



NHRC notice on train accident

Incident happened in Amritsar on Oct 19

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued notices to the Punjab government and the Railway Board in connection with a train running over people watching Dussehra celebrations in Amritsar on October 19.

The accident had left more than 60 people dead and several injured when the train ran over people standing on the tracks, watching an effigy of Ravan burn.

Detailed report

The NHRC issued notices to the Punjab Chief Secretary and the chairperson of the Railway Board asking for a detailed report in four weeks, a statement said. The Punjab government was also asked for details about the disbursement of relief

and rehabilitation to those affected.

The NHRC observed that “it cannot be said to be a sane act by people to sit on the railway tracks, at the same time, the negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent behind this bizarre and horrific incident”. The NHRC statement added that it had seemed that local authorities and the organisers of the event had not managed the crowd properly.

“It was the responsibility of the State to provide proper safety and protection to the citizens during the event. If it is true, as reported in some sections of the media, that the railway authorities were not informed about the event, it indicates towards highly negligent and reckless attitude of the authorities responsible. This is a case of serious violation of human rights of the victims,” the NHRC said.

पुलिस हिरासत में मां-बेटी को निर्वस्त्र करने के मामले में डीजीपी को नोटिस

नई दिल्ली, 22 अक्टूबर (भाषा)।

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने इस खबर को लेकर छत्तीसगढ़ के पुलिस प्रमुख को नोटिस जारी किया है कि एक वृद्ध महिला और उसकी बेटी को बिलासपुर में एक पुलिस थाने में एक महिला पुलिसकर्मी ने पुरुष सहयोगियों के सामने कथित रूप से निर्वस्त्र किया और बुरी तरह से पिटाई की।

आयोग ने सोमवार को जारी एक बयान में इसे एक 'अमानवीय और बर्बर कृत्य' करार दिया। आयोग ने कहा कि उसने इस मामले में मीडिया में आई खबर पर स्वतः संज्ञान लिया है। आयोग ने कहा कि खबर के मुताबिक चोरी के आरोप में गिरफ्तार 60 वर्षीय महिला और उसकी 27 वर्ष की बेटी को एक महिला पुलिसकर्मी ने शहर

कोतवाली पुलिस थाने में गत 14 अक्टूबर को पुरुष पुलिस अधिकारियों के सामने निर्वस्त्र किया और बुरी तरह से पिटाई की।

आयोग ने कहा, 'कथित रूप से उच्च रक्तचाप की मरीज होने के चलते मां ने इलाज का अनुरोध किया लेकिन उसकी बात नहीं सुनी गई। यहां तक कि उनके शरीर के महत्वपूर्ण अंगों पर भी चोटें आईं।' आयोग ने

छत्तीसगढ़ के पुलिस महानिदेशक (डीजीपी) को एक नोटिस जारी किया है और उनसे चार सप्ताह के भीतर एक रिपोर्ट मांगी है जिसमें दोषी पुलिसकर्मीयों के खिलाफ की गई कार्रवाई की जानकारी हो।

आयोग ने नोटिस जारी करते हुए कहा कि मीडिया में आई खबर की सामग्री यदि सही है तो इससे पीड़ितों के मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन का गंभीर मुद्दा उत्पन्न होता है।

आयोग ने कहा, 'जब किसी व्यक्ति को हिरासत में लिया जाता है, यह पुलिस प्राधिकारियों का दायित्व है कि वे उसकी सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करें लेकिन इस मामले में ऐसा लगता है कि पुलिसकर्मीयों ने स्वयं क्रूर और अमानवीय व्यवहार किया और पीड़ितों को शारीरिक प्रताड़ना दी जो कि अमानवीय और बर्बर है।' मीडिया की 17 अक्टूबर की खबर में कहा गया है कि मामला तब प्रकाश में आया जब दोनों पीड़ितों को अदालत के समक्ष पेश किया गया जहां उन्होंने 'पुलिस बर्बरता की कहानी बयां की।' अदालत ने कथित रूप से मामले की एक राजपत्रित अधिकारी द्वारा जांच का आदेश दिया और रिपोर्ट 26 अक्टूबर तक मांगी है। अदालत ने पीड़ितों की चोट के साथ ही यह भी उल्लेख किया है कि वे चल भी नहीं पा रही थीं।

AMRITSAR TRAIN TRAGEDY

CASE IN BIHAR COURT AGAINST SIDHU'S WIFE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

