eliminate/minimize this perennial fatal disease.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal calling for a factual report within two weeks about the outbreak of encephalitis in the State during the current year. The Chief Secretary may also report as to what long term and short term steps have been taken by the State Government to ensure control/eradication of this disease. He may also comment on the apparent failure of the State machinery to control this disease till now.”

Case No.976/25/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 24.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English Newspaper "The Indian Express' dated 24/07/014 captioned "Caught on camera : tutor kicks, flings 3 years old". According to report, a woman private tutor was caught on house CCTV thrashing and kicking on chest a three and a half year old boy. A complaint has been lodged at the Lake Town Police Station, Kolkata.

The contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the child.

Issue notice to Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, West Bengal calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.978/25/11/2014

Date of Cognizance: 05.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Seven infants die in Malda hospital", reported in the English daily, The Hindu dated 13.07.2014.

The news paper report stated that 7 infants died in the Malda Medical College and Hospital during a period 24 hours. The report further stated that all the children who died, were low birth weight and were referred to this hospital from other Health Centres. Most of them died of asphyxiation.

The news paper report further stated that the hospital authorities denied any medical negligence. Most of the children were at home (non-institutional delivery) and brought to the Medical college in critical condition and all the children were less than a month old. News paper report further stated that 08 children had died within 48 hours in June, 2014 also. Neo-natal deaths in the hospital in Jan, 2014 as also in October and May, 2013.

If the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a violation of the human rights of the infants as well as the parents.

Issue a notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.1041/25/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 07.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Hunger deaths stalk Bengal tea country- 100 dead in five closed tea estates since January", reported in the English daily, The Times of India dated 30th July, 2014.

The news paper report stated that in five closed tea gardens i.e., Dooars Tea Estate, Surendranagar and Dharanipur Tea Estates in Jalpaiguri and Dheklapara TE and Bandapani Tea Estate in Alipurduar District, nearly 100 people have reportedly died due to malnutrition. The news paper report further stated that many Tea gardens were closed a decade ago, have since been reopened but the deaths continued. The tea workers were never a happy lot, with low wages, poor quality of ration and insufficient medical facilities which have led to contracting rampant tuberculosis and other unknown ailments by them. The rice distributed under PDS being unfit for consumption, there was nothing else to eat and these workers barely survive collecting shrubs from the gardens, to eat. The news paper report has further alleged that some of the workers have even sold their children for survival and what makes the situation more complex was the pride of the Adivasi workers and their shame in speaking of their poverty.

The news paper report has alleged that these deaths are nothing but due to malnutrition, if not starvation deaths. The State Government has declined to acknowledge these deaths as starvation deaths even they have declined to recognise that there was any malnutrition death. The report further states that some of these workers get employment under MGNREGA but their wages were not paid timely, adding to their plight.

If, the contents of the news paper report are correct, it is a serious violation of human rights of workers in the Tea garden and their family members.

Issue notice to Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.1138/25/11/2014

Date of Cognizance: 26.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "The scourge of the eastern states- There are a large number of deaths of children year after year in West Bengal and eastern Uttar Pradesh due to Japanese encephalitis. Why are preventive steps not taken?", reported in the English daily, The Tribune dated 5th August, 2014.

The news paper report states that 315 new cases of Japanese encephalitis in Gorakhpur hospitals and 67 infants died due to this disease in Jalpaigudi and Malda District hospital in West Bengal have been reported.

It is also stated in the news paper report that the Japanese encephalitis is a viral disease that infects animals and humans. It is transmitted by mosquitoes and in human being causes inflammation of the membranes around the brain. This virus affects young children. The virus circulates in ardeid birds (herons & egrets). Pigs are amplifying hosts, because the virus reproduces in pigs and infects mosquitoes when they take blood from the pigs and the virus spills over the human being when the infected mosquitoes population build up explosively.

The news paper report further stated that one UNICEF report has stated that 50% of Indian children are under weight and more than 70% of women and children have serious nutritional deficiencies including anemia. According to the UNICEF report, India is at the bottom of the world's nutrition barometer along with countries like Angola, Cameroon, Congo and Yemen. This report draws attention to Indian's ill-fed underbelly and the failure to address healthcare issues among the poor.

The news report further states that India has earmarked only 1.67 percent of the GDP for health in 12th Five Year Plan which is very low and India is likely to miss the Millennium Development Goal on child mortality. The tragic consequences of such health deficiency are the large number of deaths of children in Uttar Pradesh due to Japanese encephalitis. Moreover, during monsoon the large number of ponds having static water become breeding ground for mosquitoes and the presence of a number of piggeries in Gorakhpur area is best suited for incubation of the disease in pigs.

The report further states that the only solution to the problem is vaccination and children under 10 years of age and 3 doses of the medicine are to be given during a period of 30 days but non availability of vaccine, as only one unit at Kasoli manufacture this vaccine, therefore there is a large gap in demand (75 lakhs) and supply (4 lakhs) of the vials.

The news paper report further stated that due to non availability of vials a large number of children could not be vaccinated hence contracting the disease. The doctors said to have stated that those who survive after contracting the disease were likely to become mentally or physically deficient for life.

The report also stated that presence of a large number of piggeries, ponds having static water and large number of pigs roaming in the Government hospitals and insufficient supply of the vaccine have been the main cause of the disease. A large number of deaths due to disease shows the lack of preventive inoculation of infant in all the traditionally affected districts such as Gorakhpur, Malda and Siligudi in West Bengal are to be taken on war footing and the State Government should take steps to remove the piggeries after compensating the owners of these piggeries .

If, the contents of the news paper report are correct, this is a serious violation of human rights of the children. Since the disease has serious impact through out the life of the children even after the treatment and insufficiency of the preventive steps as a result of non availability of the vaccine and meager allocation of funds on health care etc. has been aggravating the problem and violating right to live

Issue notice to Chief Secretaries, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha calling upon them to submit a detailed report within six weeks.”

Case No.1221/25/10/2014-WC

Date of Cognizance: 16.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English Newspaper 'Indian Express' dated 04/09/2014 captioned "Body of girl who went missing from kangaroo court found". Similar reports have also been published in 'The Times of India' dated 04/09/2014 captioned "Bengal teen gangraped, killed for standing up to kangaroo court" and in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 04/09/2014 captioned " 15 year old killed for challenging Bengal kangaroo court verdict".

According to the newspaper reports, naked body of a girl, who had tried to save her father from being beaten up at a village kangaroo court for failing to pay for a rented tractor, was found near the railway tracks at Dhupguri in Jalpaiguri District, West Bengal. The 'Salishi Sabha' (self-appointed village court) was convened at Dhupguri on Monday night (1/9/2014). The father of the deceased had lodged an FIR against 13 persons (TMC local leaders and supporters) at the Dhupguri police station for rape, murder and kidnapping of his daughter. The report also mentions that the 15 year old scheduled caste girl had intervened and pleaded with villagers not to beat her father, after his request for some more time to make payment was turned down.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim scheduled caste family.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Jalpaiguri District, Government of West Bengal calling for a factual report within two weeks. The report should also elaborate on the sanctity of the

'kangaroo courts', status of the criminal case registered the 13 accused as well as details of the monetary relief provided to the victim family in accordance with the provisions of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules.”

DELHI

Case No.1/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 02.01.2014

“The Commission has come across a panic news report published in the 'Jagran City Plus' on 29th December, 2013 captioned as "No Shelter for the Homeless". As per the news report about 1.5 lakh destitute persons are spending life in Delhi on footpaths and under the over-bridges. There are only 175 shelter homes in Delhi to cater around 7000 homeless, which are too facing scarcity of infrastructure and sanitation. According to the DDA's plan, there must be a night shelter for each one lakh population but this plan has yet not been implemented. The news also states that as per the Government's orders, the shelter home in the metro cities must get operational as soon as the minimum temperature reaches below normal, but the shelter homes in Delhi are still lying unattended though the mercury reached 4 degree below normal.

The pathetic condition of the homeless persons in Delhi, who are spending nights in open in such shivering cold, is a matter of concern, which may cause loss of lives.

Let a notice be issued to the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi calling for a report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.58/30/2/2014

Date of Cognizance: 06.01.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report captioned, "Two homeless die in cold" that appeared in the 'Deccan Herald, Delhi dated 2.1.2014.

The press report alleges that two homeless persons were found dead within a distance of 30 to 40 feet from each other in Yamuna Pusta area on Wednesday, the 1st January 2014. The report mentions that the night shelter is only two to three minutes walking distance from where the bodies were found. It has, however, been alleged that many homeless people are turned away as there is no space at the shelter home.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the homeless persons in Delhi.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi and the Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, Government of NCT of Delhi to submit a report in the matter within two weeks positively.

They are also directed to inform the Commission as to what steps they have taken to protect the poor homeless persons from the bitter cold.”

Case No.86/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 07.01.2014

“Section 20 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents Senior Citizen Act 2007 provides for medical care for senior citizens in the country.

