

Write-Up on Western Region Consultation Towards Third Universal Periodic Review

In the year 2006, the United Nations General Assembly with a view to review the human rights records of all Member States decided to start a unique process of Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The main objective of this process is to improve the Human Rights situation in every country by addressing human rights violations. The first periodic review was held in the year 2008 which was followed by the second review in 2012. The next UPR would take place in the year 2017. The Commission will be preparing and submitting its independent paper to the Human Rights Council which will be among the basis of the review.

With a view to assess the existing ground situation as well as to have inputs from all the stakeholders including sharing of best practices, the Commission has decided to organize six regional consultations in different parts of the country. The Western Region Consultation for Third Universal Periodic Review was organized in partnership with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai on 23-24 June 2016.

The one & half day Consultation was chaired by Shri S.C. Sinha, Member, NHRC and attended by Shri J.S. Kochher, Joint Secretary (T&R), Dr. Savita Bhakhry, Joint Director(Research), NHRC, Senior Officials of State Administration, Police and representatives of NGO working in the area of civil & political rights, economic social & cultural rights, women and children's rights.

Session I was on Civil & Political Rights focusing on custodial justice, capacity building & training programme for law enforcement officials and challenges relating to protection of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Minority Rights. Session II focused on to review the status of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the States of Western Region. Session III & IV focused on Rights of Women & Children respectively. The major issue discussed during these sessions were to review the efforts of States to improve Maternal Mortality Health & Gender equality. It also focused on the progress made to improve sex ratio at birth, IMR, under 5 Mortality Rate, Child Sex Ratio etc.