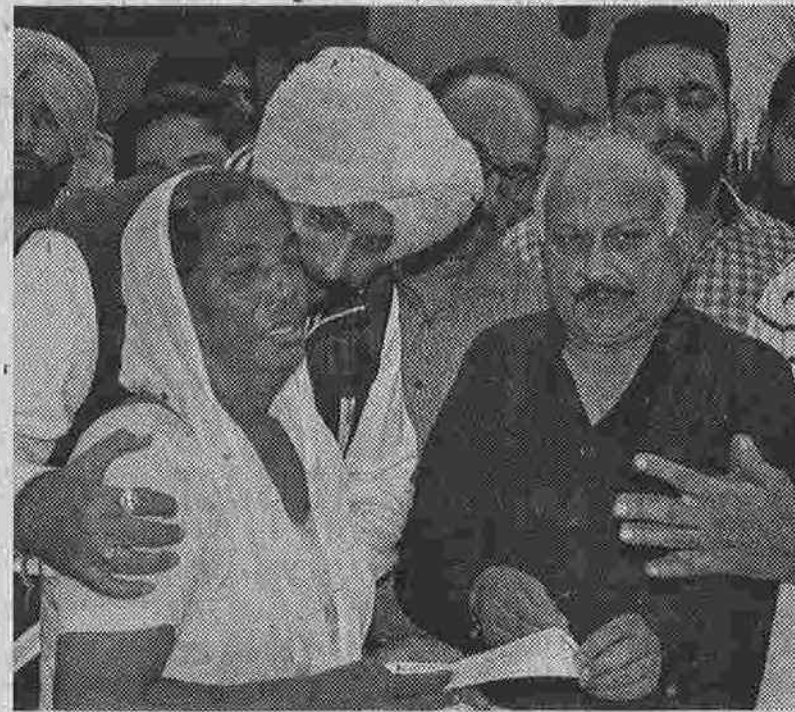
Amritsar/Muzaffarpur

AMID a blame-game over the Amritsar tragedy, a case was filed in a Bihar court on Monday holding organisers of the Dussehra event and chief guest Navjot Kaur Sidhu responsible for mowing down of several revellers by a passing train, while the NHRC served notices to the Railways and the Punjab government.

Congress MP Sunil Jakhar and Punjab minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, however, came forward in defence of Sidhu and sought to put the blame on the Railways officials for the tragic incident in which nearly 60 persons, including for migrants from Bihar, had died while watching the Dussehra celebrations from across the tracks on Friday.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who has gone to Israel, reviewed the situation through video-conference with the state officials and asked them to expedite the process of providing relief and compensation to the families of those dead and to the injured. During the review meeting, the officials also told Singh that all victims, except one, had been identified.

Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, meanwhile,



Navjot Singh Sidhu presents compensation cheques to the victims of Joda Phatak mishap, in Amritsar

returned from the US, with officials attributing the delay in his return to non-availability of tickets and problem of connecting flights. Goyal, who had gone to the US for an award ceremony, had said soon after the incident that he was cancelling all his engagements there to immediately return to India. The railway authorities have stated that they cannot be blamed, as they were not informed about the event, while Punjab government has ordered a magisterial probe.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notices to the railways and the Punjab

government, observing that it cannot be called a "sane act" for people to sit on railway tracks, but the "negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent" as well in this "bizarre and horrific incident".

While it is rare for such a large number of revellers getting mowed down by a train in a single incident, nearly 50,000 people have lost their lives between 2015 and 2017 on railway tracks after being hit by trains, according to official data from the Indian Railways. Detailed reports have been sought from the state's chief secretary and from the chairman of the Railway

Board in four weeks, an NHRC spokesperson said.

"It seems that the local authorities and the organisers did not properly manage the crowd, gathered to watch the Dussehra celebrations. It was the responsibility of the state to provide proper safety and protection to the citizens during the event," the NHRC said while taking suo motu cognisance of the incident.

In distant Muzaffarpur, Bihar, a complaint case was filed in a court against Navjot Kaur Sidhu, seeking registration of a case against her. The complaint claimed that Sidhu and organisers of the Dussehra event were solely responsible for the tragedy and the court should order a trial against her. The case was filed by a social activist in a Chief Judicial Magistrate's court, which fixed November 3 as the date of hearing. The complainant contended that all the security personnel present at the venue were engaged in providing safety and security to Kaur, instead of controlling the crowd, members of which were mowed down by a speeding train. He alleged that Kaur, who was a doctor by profession, instead of helping the victims, fled the scene and made a false alibi that she was not present at the site when the accident occurred.