With a passage of time the percentage of aged persons in the country is liable to go up considerably. To deal with the health issue of the old parents and senior citizens it is necessary that our health care system should be well equipped with necessary knowledge and wherewithal to deal with the problem of elderly persons.

The Commission is of the view that there is a need for starting MD course in gerontology in various medical colleges of the country. This course is necessary keeping in view the welfare of parents and senior citizens in the country for providing earmarked facilities to them in every District Hospital.

The Commission takes suo-motu cognizance and issues notice to Secretary, Medical Council of India and Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to analyze the suggestion of the Commission and submit response in eight weeks.”

Case No.85/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 07.01.2014

“In order to provide more effective provisions for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens guaranteed and recognized under the Constitution of India, the parliament enacted "Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007" (Act No. 56 of 2007).

In the Act it is provided that a senior citizen or a parent who is unable to maintain himself from his own earning or property owned by him shall be entitled to make an application for his maintenance by his children or relative who are having

sufficient means before a Tribunal constituted u/s 7 of the Act. It is also provided that the State Government shall designate the District social Welfare Officer or an officer not below the rank of District social Welfare Officer as maintenance officer.

The Act also provides establishment of Old Age Homes by the State Government for the maintenance of the indigent senior citizens.

It is also provided in the Act that the State Government shall ensure that the Government Hospital or Hospital funded fully or partially by the Government shall provide beds for all senior citizens as far as possible for treatment of chronic, terminal and degenerative diseases.

It has come to the notice of the Commission that provisions of Maintenance & Welfare of Parents and Sr. Citizens Act 2007 are not being implemented by some of the State Governments/Union Territories in its true spirit with the result, the old age parents and senior citizens are not getting appropriate benefits resulting in, apparently, violation of their human rights.

It has also been brought to the notice of the Commission that the officers who were given responsibility at Sub-division level have no time to deal with the issue of senior citizens. Therefore, there is need for full time officer at sub-division level as maintenance officer.

The Commission takes suo-motu cognizance of the issue and directs the Chief Secretaries of all the States in India /Administrators of Union Territories to submit their reply on the following provisions enacted therein :-

i) Whether the State Governments/Union Territories have constituted Maintenance Tribunals as required u/s 7(1) of the said Act.

ii) Whether the State Governments have constituted Appellate Tribunal as required in Section 15 of the Act.

iii) Whether the State Governments have established Old Age Homes as required u/s 19 of the Act.

iv) Whether the State Governments/Union Territories have ensured medical support for the senior citizens as required u/s 20(1)(2)(5) of the Act.

Accordingly, Registry is directed to issue notice to all the Chief Secretaries of the States/Administrators of Union Territories calling for their report, which should be received in the Commission within six weeks.”

Case No.252/30/8/2014

Date of Cognizance: 20.01.2014

“The Commission has across news reports published in the 18.01.2014 edition of the "Hindustan Times" wherein incidents of racial prejudice and unlawful acts against the African nationals have been reported. In one of the reports captioned "We are stoned, abused on roads, say Africans", it is sated that people throw stones on the African nationals and hundreds of people of African descent are going through nightmarish experience daily in a place called Khirki Extension in Delhi. Another report captioned "I feel violated, says Nigerian envoy" states about a incident where some African women were allegedly held captive in taxis for hours ad then were forced to undergo medical examination at the hospital in the capital. The Nigerian High commissioner of India has demanded action against perpetrators of this act.

The Commission condemns any act of discrimination against any caste colour, race, sex etc. The contents of the news report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights.

Issue notice to Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI, Commissioner of Police, Delhi and Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi calling for a report in the matter within 3 days.”

Case No.308/30/4/2014

Date of Cognizance: 22.01.2014

“The Commission has come across a news item captioned "6 homeless die of cold on rainy night. All bodies were found at places around Kashmere Gate in North Delhi" appeared in local news paper 'Times of India, Delhi' on 19th January, 2014.

It has been alleged that 6 homeless persons lost their lives to the chill and rain on the intervening night of 17/18 January, 2014 in the Kashmere Gate area of Delhi. It has been further reported that the State Government has failed to make a shelter plan and a policy for the homeless persons despite directives from the High Court and the Apex Court. According to the news paper 17 homeless persons have died in the recent past in six weeks in the North District alone.

In another news item published by 'Dainik Jagran' Delhi on 19th January, 2014, it has been reported that 12 homeless persons have died in Delhi due to cold in last 24 hours in the absence of night shelters in various areas of Delhi.

The contents of the aforesaid news items, if true, raise serious human rights issues.

Let a Notice be issued to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit a report within 2 weeks.”

Case No.1146/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 27.02.2014

“There is a news report on NDTV India today about high level of contamination in drinking water on platforms of Northern Railways. As per the report, 100% water samples collected from Lucknow Charbagh Railway Station were found to be unsafe for drinking due to the presence of high level of Coliform Bacteria, which causes many serious water borne diseases. Similarly, 59% of water samples collected from Moradabad Station were found to be infected whereas 94% samples collected from Ambala Station were found infected. It is also reported that reason for such high level of contamination is the absence of water treatment plants at these stations and wherever such plants are in place, their condition and maintenance is highly unsatisfactory thus putting the health of passengers at grave risk. It is further reported that the maintenance/chlorification of water treatment plant at New Delhi Railway Station has been outsourced to a private company and when a senior Engineer of Northern Railway inspected and questioned the company about the maintenance of the plant, the company threatened to sue him in the court of law.

The above report, if true, raises a serious issue of violation of right to health of millions of passengers. It would, therefore, be appropriate to take suo-moto cognizance of the matter and issue notices to concerned authorities of Northern Railways to submit their report within one week.”

Case No.1290/30/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 07.03.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English newspaper 'The Hindu' dated 07/03/2014 captioned "Four Year old falls in manhole, dies".

The press report alleges that a four year boy died after he slipped in a manhole in Jaitpur, South East Delhi on 05/03/2014. According to the report, the victim Gurpreet Singh, was walking towards his residence along with his grandmother when the incident took place. It was quite dark in the area and the manhole was uncovered. After the rescue operation taken up by the police, the body of the deceased was found next morning. A case of negligence against unknown persons had been registered at Jaitpur Police Station but no arrests were made.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of child.

Issue notice to Commissioner, South East Delhi Municipal Corporation, New Delhi, calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.1361/30/9/2014

Date of Cognizance: 10.03.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "Charged with terror, damned by aliases", that appeared in 'The Hindu' dated 07.02.2014. It carries the incredible story of boy 'terrorist' Mohammad Amir whose youth was destroyed because of his wrongful arrest and 14 year long incarceration.

Amir who had just turned 18, was ambushed by a police van on 1.2.1998 and a month alter he found himself in the capital's Tihar Jail with the charges of murder, terrorism and waging war against the nation. He was named the main accused in 20 law intensity bomb blasts executed between December 1996 and October 1997 in Delhi, Rohtak, Sonapat and Ghaziabad. Five explosions were occurred during a single evening in places as wide apart as Sadar Bazar in Delhi and Ghaziabad, many miles away.

The charge sheet filed in April 1998 said that Amir had been trained in Pakistan by the dreaded Abdul Karim 'Tunda gang'. It also mentioned that Amir and co-accused Shakeel collaborated to make bombs out of a factory rented by Shakeel in Pilakhua in ghaziabad.

Amir and his co-accused Shakeel were charged with physically planting the bombs. However, Shakeel was discharged before the start of hearing in ten cases but in 2009 he was found hanging from the ceiling of his barrack in Dasna Jail. Then Superintendent of Dasna Jail V K Singh was charged with Shakeel's murder.

As per the news report, Amir left for Pakistan on December 12, 1997 to visit his sister who is married to a family in Pakistan and returned on February 13, 1998. A fortnight later he was arrested on the charges of executing the bomb blasts subsequent to his training in Pakistan. The last of the bomb blast was in October 1997 i.e. two months before he went on his first and last trip to Pakistan.

Amir who was confined in a solitary high security cell for 14 years, lost his father without knowing about his death and his mother, also suffered a brain haemorrhage, losing her voice and became paralytic.

Amir was acquitted in 18 of the 20 terror cases for lack of evidence against him as the prosecution failed to produce a single witness in any of the cases connecting him to the blasts. The police produced no witness to the arrest and the public witnesses allegedly present during the Pilakhua raid flatly refused to support the prosecution during the trial. Chandrabhan, the prosecution's main witness on whose evidence the entire terror case rested stated that he had never seen Amir and he was taken to the Chankya Puri Station where he was made to sign on blank papers.

