

CURTAIN RAISER

The Commission has decided to hold its Camp Sitting at Lucknow in the State of Uttar Pradesh on 15th-17th January, 2014. A delegation of the National Human Rights Commission headed by Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson and Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Shri Satyabrata Pal and Shri S.C. Sinha, Members, Director General (Investigation) and other senior officers will be attending the Camp Sitting. The Commission has decided to take up 94 cases in Full Commission and Division Bench Sittings to be held at Yojna Bhawan, Sarojini Naidu Marg, Raj Bhavan Colony, The Mall Avenue, Lucknow - 226001. The Commission has also sent its teams to Ambedkar Nagar, Basti, Chandauli, Jaunpur and Lakhimpur Khiri districts of the State to monitor implementation of flagship programmes of central and state governments. Besides, two teams of the Commission also visited relief camps for the victims of communal violence in Muzaffarnagar. The teams have submitted their reports and they would be discussed during the interaction with the senior officers of the State Government.

The aim of the Camp Sittings is to dispose of pending cases concerning one particular State by hearing the senior government officers; sensitize them about the importance of human rights issues and compliance of NHRC recommendations by them; meet the local NGOs to get an insight into the problems being faced by the people. In the past, the NHRC has held Camp Sittings in the States of U.P., Bihar, Bengaluru (for four southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu), Odisha, Gujarat, Assam, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh and Manipur.

On the opening day of the Camp Sitting on 15.01.2014, 4 cases shall be taken up by the Full Commission comprising Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member, Shri Satyabrata Pal, Member and Shri S.C. Sinha, Member. The Division Bench-I comprising Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member and Shri S.C. Sinha, Member and Division Bench-II comprising Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member and Shri Satyabrata Pal, Member shall take up 33 and 57 cases respectively on 15th and 16th January, 2014. The cases to be taken up during the Camp Sitting, among others, include the matters relating to atrocities on SCs, Malnutrition, sexual abuse of students, medical negligence and deaths in police action etc.

On the concluding day of the Camp Sitting i.e. 17.01.2014, the Commission will hold a meeting with local NGOs on human rights issues at Yojna Bhawan, Sarojini Naidu Marg, Raj Bhavan Colony, The Mall Avenue, Lucknow – 226001 from 10.00 AM to 11.30 AM. Thereafter, the Commission will hold discussions at the same venue with the Chief Secretary, DGP, DMs, SPs and other senior civil, police and jail officers on the issues raised by the NGOs and on the following issues:

- Implementation of flagship programmes of Government of India and other welfare schemes of the State Government. ✓
- Living conditions in relief camps set up for victims of communal violence in Muzaffar Nagar and Shamli; Medical facilities, Protection from winter; Deaths in relief camps and relief given to bereaved families.
- Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and other depressed sections of society with special reference to problems faced by Musahar community in Varanasi.
- Delay in conduct of CBCID investigations ordered by the Commission.
- Delay in submission of MER.
- Delay in submission of compliance report.
- Non-registration of FIR by police.
- Timely submission of legible copies of reports by authorities.
- Jail reforms.
- Condition of juvenile homes. ✓
- Access of public to Govt. hospitals. ✓

On the conclusion of the Camp Sitting, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan and Members of the Commission would brief the media about the outcome of the Camp Sitting as well as discussions with the NGOs and senior officers of the State Government for wider dissemination of information on the human rights issues and action taken by the NHRC for their protection and promotion. The media briefing will also be held at Yojna Bhawan.

In its endeavour to implement the recommendations made by Shri K.B. Saxena, IAS (Retd.) in his report submitted by him after carrying out a study about the atrocities against persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, on the request of the Commission, public hearings on various issues relating to atrocities and problems faced by Scheduled Castes, have also been held in various parts of the country. So far, such Public Hearings have been held in the States of Odisha, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The Commission also held an Open Hearing in its office at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi to hear complaints received from Meerut region of Uttar Pradesh.