Hindu, The, Delhi

Tuesday, 23rd October 2018; Page: 22

Width: 7.84 cms; Height: 10.18 cms; a4; ID: 28.2018-10-23.204

NHRC issues notices to govts on sewer death

NEW DELHI

The NHRC on Monday sent notices to the Centre and the Delhi government over an incident in which a labourer died while cleaning a sewer in the city's Jahangirpuri.

Deceased Dooman Ray (32) died while cleaning a DJP sewer on Sunday. He was declared brought dead at the hospital. PTI



Times of India, New Delhi

Tuesday, 23rd October 2018; Page: 18

Width: 13.11 cms; Height: 16.87 cms; a4; ID: 38.2018-10-23.162

NHRC holds Silver Jubilee celebrations

The three-day-long extended celebrations of the silver jubilee of the National Human Rights Commission concluded with the 'Human Rights walk' at Nehru Park in New Delhi, recently. It was flagged off by NHRC Chairperson, Justice H. L. Dattu, and celebrat-



ed sportspersons, J. Mary Kom, Boxer, and Vijay Kumar, Shooter. Scores of people, including women and children participated in the walk that was organised by the Commission to



Times of India, New Delhi

Tuesday, 23rd October 2018; Page: 18

Width: 13.19 cms; Height: 7.03 cms; a4; ID: 38.2018-10-23.162

build awareness on human rights and seek people's commitment to promote and protect them. Secretary General, Ambuj Sharma, in a brief address, said that the Commission was thankful to both the leading sportspersons of the country for their participation in this event, which was also meant to send across a symbolic message of brotherhood and peace. Jyotika Kalra, Member, NHRC and other senior officers also participated in the walk.

सिद्ध की पत्नी के खिलाफ मामला दायर

अमृतसर हादसे को लेकर आरोप-प्रत्यारोप के बीच दशहरा कार्यक्रम के आयोजकों और मुख्य अतिथि नवजोत कौर सिद्धू के खिलाफ बिहार की एक अदालत में सोमवार को एक मामला दायर किया गया। वहीं राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने रेलवे और पंजाब सरकार को नोटिस जारी किया। अमृतसर में दशहरा के दिन रावण दहन के दौरान करीब 60 लोगों की मौत ट्रेन की चपेट में आने से हो गयी थी। मृतकों में बिहार के प्रवासी भी शामिल थे। सिद्धू के बचाव में कांग्रेस सांसद सुनील जाखड़ और पंजाब के मंत्री



तृप्त राजिंदर सिंह बाजवा आगे आए और उन्होंने घटना के लिए रेल अधिकारियों को दोषी ठहराने का प्रयास किया। पंजाब के मुख्यमंत्री अमरिंदर सिंह इजरायल गए हुए हैं। उन्होंने राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों के साथ वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंस से स्थिति की समीक्षा की और उन्हें प्रभावित परिवारों को राहत और मुआवजा प्रदान करने की प्रक्रिया में तेजी लाने को कहा। इस हादसे से नाराज लोगों ने रविवार को पथराव किया था और सुरक्षा कर्मियों के साथ उनकी झड़प भी हुयी थी। वे पटरियों पर बैठ गए थे जहां दुर्घटना हुई।

हादसे के वक्त सेल्फी में त्यस्त थीं डॉ. नवजोत

53 सेकेंड के वायरल वीडियो में सामने आई बात अनाउंसर ने कहा था, मिट्टू भाजी बड़े बंदे गड्डी थल्ले आ गए नें

जागरण संवाददाता, अमृतसर : शुक्रवार को हुए रेल हादसे को लेकर पंजाब की पूर्व संसदीय सचिव डॉ. नवजोत कौर सिद्धू विपक्ष के निशाने पर हैं। हालांकि, वह बयान दे चुकी हैं कि जब हादसा हुआ, वह वहां से जा चुकी थी। लेकिन, 53 सेकेंड के वायरल हुए वीडियो में साफ है कि जब हादसा हुआ, वह मंच पर लोगों के साथ सेल्फी खिंचवाने में व्यस्त थी, तभी अनाउंसर ने कहा कि ट्रेन थल्ले आके बड़े बंदे मर गए नें। उसी दौरान डॉ. सिद्धू व आयोजक सौरभ मदान मिट्टू वहां से चले गए।