The trial court which acquitted him in 17 cases came up with the same line on each judgment day i.e. 'there is absolutely no incriminating evidence against the accused'. The Delhi High Court in one of the three cases that went into appeal observed 'the prosecution has miserably failed to adduce any evidence to connect the accused appellant with the charges framed, much less prove them'.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to grave violation of human rights of the victim Amir who was implicated in false cases and lost 14 years of his prime youth in solitary confinement in Tihar Jail without committing any crime. The facts of the case also raise serious questions on the functioning of the police.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, New Delhi and Commissioner of Police, Delhi to submit a detailed report in the matter within four weeks. Commissioner of Police is also directed to submit entire record of the 12 cases filed against Amir along with the report.”

Case No.1825/30/8/2014

Date of Cognizance: 02.04.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned "AIIMS life-saving drugs of poor quality : HoD to chief" published in The Indian Express dated 29.3.2014.

The news paper report states that Dr. Chandrekha, Head, Anaesthesiology Department, AIIMS, wrote a letter to the Medical Supdt., AIIMS on 25.3.2014 alleging that due to poor quality of life saving drugs her husband suffered reactions from the two drugs provided by the medical institute. Her husband was given a drug "Amyril" which he has been taking for last 3-4 years and developed urticaria or deep rashes all over the body. He was diagnosed drug reaction and was given the life saving drug called "Prednisolone" which is a common drug to treat inflammatory and auto immune conditions. But even after giving the heavy doses of anti allergic drugs no improvement in the condition of the patient was seen. Then the doctors stopped both the drugs given by the medical institute and administered same drugs i.e. "Amyril" and "Prednisolone" purchased from outside. As a result thereof the condition of the patient improved within 8 hours. She requested the Medical Supdt., AIIMS to withdraw and stop purchase of such spurious life saving drugs from the medical institute in the interest of patients safety.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the patients in general and AIIMS in particular.

Issue notice to the Director, AIIMS, New Delhi calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Planning, Union of India, New Delhi calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.1888/30/8/2014

Date of Cognizance: 15.04.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned '2' charred at old age home; Police suspect fire broke out due to short circuit', published in the English daily 'Deccan Herald' dated 5.4.2014. As per the report, a senior citizen and a woman were killed in a fire broke out around 2.30 A.M. on 4.4.2014 at an old age shelter home in Vasant Kunj area in Delhi. A short circuit is believed to be the cause of the fire. The shelter home run by the Earth Savior foundation primarily houses mentally

disabled persons, senior citizens and those thrown out of their homes by their children. At the time of the incident there were about 150 members in the 10 make shift tents. Most of them escaped soon after the fire began.

Two victims have been identified as Ramesh Chand, 60 and 27 years old Poonam, a mute woman who was given the name by the NGO.

It is reported that the fire department took one hour to reach the spot. Police have registered a case and begun investigation.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to serious violation of human rights of the victims.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT, New Delhi and Commissioner of Police, Delhi to submit a detailed report in the matter within four weeks."

Case No.2275/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 29.04.2014

"The Commission takes Suo Motu cognizance of a news item captioned as "landfills threat to environment health" published in "The Times of India ", dated 24th April, 2014 highlighting the plight of three garbage dumps (Landfills) namely Gazipur, Okhla & Bhalswa in Delhi. It has been reported that these are monstrous trash mountains including of hazardous waste causing grave threat to the environment. The corporations in Delhi have given no thought to manage them. Hundreds of waste pickers roam in the vicinity and are contracting various diseases. The bricks, concrete, wood & rubbles part of waste are not being recycled and is mixed with organic waste. It has been further reported that only about 500 MT. of waste is being composted daily at two of the aforesaid places. Heavy metals found in solid waste is contaminating the ground water and even the air is extremely polluted in the surroundings of these sites. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee is not taking steps to counter the pollution. Accordingly to the news item, the Delhi Dump Yards are causing hazard to the people and are polluting the surroundings.

The contents as reported above, in the newspaper are disturbing and if true, raise a serious issue of human rights violation. Let a Notice be issued to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest Government of India, New Delhi, Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, and Commissioners of all three Municipal Corporations in Delhi calling for report in four weeks."

Case No.2659/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 13.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned "Docs play truant in health centres, pulled up", published in "The Indian Express" dated 7.5.2014.

The press report states that surprise checks conducted by the Delhi Government's health department last month have revealed that most doctors in primary health centres were missing from duty, between 25 to 40 per cent of their work days. On an average, doctors were reporting for duty about two hours late and leaving much before their scheduled time. This was the case in all the 260 dispensaries, which form PHCs, under Delhi Government. The punctuality and sanitation emerged to be biggest problems in these PHCs.

The patients who come to the dispensaries after traveling for hours had to return back without treatment. And they were forced to go to the hospitals, even for minor ailments.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victims.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Health Department, Govt. of NCT Delhi, New Delhi calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.2926/30/2/2014

Date of Cognizance: 28.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English newspaper 'The Hindustan Times' dated 26th May, 2014 captioned "City ambulances not equipped to transfer critically ill patients".

According to the press report, an Advance Life Support Ambulance should have facilities such as doctor or para medical staff, monitoring of vital signs, advanced drug therapy, cardiac monitoring, oxygen and intravenous therapy, heart and blood pressure monitoring equipment etc. However, most of the vehicles running under the grab of ambulance services are not even half equipped to transfer patients, let alone critically sick patients. The report raises a question that if a critically ill patients dies of alleged negligence during transit from one medical unit to another, who is to blame? The report refers to an incident of death of father of Dr Veena Mattu, a critical care expert, while being transferred from MAX Hospital, Patparganj to Saket City Hospital on

25/12/2013. It also raises the question regarding the forum where the aggrieved person could lodge a complaint about the alleged negligence during transit of the patient from one medical unit to another?

The issue raised in the report raises a serious aspect related to healthcare system and more specifically conditions of ambulances.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Secretary, Department of Health and Family, Government of NCT of Delhi and the Chairman, Medical Council of India calling for a report along with a copy of the guidelines, if any, issued to all the hospitals and Nursing Homes to have ambulance fitted with some basis common equipments and facilities essential for transporting critically ill patients. If there have been no guidelines issued, details of the steps proposed to be taken in this regard be reported. Response within four weeks.”

Case No.3202/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 05.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in the Hindi newspaper 'Dainik Jagran, Delhi' dated 2/06/2014 captioned "Safai ke dauran ek ki mauth, doosra gambhir”.

According to the press report, in the Begumpur police station area in Outer Delhi, while cleaning a drain, one temporary safai karamchari died while one other sustained injuries. The deceased was identified as Om Prakash Omi, aged 43 years, a resident in MCD Flats in Sector 20 Rohini. The injured, 34 years old, Sagar, had been admitted in the hospital. His condition was critical. Preliminary investigation by the police revealed that the death of Om Prakash Omi, occurred due to exposure of the two safai karamcharis to poisonous gas during the process of cleaning of a drain in Sector 20 Rohini. The two were taken to the hospital by the police, where the doctor declared Om Prakash Omi dead.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of right to life and safety of the safai karamcharis in Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

Issue notices to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Outer District Delhi calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.3233/30/6/2014

Date of Cognizance: 18.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "11 child labourers saved from inhuman conditions", published in "The Tribune" Delhi dated 27.5.2014.

The press report states that in a raid conducted by officials of PS Ashok Vihar, Delhi in H Block of the locality, on the complaint of a NGO "Bachpan Bachao Andolan" (BBA) at Police Helpline 1291, 3 children were rescued. The three children were from Jharkhand, Bihar and Assam. The News Report further states that the said children were not being paid even a single penny for their work and they were being beaten, not allowed to move out of the gate of the house or to meet their parents.

The contents of press report raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the rescued children.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT Delhi calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.3234/30/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "11 child labourers saved from inhuman conditions", published in "The Tribune" Delhi dated 27.5.2014.

The news report states that in a raid conducted by Delhi Police on the complaint of NGO "Bachpan Bachao Andolan" 8 children were rescued from a shoe stitching factory in Amar Colony, Delhi. It is alleged that the kids were being forced to work for long hours under extreme heat conditions, on hazardous machinery & Chemicals. These children were from 13 to 17 years Children of age. They were not paid any wages also. Two children among the rescued Children were girls. It states that operation was led by SDM alongwith officials of PS Nangloi and BBA activists.

The contents of press report raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of rescued children.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT Delhi calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.3231/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Bache Nahi, Adhikari Hi Kha Gay Khana", published in "Dainik Jagran" Delhi dated 25.5.2014.

The press report states that meals at Delhi's Aanganwari Centres run under Women & Child Development, is being distributed to 8 lakh children. The news report allege that for years together meal was shown to be distributed to the children who actually never came to these Aanganwari Centres, thereby causing fraud of crores of rupees and loss to the Department. It states that in Delhi there are 11000 Aanganwari Centres where poor women, their children aged 1 year to 6 years, pregnant women and girls aged 11 to 18 years are provided free meals. In addition, vocational training is also provided in these Centres. The meals include salty dalia, khichri, halva, chana, puri subzi, chhole chawal, kari chawal, sweet dalia etc. and the same is being supplied by 23 NGOs.