वहीं राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने मामले में रेलवे और पंजाब सरकार को नोटिस जारी जवाब मांगा है। यह मामला पंजाब व हरियाणा हाई कोर्ट भी पहुंच गया है। शिकायतकर्ता ने याचिका दायर कर सीबीआई जांच और इसकी निगरानी हाई कोर्ट से कराने की मांग की है। इसमें नवजोत कौर को प्रतिवादी बनाया गया है। यह है वीडियो में : वीडियो की शुरुआत में रावण दहन हो रहा है और अनाउंसर मेले में आने वाले लोगों का मदान परिवार की तरफ से धन्यवाद कर रहा है। मंच पर बैठी डा. नवजोत कौर सिद्धू लोगों के साथ सेल्फी करवा रही हैं। अनाउंसर पंजाबी गायक बूटा मुहम्मद की तारीफ करनी शुरू ही करता है कि उसकी जुबान लड़खड़ा जाती है। वह बोलता है, 'ट्रेन थल्ले आके काफी बंदे मर गए नें। बहुत बंदे मर गए नें, मिट्टू भाजी ओदर ध्यान देयो। ट्रेन लंघ गई बंदेयो दे उपरों, प्लीज... क्वाइट। बंद

जांच करेगी एसआईटी

हादसे की जांच जीआरपी (गवर्नमेंट रेलवे पुलिस) के अधिकारियों ने शुरू कर दी है। डीजीपी सुरेश अरोड़ा के आदेश पर गठित एसआईटी तीन महीने में अपनी रिपोर्ट सौंपेगी। मुख्यमंत्री कैप्टन अमरिंदर सिंह के आदेश पर हादसे की मजिस्ट्रेट जांच भी हो रही है, जिसकी रिपोर्ट चार सप्ताह में सौंपनी है।

सिद्धू ने अनाथ बच्चों व गरीब परिवारों को लिया गोद

पंजाब के स्थानीय निकाय मंत्री नवजोत सिंह सिद्धू ने हादसे में अनाथ हुए बच्चों एवं आर्थिक तौर से कमजोर परिवारों को गोद लेने की घोषणा की है। कांग्रेस सरकार अपने तौर पर पुनर्वास व सहायता की घोषणा करेगी।

21 पीड़ित परिवारों को दिए मुआवजे के चेक

21 पीड़ित परिवारों को सोमवार को मुआवजा राशि के चेक बांटे गए। वहीं पंजाब सरकार पीड़ित परिवारों को नौकरी, शैक्षणिक सेवाएं देने पर विचार कर रही है। ताकि प्रभावित परिवार का पुनर्वास किया जा सके। सोमवार को मुख्यमंत्री कैप्टन अमरिंदर सिंह ने इजराइल के तेल अवीव से वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग से स्थिति का जायजा लिया।

गुरुपर्व पर दीपमाला न करने का लिया फैसला

जासं, अमृतसर : शिरोमणि गुरुद्वारा प्रबंधक कमेटी (एसजीपीसी) ने 26 अक्टूबर को श्री गुरु राम दास जी के प्रकाश पर्व पर श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब में आतिशबाजी और गुरुपर्व पर शहर में दीपमाला न करने का फैसला लिया है। एसजीपीसी के अध्यक्ष गोबिंद सिंह लोंगोवाल ने बताया कि एसजीपीसी कार्यकारिणी के सदस्यों ने रेल हादसे को देखते हुए इसका प्रस्ताव किया था।

कर देयो सारा कुछ। बंद कर देयो साउंड। लोग भागने लगे। आयोजक भी मंच से चले गए। इससे साफ है कि जब हादसा हुआ डॉ. सिद्धू, सौरभ मदान मिट्टू अपने साथियों सहित मंच पर ही मौजूद थे।

डीएमयू के चालक की भूमिका की भी होगी जांच : एडीजीपी

इकबाल प्रीत सहोता ने बताया कि डीएमयू के चालक की भूमिका की भी जांच होगी। घटना के बाद अक्सर ट्रेन रोक ली जाती है, लेकिन इतनी मौतों के बाद भी ट्रेन नहीं रोकी गई। हादसे के दौरान रेल ट्रेक पर चढ़ने वाले लोग आरोपित हैं या नहीं, इसे भी जांच का हिस्सा बनाया जाएगा।