However a surprise inspection by Principal Secretary of the Department at Jama Masjid and Lal Darwaja area of Old Delhi revealed number of irregularities. It is further reported that attendance of children at these Centres was less than the registered number of children and the said Centres were even not inspected by the respective officers of the area as well. The Principal Secretary seems to have ordered an audit of these Centres. The report further states that the Dy. Director concerned has been suspended.

The contents of press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of victims at large.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT Delhi calling for a report within four weeks.”

Case No.3232/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 11.06.2014

“The Commission came across a distressing news reports appeared in the newspaper the Hindi daily "Danik Jagran" dated 23.05.2014, 24.05.2014, 25.05.2014 and 26.05.2014 about a large number of unqualified doctors (Jhola chhap doctors) operating in various localities of Delhi. Taking suo-motu cognizance of the press report, the Commission directed to link the case with Case No.1758/30/0/2010 in which the Commission is already is seized of the matter. The Commission has called for a report

from the Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi, Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Secretary, Delhi Medical Council, New Delhi.”

Case No.3540/30/8/2014

Date of Cognizance: 18.06.2014

“The Commission has come across of a distressing news item”, captioned Family dismissed from work a day after demanding compensation for infant's death”, reported in the English daily, the Hindu, dated 26.05.2014.

The newspaper report stated that a 5-month-old girl, daughter of a construction worker was crushed under the wheel of a car owned by a contractor working at Ram Lal Anand (RLA) College, Delhi University, South Campus, at one of the construction sites of the College.

The news report further states that no compensation or financial assistance has been given to the parents of the deceased child. The newspaper report also states that when the matter came in public domain the Construction company dismissed the father and six other family members of the deceased from employment, in fact the father of the deceased child was called by the contractor to settle the pending account for their work and dismissed him & others from the job.

The newspaper report further stated that the Labour Department officials visited the work site and are yet to take any action. It is further stated that worker were not being paid the minimum wages. The RLA college has dismissed the demand for compensation to the next-of-kin of the deceased. The college authorities were stated to have said that the accident took place by a contractor engaged by CPWD. Therefore, they were not responsible for making payment of any compensation and CPWD was expected to make payment of the compensation. The news report also stated that the Secretary of Nirman Majdoor Panchayat Sangam has stated that the college not CPWD is principal employer. Therefore the college has to make the payment of the compensation to the next of the kin of the deceased child.

The Commission perused the report and observed that poor child was kept at a work site unattended and crushed down the wheel of the car by a contractor and no compensation has been paid to the NOK of the deceased. Moreover, the poor labourer has been thrown out of the job for bringing their grievance in public.

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to violation of human rights of the child as well as the poor labourers in question.

Issue notice to the Chairman, Governing Body, RLA College, Principal, RLA College (Evening classes), Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi, Registrar, University of Delhi and Director General, CPWD, calling upon them to submit a report within four weeks.

The Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India, New Delhi and Labour Commissioner, NCT of Delhi be directed to submit action taken report within four weeks.”

Case No.4557/30/2/2014

Date of Cognizance: 18.07.2014

“The Commission has come across of a distressing news item captioned, "22 fall sick after mid-day meal in E Delhi school- Bad Food - All victims stable, parents claim students found dead rat in food; samples sent for examination, case registered in Pandav Nagar police station", reported in the English Daily the Hindustan Times dated 04th July, 2014. The news paper report stated that 22 students aged between 7 to 14 years, of Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, a Government School, in Patparganj area of East Delhi, fell ill after consuming mid day meal. These students were admitted to the Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital in Khichri Pur. After eating Rajmaan Chawal, supplied by Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Dalit Uthan Evam Shiksha Samiti, about 22 children were rushed to the hospital. Doctors in the hospital said to have stated that intravenous fluid was given to the children and their condition was stable.

The news paper report further stated that one of the parents of a child stated that the students found a dead rat in the food served to them. The agency supplying the Mid Day Meal to the school had earlier been black listed but they have started supplying the food again.

Police is said to have registered a case at Pandav Nagar police station on the complaint of one of the parent.

The news paper report has further reported that such an incidents had taken place on July 26, 2013, July 31, 2013 and November 08, 2013, in some of the school in Delhi.

The contents of the news paper, if true, are serious violation of human rights of the children.

Issue notice to Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi calling upon him for a detailed report within 4 weeks.

Issue notice to the DCP (East), Delhi, calling upon him to submit an action taken report within 4 weeks.”

Case No.4978/30/1/2014

Date of Cognizance: 14.07.2014

“The Commission has come across of a distressing news item captioned, "Vagabonds make life difficult for orphanage inmates", published in The Hindu dated 07.07.2014. The news paper report has stated that the orphanage 'Bachchiyon Ka Ghar', one of the oldest in the Capital, built in 1891 for Muslim girls at Matiya Mahal in Old Delhi having 52 to 90 inmate girls, aged between seven and eighteen years. The orphanage is housed in a three storey building consisting of 1 hall, 6 small rooms, 1 of which is for 2 warden, 1 for a Store room/Changing room. 13 to 15 girls sleep on the floor, whatever be the season. The hall serves multi-purposes for them: it is their drawing room, a dining room, bedroom, reading room and entertainment room. These girls cannot play outside. These rooms are rat-infested, who often bite them during their sleep, on the floor. The Orphanage is approached through congested and filthy dark lanes and by-lanes.

The narrow streets the girls pass through for going school and coming back are always full of vagabonds. These vagabonds always chase them to their school and also back to their orphanage. They hit them with their elbows and hurl unspeakably filthy invectives in their ears, snatch their dupatta and catch hold of their hands. When these girls resist, false complaints are filed against them. Hence chances of happening any untoward incident was always present.

If, the contents of news paper report are true, it is a serious violation of human rights of inmate girls in the Orphanage, 'Bachchiyon Ka Ghar'.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Commissioner of Police, NCT of Delhi, calling upon them to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.5211/30/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 22.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "16 years on, Delhi govt's super-specialty hospitals still not ready for patients", published in

the English daily, The Times of India dated 14.07.2014. The news paper report has stated that the construction of 2 super specialty hospitals viz. Rajiv Gandhi Super-Specialty hospital (660 bedded) in East Delhi and Janakpuri Super-Specialty hospital (300 bedded) in West Delhi, was started in 1998, took 10 years to build these hospitals and another 5 years was taken to decide how these should be run. The news paper report further stated that Delhi Govt. planned to run these hospitals on Public Private Partnership model but it failed mainly because the private players felt that the revenue model was not profitable. In 2012 the Govt. decided to run these hospitals through a society of top health officials and eminent medical persons in line of Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Science and Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalay. The Directors of these hospitals were appointed but no progress thereafter was made.

The news paper report further stated that its Correspondent visited Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital recently and found that medical gas pipe line was yet to be installed, except for one corner of the building where dialysis services are being run on PPP mode. In most parts of the hospital did not have even air conditioning or proper electricity connection and the OPD services were being run from Doctors' Hostel.

The news paper report further stated that the condition of Janakpuri Super Specialty hospital was same, OPD services were bring run from a few rooms while most of other rooms remained locked. There was no super specialist except the Director who is a Neurologist in the hospital. The news paper report further states that crores of rupees have been allocated in the budget and was spent by these hospitals during the year 2011-12 but the amount allocated for patient was meager say about Rs. 2 lakhs. Moreover there were irregularities in quantity of medicines shown in the distribution register. The news paper report stated that this is a sheer wastage of public fund, blockage of government funds and wastage of government property for considerably long time.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this a violation of human rights of the public in general to get health facilities from the government and it is also wastage of public money and Government's infrastructure due to indecisiveness of the Public Servants

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.5407/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 05.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Delhi hospitals suffer acute staff crunch, - 223 posts of doctors, 287 posts of nurses vacant in premier institutes, published in the English daily, The Hindu dated 13.07.2014".

The news paper report states that the Central Government has admitted that there has been an acute shortage of doctors and specialists in its medical units i.e. 223 posts of doctors, 287 posts of Nurses and 690 posts of para-medical and technical staff are currently vacant in the premier institutes like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College etc. The report further stated that there was a shortage of 110 doctors, 91 doctors and 87 doctors in Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College, associated hospitals and RML hospital respectively. There is a vacancy of 406, 217, 143 posts of Nurses in the Lady Harding Medical College, RML and Safdarjung Hospital respectively. Vacancies of para-medical and technical staff was 195, 99 and 45 respectively in alleged LHMC, RML and Safdarjung Hospital.

A senior Physician at AIIMS said to have stated that over 40 Faculty members are due to retire between 2014 and 2017. The Government has not initiated proper and immediate measures to correct the situation. Since these premier institutes also impart medical education to future doctors, nurses and para-medical staff can not be left to cripple due to shortage of staff. Moreover, hiring people on contract to tide a few years can not work towards the institution building. The Central Government has to think for long term implications.

The news paper report further states that Delhi being the world's 2nd most populous city and the acute shortage of doctors and specialists in these renowned institutions of Central Government has hit another road block. It is the duty of the Government to provide medical facilities for a healthy living of its citizens.

If the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a violation of the human rights of the citizens of the NCT of Delhi.

Issue a notice to the Health Secretary, Govt. of India, Delhi, calling upon him to submit an Action Taken Report within four weeks.”

Case No5531/30/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 31.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published by Hindi 'Aajtak' T.V. Today Network at Aajtak.in dated 28/7/2014 captioned " Delhi main doctoron ki laparwahi se mahila ne haspatal ke bahar dia bacchi ko janam'. According to the report, in the night of 27th July, 2014 on account of negligence of doctor's at Guru Tegh Bahardur hospital in the capital, a woman delivered a female child outside the hospital under the open sky. It has been reported that the woman, who was in pain, had come to the hospital for treatment, but the doctors instead of admitting her asked her to get an ultra sound performed from outside. After the delivery, she was admitted in the hospital with the assistance of the police and both the mother and child were reported to be in good health.

The contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights to health of women.

Issue notice to the Secretary Department of Health and Family Welfare Government of NCT of Delhi calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.5575/30/4/2014

Date of Cognizance: 04.08.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in the 'The Hinduatan Times' dated 25/07/2014 captioned "No family, no lawyer: Many kids in Delhi reform home clueless why they are there'. According to the newspaper report, most inmates at Sewa Kutir in Kingsway Camp, North Delhi, have no access to legal assistance, and many do not even know why they are lodged there. These startling revelations were made in an audit report on the condition of juveniles in the camp by the Delhi State Legal Service Authority, which is responsible for providing free legal aid counsel to those who cannot afford to hire private defence attorneys.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the juveniles in Delhi.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

"The Commission has observed that an Act "The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008" was passed by the Parliament on 30.12.2008, with the objectives inter-alia, framing of schemes u/s 3 of the Act by the Central Government as well as the State Governments on the issues enumerated in sub-section (1) of Sec. 3 and sub-section (4) of Sec. 3, respectively; to constitute National Social Security Boards u/s 5 of the Act & States Social Security Board u/s 6 of the Act; setting up of Workers Facilitation Centres u/s 9 of the Act; and registration of unorganized worker for providing the social security benefits to the eligible workers u/s 10 of the Act.

The Commission further observed that even after 8 years of passing of the Social Welfare Legislation, the Central Government as well as State Governments have failed to comply with the provisions of the Act in the letter & spirit, of the enactment i.e., to provide for Social Security and Welfare of Unorganised workers, and failed to take action inter-alia, to make the above referred provisions of the Act operative.

A notice be issued to the Secretary, Labour and Employment and Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment, Union of India calling upon them to submit report on:

- a) Framing of schemes under sub-section. (1) of Section 3 of the Act. The details thereof and the present status of the schemes under each of the Sub-head (a) to (d) of sub-section (1) of the Section 3 of the Act.
- b) Constitution of National Security Boards under Section 5 of the Act and details of the functions performed by the National Security Board so far specifically under sub-section (8) of Sec. 5 of the Act.
- c) The contributions made by the Central Government in respect of any schemes as envisaged under sub-section 5 of the Sec. 10 of the Act.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary of all the State Government and Administrators of all the Union Territories directing them to submit a detailed report as to:

- a) The welfare schemes formulated and notified by them including schemes envisaged in sub-sub-section (a) to (g) of sub-section (4) of the Sec. 3 of the Act.
- b) Constitution of respective State Social Security Boards as envisaged under sub-section (1) of the Sec. 6 of the Act.
- c) Setting up of workers Facilitation Centres as envisaged under sub-section. (a) to (d) of the Section of the Act.

d) The number of unorganized workers registered so far State wise & Industry wise and number of workers who have been issued identity cards so far u/s 10(3) of the Act.

Response within 6 weeks.”

Case No.6223/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 15.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in the 'The Times of India' dated 26/08/2014 captioned "Drug shortage hits HIV patients". According to the newspaper report, treatment of HIV patients across India has taken a hit, especially in Delhi and Mumbai due to severe stock-outs of life saving medicines at Government owned centres. The report states that treatment and control of HIV, including dispensing drugs and testing, is handled by the government run public health programme through its 355 odd centres. According to the report, stock-outs have hit centres in Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Manipur the worst. Through a legal notice sent to the Health Ministry, Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+) representing HIV patients, have sought emergency procurement and relocation of stocks to the government owned centres experiencing stock-outs of ARVS. They have also sought strengthening and streamlining drug forecasting, procurement and supply chain mechanism to prevent future shortages.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of HIV patients.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi calling for a factual report within two weeks. He is also directed to submit a report on the short term and long term measures proposed for preventing shortages of such essential medicines.”

Case No.6496/30/9/2014-AD

Date of Cognizance: 15.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Hatya Ke Aaropi Ne Jail Mein Kiya Suicide", reported in the Hindi daily, 'The Navbharat Times', dated 05.09.2014.

The news paper report stated that one UTP Amolkar (40 years of age) confined in the Jail No. 3, Tihar Jail, Delhi, committed suicide by hanging himself with

the help of a bed sheet by the grills. The news paper report further states that this under trial prisoner tried to commit suicide by inhaling some poisonous substance earlier also, then he was admitted in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, from 12th to 16th August, 2014.

The news paper report further stated that another prisoner died in the jail and as he was reported to have fallen in the bath room of the jail. He was taken to the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital and during treatment, he died. Another under trial prisoner Vinod (aged 26 years) died in Jail No. 4 of Tihar Jail. It was reported that this under trial prisoner was suffering from epilepsy and during a fit of epilepsy, he fell in the bath room and died in the Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital, Delhi.

The news paper report also stated that there have been 30 deaths in the Tihar Jail this year.

The Commission perused the news paper and observed that there has been a large number of deaths in the Tihar Jail, Delhi during one year. If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a very serious violation of right to life of prisoners in the jail.

Issue notice to Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.6494/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 15.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Massive surge in cancer cases nationwide but where are the doctors?", reported in the English daily, The Indian Express dated 03.09.2014.

The news paper report states that there are approximately one crore Cancer patients in India and the number is likely to increase by 20% by the end of this decade. However, only 1600 Cancer specialists are available in the country. Whereas there should optimally be one cancer specialist for every One lakh population. Hence, there is a huge gap in the doctor-patient ratio in India, which is unlikely to be corrected in the near future. Because, there are only a few seats for the super specialists in Oncology. The news paper report further stated that in 530 institutes in India only 1850 seats are available for different branches of Oncology in these institutes. The report further stated that even premier cancer treatment centres in the country do not have that kind of

doctor-patient ratio that their western counterparts do. Hence, In institute like Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, there are only a few specialists in particular branch of Oncology. For example, only 3 Medical Oncologists are available at TMS Hospital. The report further stated that some of the branches of Oncology such as Surgical Oncology (started in 1984), the Gynecological oncology has been started as a separate discipline.

Moreover, facilities for training these specialists branches are concentrated in a few cities of the country. In all there are 15 centres and therefore the treatment facilities are also concentrated in these cities. The report further stated that there is an emergent need to massively scale up training opportunities in the country.

There is no consolidated national cancer registry in the country as a result thereof many cases go unreported. Moreover, access to the doctors & Cancer hospitals concentrated at a few selected cities, that means doctors are not easily available in other cities and for preventive Oncology, the spread of hospitals in the country is a must. Lack of trained doctors, personnel, non availability and non-recognition of nurses-practitioners, which could take call for treatment in absence of the doctors and lack of any training programme for rural health workers in cancer treatment hampering care at a later state at home and preventive Oncology.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, it is a serious violation of human rights of people in the country especially right to health as an important part of right to life.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi & the President, Medical Council of India, New Delhi calling upon them to submit a detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.6499/30/2/2014

Date of Cognizance: 15.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "11-Year-Old raped by auto driver", reported in the English daily, The Asian Age, dated 02.09.2014.

The news paper report stated that a 11-year-old mentally- challenged girl was allegedly raped by an auto rickshaw driver in East Delhi in Ghazipur area on 01.09.2014. The incident came to the light when a police patrolling party spotted an abandoned auto rickshaw parked along side of the road. The alerted policemen started

looking for the driver and they found him assaulting the girl near some bushes. The auto rickshaw driver was arrested and the girl was taken to hospital for medical examination. The medical examination confirmed rape upon the girl. The accused has been identified as Ram Ashish (35 years of age) and the identity of the girl is being ascertained. The accused has told the police that he found the girl near Anand Vihar Railway Station and she told him that she wanted to go to Sarai Kale Khan. The auto rickshaw driver asked her to sit in the auto rickshaw. The police has registered the case u/s 376 IPC and under Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) at Ghazipur police station.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a serious violation of human right of the mentally-challenged girl.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.