खैहरा बोले, मामूली घटनाएं रोज होती हैं

राज्य ब्यूरो, चंडीगढ़ : अमृतसर के जिस हादसे में 62 लोग मारे गए, उसे आम आदमी पार्टी के विधायक सुखपाल सिंह खैहरा ने मामूली बताया है। अपने फेसबुक पेज पर वीडियो शेयर कर उन्होंने ऐसा कहा है। इस वीडियो के बाद अकाली दल ने खैहरा पर जोरदार हमला करते हुए कहा है कि इससे पता चलता है कि खैहरा कितने संवेदनहीन हैं और उन्हें अपने दोस्त (सिद्धू) को बचाने की कितने बेचैनी है।

दूसरी तरफ खैहरा ने बयान जारी कर कहा है कि उनके बयानों को तोड़-मरोड़ कर पेश किया जा रहा है। उनके कहने का संदर्भ था कि इससे छोटे हादसे पंजाब और देश में रोजाना हो रहे हैं, जिसकी तरफ सरकार का ध्यान नहीं है।



जोड़ा फाटक रेल हादसे को लेकर शिरोमणि अकाली दल व भाजपा ककी तरफ से सिद्धू दंपती के खिलाफ किए गए प्रदर्शन के दौरान नारेबाजी करती महिला कार्यकर्ता • राघव शिकारपुरिया

- मानवाधिकार आयोग ने रेलवे व पंजाब सरकार को नोटिस जारी किया
- सीबीआई जांच की मांग करती याचिका हाई कोर्ट में दायर



अमृतसर में दशहरा कमेटी ईस्ट की तरफ से जोड़ा फाटक पर आयोजित दशहरा मेला के मौके पर मंच पर उपस्थित पंजाब के निकाय मंत्री नवजोत सिंह सिद्धू की पत्नी नवजोत कौर सिद्धू के साथ सेल्फी लेते समर्थकों की वायरल तस्वीर • (वायरल वीडियो से)



NHRC NOTICE TO RAILWAY BOARD

THE NHRC issued notices to the Railways and the Punjab government on Monday, over the Amritsar accident in which nearly 60 Dussehra revellers were killed when they were run over by a train while watching the festivities.

Issuing the notices, the Commission observed that it cannot be said to be a sane act by people to sit on railway tracks, but at the same time, the negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent behind this bizarre and horrific incident.

The NHRC has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports that many people died on the spot and several others got seriously injured in Amritsar district of Punjab, where several people watching Dussehra celebrations from the railway tracks were mowed down by a passenger train on October 19.

PTI



Stripping of mother-daughter row: NHRC notice to Chhattisgarh DGP

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Taking cognisance of reports about an elderly woman and her daughter were allegedly stripped naked, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the police chief of Chhattisgarh. According to the reports, the mother-daughter duo was also severely beaten by a woman police personnel in front of male colleagues at a police station in Bilaspur.

Describing it as an “inhuman and barbaric act”, the NHRC in a statement on Monday said that it has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report on the matter.

According to the report, the 60-year-old woman and her 27-year-old daughter, arrested on the charges of theft, were stripped naked and severely beaten by a woman police personnel in front of male police officials at City Kotwali Police Station on October 14, the NHRC said.

“Reportedly, being a patient of hypertension, the mother requested for medical treatment but was not heard. The injuries were inflicted even on their vital body parts,” the rights panel said.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police (DGP), Chhattisgarh, seeking a report within four weeks along with details on action taken against the guilty police personnel. While issuing the notice, the NHRC has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of the victims.

“Once a person is taken into custody, it becomes the duty of the police authorities to ensure his/her safety but in this case, the police personnel themselves appear to have behaved in a cruel and inhuman manner and subjected the victims to physical torture, which is an inhuman and barbaric act,” the Commission observed.

Tragedy on tracks in Amritsar: NHRC notices to Punjab, Rlys

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: It may prove to be a major setback for Ministry of Railways that has claimed no role in Amritsar train mishap as the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued notices to the Railways and the Punjab government over the tragic accident in which 61 Dussehra revellers were killed when they were run over by a train while watching the festivities.

Issuing the notices, the Commission observed that it cannot be said to be a "sane act" by people to sit on railway tracks, but at the same time, the "negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent" behind this "bizarre and horrific incident".

The NHRC issued notices to the state's chief secretary and the chairman of the Railway Board seeking detailed reports in the matter in four weeks, an NHRC spokesperson said.

The NHRC has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports that many people died on the spot and several others got seriously injured in Amritsar district of Punjab, where several people watching Dussehra celebrations from



the railway tracks were mowed down by a passenger train on October 19.