Issue notice to Commissioner of Police, NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit the progress in the criminal case and intimate what steps have been taken for prevention of such crimes in Delhi, within four weeks.”

Case No.6498/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 15.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Four-Yr-Old girl sexually assaulted at school", reported in the English daily, The Tribune, dated 01.09.2014.

The news paper report stated that a four years girl was allegedly sexually assaulted in a Govt. school, Begumpur, Outer Delhi, earlier this week. The girl stated before the police and one NGO that a juvenile working on school campus at Poorth Kalan village had sexually assaulted her. However, the police interrogated the juvenile and it was found that he was not in Delhi on the date of incident i.e. August, 26. However, the medical report confirmed that the girl was sexually assaulted. The incident came into light when the victim complained of pain in her stomach and she was taken to the hospital after two days where the doctor confirmed that she had been sexually assaulted. The girl later on informed her mother that a school worker had allegedly taken her to a secluded spot and assaulted her. The police officer was stated to have said that since the girl could be traumatized because of the incident and therefore she was not able to remember the accused. The police has registered a case of sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

If, the contents of the newspaper report are correct, it is a serious violation of human rights of victim.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks.

Issue notice to Commissioner of Police, NCT of Delhi, calling upon to submit the progress in the criminal case and intimate what steps have been taken to ascertain the identity of the victims and prevention of such crimes in Delhi, within four weeks.”

Case No.6497/30/8/2014

Date of Cognizance: 15.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Lizards found in mid-day meal for South Delhi school children", reported in the English daily, The Hindu, dated 04.09.2014.

The news paper report stated that on 3rd September, one lizard was found in the mid-day-meal in a South Delhi Municipal Corporation Primary school at Pushp Vihar, Sector 3, Saket, New Delhi. The reptile was noticed when rice and lentils were being mixed by the teachers of the school before serving it to the students. It is further reported that the same vendor had supplied meals for 15 other schools, and those schools were intimated to discard the meals. A Police complaint had been filed against the NGO M/s Jay Gee Humanitarian Society, engaged for supplying the mid-day-meals.

The news paper report also states that the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) had three contractors who supply mid-day-meals to 589 schools and M/s Jar Gee Humanitarian Society supplies cooked mid-day-meals for over one lakh children in 183 schools. The news paper report further stated that in the South Delhi Municipal Corporation Standing Committee, the Leader of Opposition has demanded that the Corporation should also take action against Iskcon Food Relief Foundation which supplies mid-day-meals to 61337 students in 124 schools and in the past "rats" and "wire mash" were found in the food supplied by Iskcon.

The Education Director is said to have started an enquiry into the incident.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this is a serious violation of human right, particularly right to life of the young children.

Issue notice to Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit a report on the following points:

- i. Instant instances in which lizards were found in meals in schools of SDMC.
- ii. Past incident (s) in which "rats" and "wire mesh" etc. were found in food supplied by M/s Iskcon Food Relief Foundation.

Response within four weeks.”

Case No.6529/30/2/2014

Date of Cognizance: 16.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in Hindi Newspaper 'Amar Ujala ' dated 07/09/2014 captioned " Metro Site ke gadeh main doob kar chhatr ki maut". According to the newspaper report, in the evening of 06/09/2014 in Kakardooma area near a Metro construction site, a student of eighth class drowned in a pit filled with rain water. The deceased was identified as 15 years old Kartik. Local people also pulled out four other students from the spot. The dead body of Kartik was sent for post mortem and police from Anand Vihar Police Station were investigating the matter. The deceased a resident of Arya Nagar Colony in Kakardooma was returning home from the Sarvodya school in the evening, when the incident happened. Kartik was rushed to Dr Hegdewar Hospital in a critical condition where the doctor declared him brought dead. The local people alleged that the Metro Administration had left open pits which resulted in the incident.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victim child.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.6706/30/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 19.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Delhi: Minor Murdered for Stealing a Mango", reported in NDTV, Cities, Indo-Asian News Service, updated September 05,2014 22:17 IST.

The NDTV news reported that on 04th September, 2014, a 15-year-old boy was attacked with an iron rod by a fruit vendor for stealing a mango from his pushcart in Seemapuri area of East Delhi. The boy was taken to the hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

The news further stated that the boy was holding a ten rupee note in his hand and was demanding a fruit (mango) from the vendor but was not giving the note to him and in the meanwhile he pocketed one mango which enraged the accused who beat the body to death.

If, the contents of the news report are true, this is a serious violation of the human right of the teenager.

Issue notice to the Commissioner of Police, NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.6707/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 19.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Police Ki Laparwahi Se Jail Mein Raha Aaropi", reported in the Hindi daily, The Amar Ujala, dated 11.09.2014.

The news paper report stated that one Irfan, an accused in a kidnapping case, was arrested by the Kotwali Police Station of Central Delhi District, Delhi. He was produced before the Court on 15.06.2014. However without getting extension for his judicial custody, he was sent to jail and the accused remained in the illegal custody for 2 months. Though, the Jail Superintendent written a letter to the Court but no reply was received. The Tis Hazari Court, Delhi, issued a notice on 09.07.2014 to the IO for appearance of the accused before the Court. The Court found that the accused had been sent to the jail without any order from the Court. The Court imposed a fine of Rs. 8000/- and Rs. 2000/- on the IO, SI Ramesh Prasad Singh and Superintendent of Jail, Rajesh Chauhan, respectively. The Court further observed that had it not issued notice for appearance of the accused in the Court, the accused might have been in the illegal custody for a longer period.

If, the contents of the news paper report are correct, it is a serious violation of Article 21 i.e. the Rights to life and liberty of the accused.

Issue notice to the Commissioner of Police, NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.6920/30/6/2014

Date of Cognizance: 15.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Four men kill boy for refusing to fetch cigarettes", reported in the English daily, The Times of India, Delhi, dated 12.09.2014

The news paper report stated that a 14-years-old, Rajan died after being beaten up and stabbed by four men in a park besides a JJ Cluster in Wazirpur colony, New Delhi. The four men playing cards in drunken state in the Park, directed the child to buy a pack of cigarette for them. When the boy refused stating that the cigarette dealer would not give him a pack of cigarette, since he was a minor. The four men started abusing the boy. It is stated that Rajan was brutally thrashed , chased and stabbed with a broken bottle on the back of his thigh. The boy was taken to the hospital but he died during the treatment. The locals said to have stated that these four accused were unemployed youth involved in petty crimes and used to sit, drink liquor and play cards in the park. The police has registered a case.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, this a serious violation of human rights of the locals in general and boy who died in the incident, in particular.

Issue notice to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks”

Case No.7140/30/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 09.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Guard sexually abused 2-yr-old at playschool," looked After Kids in Female Staff's Absence, reported in the English daily, The Times of India, New Delhi, dated 26.09.2014.

The news paper report has stated that a 2.1/2-year-old was said to be sexually abused at a Play School in Rohini by a Guard of the school. The Guard used to take the children to the toilet in absence of women staff and used to sexually abuse them there.

The case came to the light when the child had been refusing to go to the school for the past few days. She also complained pain in her private part. She

narrated the event to her mother. The parents of the child complained before the police. The case has been registered under IPC and POSCO. The guard Amit Kumar has been arrested.

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, the serious issue to be addressed for the schools as this a serious violation of the human rights of the kids.

Issue a notice to the Commissioner of Police, NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.7141/30/8/2014

Date of Cognizance: 17.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "It's a dirty picture outside 2 hospitals, - Garbage dumps set outside Saket City Hospital and Max Healthcare are a hazard for patients as well as pedestrians. They also hinder the movement of traffic", reported in the English daily, The Times of India, New Delhi, dated 26.09.2014.

The news paper report has stated that dustbins called 'Dhalao', have been kept by the MCD on the Press Enclave Road (3 in Numbers) and near Max Healthcare and Saket City Hospital (2 in numbers). These 'Dhalaos' outside these hospitals are the cause of major concern for the patients in these hospitals as well as the residents of the area. These dustbins were over flowing and liter was spread on a large area of the road causing traffic jams. Moreover the upkeep of these 'Dhalaos' is pathetic because the garbage from them is not lifted every day. With the litter lying on the main road, the patients and other pedestrians find it difficult to walk. Moreover, the spilled litter all around may cause various diseases.

The news paper report has also stated that the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) is said to have stated that there was no proposal to shift these 'Dhalaos'. But the Corporation is said to have directed the concerned officers to clean the 'Dhalaos' immediately.

If, the contents of news paper report are true, it is a big concern for the residents of the area as well as the patients of the hospitals. It is violation of their right to life.

Issue a notice to the Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit detailed report within four weeks.”

Case No.7197/30/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 17.10.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "Jahan Ilaaz Ke Liye Roz Bhatkate Hain Mareez," reported in the Hindi daily, The Jansatta, New Delhi, dated 07th October, 2014.