"It seems that the local authorities and the organizers did not properly manage the crowd, gathered to watch the Dussehra celebrations. It was the responsibility of the state to provide proper safety and protection to the citizens during the event," the NHRC said in its statement.

"If it is true, as reported in some sections of the media, that the railway authorities were not informed about the event, it indicates towards

highly negligent and reckless attitude of the authorities responsible. This is a case of serious violation of human rights of the victims," the NHRC said in a statement.

The state government is expected to provide all details to the NHRC regarding disbursement of relief and rehabilitation to the aggrieved families as well as information on the status of the treatment being provided to the injured in different hospitals of Amritsar, it said. The railway authorities have stated that they cannot be blamed, as they were not informed about the event.

Case against Sidhu's wife, NHRC notice to Punjab, Rlys

Activist tells Bihar court organisers of the event are responsible for deaths



BJP-SAD leaders carry the effigies of Navjot Sidhu and his wife Navjot Kaur during a protest against the state government over the Joda Phatak mishap, in Amritsar on Monday —PTI

Amritsar/Muzaffarpur: Amid a blame-game over the Amritsar tragedy, a case was filed in a Bihar court on Monday holding organisers of the Dussehra event and chief guest Navjot Kaur Sidhu responsible for mowing down of several revellers by a passing train, while the NHRC served notices to the Railways and the Punjab government.

A similar petition was filed by an advocate on Monday in the Punjab and Haryana High court, seeking a probe by the CBI or a special investigation team into the accident. Dinesh Kumar Dakoria, the petitioner, too has blamed the event organisers for the tragedy.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who has gone to Israel, reviewed the situation through video-conference with the state government officials and asked them to expedite the process of providing relief and compensation to the families of those dead and to the injured.

During the review meeting, the officials also told Singh that all victims, except one, had been identified.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission issued notices to the Railways and the Punjab government,

RAILWAY MIN TAKES STOCK OF SITUATION

■ While it is rare for such a large number of revellers getting mowed down by a train in a single incident, nearly 50,000 people have lost their lives between 2015 and 2017 on railway tracks after being hit by trains, according to official data from the Indian Railways

■ Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, meanwhile, returned from the US, with officials attributing the delay in his return to non-availability of tickets and problem of connecting flights. On his arrival, Goyal was briefed about the latest developments regarding the incident

observing that it cannot be called a "sane act" for people to sit on railway tracks, but the "negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent" as well in this "bizarre and horrific incident".

Detailed reports have been sought from the state's chief secretary and from the chairman of the Railway Board in four weeks, an NHRC spokesperson said.

"It seems that the local authorities and the organisers did not properly manage the crowd, gathered to watch the Dussehra celebrations. It was the responsibility of the State to provide proper safety and protection to the citizens during the event," the NHRC said while taking suo motu cognisance of media reports about

the incident. The railway authorities have stated that they cannot be blamed, as they were not informed about the event, while Punjab government has ordered a magisterial probe.

In distant Muzaffarpur, Bihar, a complaint case was filed in a court against Navjot Kaur Sidhu, seeking registration of a case against her.

The complaint claimed that Sidhu and organisers of the Dussehra event were solely responsible for the tragedy and the court should order a trial against her. The case was filed by a social activist Tamanna Hashmi in a Chief Judicial Magistrate's court, which fixed November 3 as the date of hearing. —PTI

Minister from Punjab defends Sidhu couple

Chandigarh: Punjab minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa Monday defended Navjot Kaur Sidhu over the Amritsar train tragedy, saying she was not at fault, and blamed the railway gateman for the incident, in which nearly 60 people were killed Friday.

Navjot Kaur Sidhu, the wife of cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu, was the chief guest at a Dussehra function in Amritsar on Friday, when a train mowed down several people watching the event.

Bajwa rubbished the Shiromani Akali Dal's (SAD) demand of removing state minister Navjot Singh Sidhu from the cabinet over the incident.

The Sidhu couple has been a target of the Akalis ever since the train accident occurred. The SAD had sought registration of a murder case against Navjot Kaur Sidhu as well as the organisers of the Dussehra function, while holding them responsible for abetting the tragic incident. It had also demanded Navjot Singh Sidhu's dismissal from the cabinet.

"What is the fault of Mrs Sidhu what difference would have been made, had she reached the venue 10 minutes late,"

Bajwa said here, replying to a reporter's question.

"In fact, the culprit is the railway gateman at the nearby railway barrier," he alleged.

"A large number of people were standing on the railway track, which was only 300 metres from the railway barrier. Was he not aware about it? It is the responsibility of the gateman not to give green signal to a train when people are standing on the track. When we stage a sit-in on the railway track, the movement of trains is halted," the minister said.

—PTI





Tribune, Delhi

Tuesday, 23rd October 2018; Page: 1

Width: 15.16 cms; Height: 14.39 cms; a4; ID: 8.2018-10-23.10

NHRC ISSUES NOTICES TO PUNJAB GOVT, RAILWAYS

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission has issued notices to the Railways and the Punjab government over the Amritsar accident. The panel observed that it cannot be said to be a “sane act” by people to sit on railway tracks, but at the same time, the “negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent” behind this “bizarre and horrific incident”. PTI



Tribune, Delhi

Tuesday, 23rd October 2018; Page: 1

Width: 15.16 cms; Height: 15.58 cms; a4; ID: 8.2018-10-23.11

PUNJAB HUMAN RIGHTS PANEL ASKS FOR REPORT

Chandigarh: Taking suo motu cognisance of the mishap, the Punjab Human Rights Commission has called for a report on the matter from the state government through the DGP and the Chief Secretary by November 8. The notice has been issued by the Bench comprising chairperson Justice Iqbal A Ansari and members Justice Ashutosh Mohunta and Avinash Kaur. TNS



AMRITSAR TRAIN TRAGEDY

Case in Bihar court against Sidhu's wife

NHRC notices to Rly, Punjab Govt

Amritsar/Muzaffarpur: Amid a blame-game over the Amritsar tragedy, a case was filed in a Bihar court on Monday holding

organisers of the Dussehra event and chief guest Navjot Kaur Sidhu responsible for mowing down of several revellers by a passing train, while the NHRC served notices to the Railways and the Punjab Government.

Congress MP Sunil Jakhar and Punjab minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, however, came forward in defence of Sidhu and sought to put the blame on the Railways for the tragic incident in which nearly 60 people, including migrants from Bihar, died while watching the Dussehra celebrations from across the tracks on Friday evening.

A similar petition was filed by an advocate on Monday in the Punjab and Haryana High court, seeking a probe by the CBI or a special investigation team into the accident. Dinesh Kumar Dakoria, the petitioner, too

has blamed the event organisers for the tragedy.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who has gone to Israel, reviewed the situation through video-conference with the state government officials and asked them to expedite the process of providing relief and compensation to the families of

those dead and to the injured.

People angry over the train accident had pelted stones and clashed with security personnel on Sunday. They sat on the railway tracks, where the accident happened, and protested. They were later removed by authorities.

During the review meeting,

the officials also told Singh that all victims, except one, had been identified.

Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, meanwhile, returned from the US, with officials attributing the delay in his return to non-availability of tickets and problem of connecting flights. **PTI**



NHRC notices to Punjab, Rly Board

NEW DELHI, 22 OCTOBER

The NHRC on Monday issued notices to the Railways and the Punjab government over the Amritsar accident in which nearly 60 Dussehra revellers were killed when they were run over by a train while watching the festivities.

Issuing the notices, the Commission observed that it cannot be said to be a "sane act" by people to sit on railway tracks, but at the same time, the "negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent" behind this "bizarre and horrific incident".

The NHRC issued notices to the state's chief secretary and the chairman of the Railway Board seeking detailed reports in the matter in four weeks, an NHRC spokesperson said.

The NHRC has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports that many people died on the spot and several others got seriously injured in Amritsar district of Punjab, where several people watching Dussehra celebrations from the railway tracks were mowed down by a passenger train on October 19. "It seems that the local authorities and the organizers did not properly manage the crowd, gathered to watch the Dussehra celebrations. It was the responsibility of the State to provide proper safety and protection to the citizens during the event.

"This is a case of serious violation of human rights of the victims," the NHRC said in a statement.