The news paper report has stated that one pregnant woman Shashi, resident of Loni, a regular patient of the GTB, hospital, came for delivery on 2nd October, 2014 but she was turned down admission on the ground of it being a gazetted holiday. The unfortunate patient crying with labour pains delivered a child just outside the hospital. She was brought into the hospital and the doctors looked and gave medical care to the mother and the child.

The news paper report further alleged that the employees & Doctors of this government hospital had become so heartless and negligent that the patient had to face many difficulties in getting treatment. Very long dates, (up to three months), are given for the pathological and other laboratory reports, ultrasound etc. Therefore, a number of (approximately. 50) Laboratories/Path labs and Ultrasound Centres are working outside the hospitals.

The news paper report further alleged that touts have all the say in getting the dates of these facilities, implantation of artificial limbs etc. to the patients in the hospital. Even the Security Guards deputed by the hospital take Rs.50/- to Rs. 100/- for early appointment with the doctors, getting done the medical tests written by the doctors etc.. Moreover, the poor patients who could not buy these facilities from outside fall in the clutches of "Jholachhap doctors".

If, the contents of the news paper report are true, it is a serious violation of human rights of the patients.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.7949/30/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 12.11.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report published in English Newspaper "The Hindustan Times" dated 08.11.2014 captioned "Blind kids raped last Children's Day, no FIR". According to the newspaper report in a brazen violation of Child Protection Act, the institute for blind in Amar Colony, Delhi hushed up

the alleged sexual assault of two of its class-III students by a teacher last year, although the alleged perpetrator had signed a confession and reports of two school committees indicted him. The police had not yet filed an FIR in connection with the incident despite being called to the institution premises soon after the incident on 14 November last year. A complaint was filed by the school authorities after 9 months.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the Children.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Department of Social Welfare, NCT of Delhi and Commissioner of Police, Delhi calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

CHHATTISGARH

Case No.111/33/10/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 20.02.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in Hindi newspaper 'Nai Dunia' dated 15/02/2014 captioned "Tohi Bataker Sir Mundwaya".

The press report alleges that on suspicion of witch hunting, an old woman, Jhirambai, aged 65 years, was subjected to brutal beating in Korba District in Chhatisgarh and her head was also shaved.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious Issue of violation of human rights of women.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Supdt of Police, Korba Chhatisgarh, calling for a report within two weeks. Supdt of Police, Korba is also directed to inform as to whether any case has been registered u/s 354 (b) of IPC.”

Case No.114/33/10/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 20.02.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in Hindi newspaper 'Nai Dunia' dated 15/02/2014 captioned "Tohi Bataker Sir Mundwaya".

The press report alleges that on suspicion of witch hunting, an old woman, Jhirambai, aged 65 years, was subjected to brutal beating in Korba District in Chhatisgarh and her head was also shaved.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious Issue of violation of human rights of women.

Issue notice to the District Magistrate and Supdt of Police, Korba Chhatisgarh, calling for a report within two weeks. Supdt of Police, Korba is also directed to inform as to whether any case has been registered u/s 354 (b) of IPC.”

Case No.113/33/12/2014

Date of Cognizance: 20.02.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in Hindi newspaper 'Rajasthan Patrika' dated 15/02/2014 captioned "Ghar Torr Marne Kae Liya Chhora Adivasion Ko".

The press report alleges that in Parsahidadar Village in Mahasumund District of Chhatisgarh, 70 Adivasi families had been rendered homeless in violation of their human rights. The Forest Department officials and policemen were subjecting the adivasis to beatings and had made them to run to escape the beating. 63 villagers have been arrested so far and sent to jail. 250 persons were allegedly wandering in the jungle to escape beating and arrest. The Forest Department claimed that the land as their property and the administration had leveled allegations on the villagers about encroachment of the forest land. However, the adivasis claimed that they were settled in the area developed by former MLA Shri Pritam Diwan. The report also mentions that 23 women had been detained in Raipur and 26 men were detained in jail in Mahasamund. 14 children who got separated from their parents were detained in Children Observation Home in Raipur.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of tribal.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhatisgarh, calling for a factual report within two weeks. He is also requested to inform the Commission about the steps taken for relief and rehabilitation of the 70 adivasi families rendered homeless.”

Case No.307/33/10/2014

Date of Cognizance: 02.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "panchayat ka Talibani fermaan, do adivasi parivaro ka bahishkar", appeared in Hindi daily 'Nai Duniya' on 30.4.2014. As per the report, two tribal families have been facing social boycott for the last fourteen months in pursuance of a diktat of panchyat in village Ghunghutti, Rampur district Korba, Chhatisgarh. People of the village have been restricted even to talk to members of these two families by Sarpanch and strong men of gram panchyat. There are about 18 families of the Gand caste and the affected tribal families of Srisingh Markam and Parmeshwar Markam also belong to that caste.

The report further states that on 25.2.2013 Sarpanch Pyarelal Netam had accused Srisingh of abusing him but he denied the same. However, panchas and other strong men of the village supported Sarpanch and a fine of Rs. 10,000/- was imposed on Srisingh by the panchyat. Srisingh agreed to pay Rs. 5,051/- but the panchyat was not convinced and ordered social boycott of Srisingh's family. After sometime, Parmeshwar was seen talking to Srisingh whereupon panchyat in its sitting also ordered social boycott of Parmeshwar's family.

As per the report, the matter was reported to the police but no action was taken. The affected families also approached the Collector and Superintendent of Police, Korba. It is, however, reported that a police team visited the village on 15.4.2014 but police officers leveled allegations against the affected families and a youth reached there alongwith the police received a sum of Rs. 2,000/- from the tribal families after threatening them

The contents of the press report, if true, amount to serious violation of human rights of the tribal families.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary and DGP, Govt. of Chhatisgarh to submit a detailed report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.577/33/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 13.06.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in the English daily 'The Hindustan Times' dated 13/6/2014 captioned "Chattisgarh: six killed in gas leakage at Bhilai Steel Plant"

According to the press report, six people including three senior officials (Deputy General Managers), were killed and many others were injured/affected in a gas leakage at the Bhilai Steel Plant in Bhilai on Thursday, the 12th June 2014. The leakage reportedly occurred in a methane gas pipeline at the water pump house in the plant. All the affected people had been rushed to the hospital, and many of them were admitted to the ICU.

The contents of the newspaper report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of right to life and health of the victims.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Chattisgarh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.943/33/2/2014

Date of Cognizance: 12.11.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report published in English Newspaper "Indian Express" dated 12.11.2014 captioned "1 surgery every 4 minutes, in an abandoned hospital." According to the newspaper report 12 women had died after sterilization during a camp organized by the State Government in Takhatpur Block of Bilaspur District on 8.11.2014. The Bilaspur operations were conducted at a private charitable hospital in Pendri village which has remained closed, almost abandoned for about a year now. It has been alleged that apart from medical negligence, guidelines and procedure outlined for such operations were violated. Out of the 83 women who underwent laparoscopic tubectomies, more than 50 were still in hospital and 25 of them were reported critical. The newspaper report also refers to Central Government guidelines in accordance with which a medical team cannot conduct more than 30 laparoscopic tubectomies in a day with 3 separate laparoscopes - that means not more than 10 tubectomies with a single instrument, as each instrument needs to be properly sterilized after every operation.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of women.

Issue notice to the Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Chhattisgarh calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.1049/33/1/2014

Date of Cognizance: 24.12.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing article captioned "Their Cross to Bear" published in the Outlook Magazine, December 29, 2014 Edition.

The article reported that Churches have been vandalized and incidents of arson, stone pelting, attack on Pastors (arrest/harassment by police), diktat on missionary schools, disruption of Carols and Sunday Services, ban on Christians to enter into villages, forcible conversion, refusal of supply of PDS, etc. have been reported at Jagdalpur, Bhilai, Durg, Jaspur, Bustar and Mahasamund in Chattisgarh.

If the contents of the magazine are true, this tantamount to a gross violation of the fundamental right to freedom of religion.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Chattisgarh, calling upon him to submit a detailed report within four weeks. He may send a report regarding the action, the State has taken, regarding the incidents which had taken place as also about the action taken to prevent reoccurrence of such incidents in future.”

JHARKHAND

Case No.872/34/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 18.06.2014

“The Commission has come across of a distressing news story in the DNA bulletin on Zee news telecasted on the 9th June, 2014 at 09.00 pm”, which highlighted the issue of defecation in open, in India.

According to the media report, half of India goes for toilet in the open. The 2011 Census of India report said that more than 13 crore people in India did not have toilets at their home. More than 62 crore people defecate in the open. 77% population in Jharkhand State do not have toilet in their houses. 77% population in Odisha do not have toilet in their houses. 76% population in Bihar do not have toilet in their houses. 64% population in Uttar Pradesh do not have toilet in their houses. The UPA Government, in October, 2013, accepted that lack of toilets in houses was one of the main reasons for increasing number of incidents of rape. A survey also proved that 30% women who were out for toilet were subjected to sexual assault. The relevant CD received from the Zee news containing the bulletin having the above story has been received in the Commission.

The Commission perused the CD and the report and observed that there has been increase in the rape crimes against women in India. The contents of CD, if true, amounts to serious violation of human rights of the women in India.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Chief Secretaries of all the States and Union Territories , calling upon them to submit a report within four weeks.”

Case No.1087/34/16/2014

Date of Cognizance: 22.07.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news report captioned "One sold his bike, others their land for jobs that weren't" published in "The Indian Express" dated 22nd July, 2014. The news report states about "surrender scam" in Jharkhand that was allegedly perpetrated by Ravi Bodra, a former Military Intelligence official, with the knowledge of CRPF officers. It is reported that many innocent tribals in Jharkhand were duped by the above mentioned persons. The innocent tribal youths were lured to surrender their land / motor cycle etc. in lieu of a job. They were asked to pose as Naxals and surrender before CRPF officials. The jobs, however, were not given to them.

The allegations leveled in the complaint, if true, raises a serious violation of human rights of the innocent tribals. The Commission is pained to note that the Govt. of India and the State Governments through various social welfare schemes have been trying to uplift the social status of the tribals. However in the newspaper report in question, tribal youths have been made targets of exploitation to the extent of denying enjoyment of their land and even illegal confinement. These are perhaps one of many such cases which might have gone unreported. It further makes the Commission to believe that tribal youths in Jharkhand need to be sensitized so that they are not exposed to such hardships.

The Commission is bound to protect the rights of the youths and the tribals. This case, therefore, needs to be inquired into in detail.

DG(I) is therefore requested to depute a team, along with senior officers from Law Division, to conduct a thorough inquiry in the matter by examining the victims, alleged public servants involved in the incident etc. and submit a report in the matter within four weeks.”

Case No.1385/34/10/2014-AFE

Date of Cognizance: 06.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in English Newspaper 'The Times of India' dated 04/09/2014 captioned "Mistaking for Maoists, cops kill 2 villagers". According to the newspaper report, in a shocking case mistaken identity, cops shot and killed two villagers and critically injured two others believing them to be maoist in Gumla district on 03/09/2014. According to the report, the Jharkhand Government had announced Rs 10 lakhs as compensation for the families of the deceased Hiralal Oraon, aged 30 years, a truck driver and Nilesh Oraon, aged 26 years, a helper. The police had fired at their truck loaded with bauxite in Bishunpur block. Four other persons were wounded during the firing. Two of the injured were sent to Rajendra Institute of Medical

Sciences, Ranchi while the two others were treated at a local hospital. The report also mentions that the DIG, Praveen Kumar Singh, who visited the spot a few hours after the incident, stated that the truck was caught in a cross fire during an encounter with the Maoists.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victims.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Home Department, Government of Jharkhand calling for a factual report within two weeks.”

Case No.1460/34/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 19.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned, "School Mein Bachon Ko Pilai Jaati Hai Sharab- Haal Janjaatiya Aavaasiya Vidyalaya, Kudroom Ka; Principal Bole - Yahain To Sabhi Sharaab Pite Hain", reported in the Hindi daily, The Dainik Bhaskar, Faridabad, dated 12.09.2014.

The news paper report stated that in a tribal residential school at Kudroom of Jharkhand, the Hostel Superintendent the peon of the school Ganori Mahto was accused of supplying liquor and showing blue film in the school. This came to the notice of PUCL, an NGO, which had visited the school to enquire into the allegation of not providing Mid-Day-Meals.

The news paper report further stated that the Principal of the school Sh. G.S.Munda was said to have stated that every body in the area and in the school consume liquor except a few persons and children born there with the liquor in their mouth. PUCL was said to have stated that the Mid-Day-Meal was not being given to the students and the students gheraoed the teachers and the principal and when they were enquiring into the matter, the above facts came into light.

If, the contents of the news paper are true, this is a serious violation of human right of the society at large and the children in particular.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Jharkhand, calling upon him to submit a report within four weeks.”

UTTARAKHAND

Case No.1155/35/5/2014

Date of Cognizance: 16.09.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing report published in Hindi Newspaper 'Nai Dunia' dated 07/09/2014 captioned "Is school main bachche helmet pehan kar karte hain padhai". According to the newspaper report, in a school in village Doodhli, 25 kms from Dehradun, children wear helmet while studying in the class room. It has been mentioned that building of the school in which they study is in dilapidated condition and plaster from the roof continuously falls. This fall of plaster from the roof has resulted in injuries to many a students. Therefore, for protecting the heads of children from injuries, the parents have provided helmets to the children for use in the school.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of school children.

Issue notice to the Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Uttarakhand and District Magistrate, Dehradun, Uttarakhand calling for a factual report within two weeks. Secretary, Department of Education, is also directed to submit a report in respect of the various school buildings in a dilapidated condition in the State and the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the State Government. District Magistrate, Dehradun is also directed to submit a report in respect of the number of children who have suffered injuries in the school, details of medical treatment provided to them as well as any ex gratia relief granted by the State Government.”

TELANGANA

Case No.49/36/6/2014

Date of Cognizance: 24.11.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing press report published in digital edition "e-paper.indianexpress.com" dated 20.11.2014 captioned "Telangana, caught between life and debt". According to the newspaper report, there have been 79 farmers suicide since Telangana State came into being on 2.6.2014 (Rythu Swaraj Vedika has however, stated the number of suicides as 375 as on 15.11.2014). While submitting year-wise details of deaths in undivided Andhra Pradesh from 2009 to 2013, the report mentions the plight of a farmer Korishala Ravi which compelled him to commit suicide.

According to the report, the Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) government in the state had announced a Rs.17,000 crore farm loan waiver scheme, to fulfill its poll promise. Under the scheme, outstanding amounts as on March 31, 2014 on crop loans up to Rs. one lakh are waived off. This rescheduling of loans makes farmers eligible for fresh loans. The government order issued on August 13, however, clearly stated that the scheme covers only institutional loans and not loans from non-institutional sources.

The report further states that thousands of farmers are caught in a vicious cycle of debts due to low yields or total crop failure. There is constant pressure from moneylenders and when it does not rain and crops start failing, all they can think of is escaping it by taking their own lives.

The contents of the press report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the farmers.

Issue notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana calling for a factual report within two weeks.

Registry is also directed to link up other cases pertaining to suicide by farmers in Telangana/ Andhra Pradesh.”

ALL INDIA

Case No.4/90/0/2014

Date of Cognizance: 30.01.2014

“It has come to the notice of the Commission that the labourers working at the brick kiln in India normally move from one place to another along with their family members including their female folks and children. It has also come to the notice of the Commission that in the precincts of the brick kiln where the labourers used to reside or in neighbourhood, there are no facilities for education of their children.

These facts, if true, are serious violation of the Right to Education of these children under Article 21A, Right to Education Act, 2009 and, therefore, it is gross violation of the Human Rights of these children.

In order to protect the Right of Education of these children it appears expedient that Chief Secretaries of all the States and Administrator, Union Territories of India be asked to submit a report on the following points:-

1. Number of brick kilns functioning in their State/UT (Information to be given district wise).
2. Total number of workers employed in the brick kiln (male/female), (Total number as also District wise figure may be given).
3. Number of children of brick kiln workers of school going age (0-6 yrs., 6-14 yrs., 14-18 yrs.), (Total number as also District wise figure may be given).
4. Steps taken by the State Government to ensure fulfillment of educational needs of children of brick kiln workers.
5. In case no educational facilities are available at the brick kiln, what is the planning of the State Government/Union territories in this regard?

Response is expected within eight weeks. Commission shall not take notice of information received in this regard from individual districts. It shall be the responsibility of Chief Secretaries of the State to either get this information compiled in their offices or entrust this responsibility to Principal Secretary, Primary/Secondary Education who will compile this information and forward the information relating to the entire State to the Commission.”

Case No . 22/90/0/2014-wc

Date of Cognizance: 13.05.2014

“The Commission has come across a distressing news item captioned "India has highest number of maternal deaths", published in the "National Network" dated 7.5.2014.

The press report states that India accounts for maximum number of maternal deaths in the world - 17% or nearly 50,000 of the 2.89 lakh women who died as a result of complications due to pregnancy or childbearing in 2013. It further stated that according to UN report, maternal deaths have witnessed 45% drop, globally since 1990. However, in India the MMR reduced to 178 in 2010-12 from 560 in 1990. But India needs to reduce it to 103. Though, MMR, in India, is reducing @ 4.5% p.a. but the situation is worse in states like Bihar, UP and certain belts of Rajasthan, even though overall MMR has declined but due to these states we were not able to achieve two digit figure.

Issue notice to the Health Secretary, Govt. of India, New Delhi and Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India, New Delhi calling for a report within four weeks.

Issue notice to the Health Secretary, Govt. of U.P., Bihar and Rajasthan calling for a report within four weeks.”