PTI



Haribhumi, Delhi

Tuesday, 23rd October 2018; Page: 1

Width: 7.91 cms; Height: 23.15 cms; a4; ID: 14.2018-10-23.8

अमृतसर रेल दुर्घटना

पंजाब सरकार और रेलवे बोर्ड को नोटिस

नई दिल्ली। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने अमृतसर दुर्घटना को लेकर सोमवार को रेलवे और पंजाब सरकार को नोटिस जारी किया। नोटिस जारी करते हुए आयोग ने कहा कि रेलवे की पटरियों पर लोगों के बैठने को समझदारी भरा काम नहीं कहा जा सकता है लेकिन साथ ही इस भयावह घटना के पीछे जिले के अधिकारियों की लापरवाही स्पष्ट है। एनएचआरसी के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि आयोग ने राज्य के मुख्य सचिव और रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष को नोटिस जारी करते हुए चार हफ्ते में मामले की विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी। आयोग ने मीडिया में आई खबरों का संज्ञान लिया जिसमें अमृतसर जिले में 19 अक्टूबर को रेलवे पटरियों पर खड़े होकर दशहरा उत्सव देख रहे कई लोगों की रेलगाड़ी से कुचलकर घटनास्थल पर ही मौत हो गई और कई अन्य गंभीर रूप से जखमी हो गए।

NHRC notice to Delhi govt over sewer death

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Monday sent notices to the Centre and the Delhi government over an incident in which a labourer died while cleaning a sewer in the city's Jahangirpuri area.

The deceased, Dooman Ray, 32, a native of Katihar in Bihar, died while cleaning a Delhi Jal Board sewer on Sunday.

He was taken to the Max Hospital in Shalimar Bagh, where doctors declared him brought dead.

"The notices have been sent to the Delhi's chief secretary and to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and the response is expected in four weeks," a spokesperson of the NHRC said.

Police got to know about the incident on Sunday at around 7.30 am. They were told that Ray was brought dead from the Delhi Jal Board Pump House in Jahangirpuri, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (northwest) A K Lal had said.

During investigation, it was revealed that Ray was working in a sewer there with three other workers.

"The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has given the contract to KK Spun India Ltd for



repair and rehabilitation of sewerage in Jahangirpuri," Lal said.

In a statement issued here, officials at the Delhi Jal Board had said they were looking into the matter.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police on Monday questioned the project supervisor and manager in this regard in connection with the sewer death in North West Delhi's Jahangirpuri area. Delhi Police on Monday questioned the project supervisor and manager in this regard. Police claimed that they have not arrested anyone in this regard.

Police claimed that apart from these two persons, three more labourers who were at the spot were questioned in this regard.

Sources claimed that police want to know whether the victim was forced to go inside the sewer and also whether he was wearing any safety gears at the time of the incident.

Train mishap: Case in Bihar court against Sidhu's wife

NHRC notices to railways, Punjab govt

Amritsar/Muzaffarpur, Oct. 22: Amid a blame-game over the Amritsar tragedy, a case was filed in a Bihar court on Monday holding organisers of the Dussehra event and chief guest Navjot Kaur Sidhu responsible for mowing down of several revellers by a passing train, while the NHRC served notices to the Railways and the Punjab government.

Congress MP Sunil Jakhar and Punjab minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, however, came forward in defence of Ms Sidhu and sought to put the blame on the railways officials for the tragic incident in which nearly 60 persons had died while watching the Dussehra celebrations on Friday evening.

Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh reviewed the situation through video-conference with the state government officials and asked them to expedite the process of providing relief and compensation to the families of those dead and to the injured.

People angry over the train accident had pelted stones and clashed with security personnel on Sunday. They sat on the railway tracks, where the accident happened, and protested. They were later removed by authorities.

Union railway minister Piyush Goyal, meanwhile, returned from the US, with officials attributing the delay in his return to non-availability of tickets and problem of connecting flights. Mr Goyal, who had gone to the US for an award ceremony, had said soon after the incident that he was cancelling all his engagements there to immediately return to India.

Meanwhile, the National



Punjab Cabinet ministers Navjot Singh Sidhu and Brahm Mohindra, along with Punjab PCC president Sunil Jakhar, gives away compensation cheques to the victims of train mishap in Amritsar on Monday. — PTI

Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notices to the railways and the Punjab government, observing that it cannot be called a "sane act" for people to sit on railway tracks, but the "negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent" as well in this "bizarre and horrific incident".

While it is rare for such a large number of revellers getting mowed down by a train in a single incident, nearly 50,000 people have lost their lives between 2015 and 2017 on railway tracks after being hit by trains, according to

official data from the Indian railways.

In distant Muzaffarpur, Bihar, a complaint case was filed in a court against Navjot Kaur Sidhu, seeking registration of a case against her.

The complaint claimed that Sidhu and organisers of the Dussehra event were solely responsible for the tragedy and the court should order a trial against her.

The case was filed by a social activist in a chief judicial magistrate's court, which fixed November 3 as the date of hearing. — PTI

पंजाब सरकार, रेलवे बोर्ड अध्यक्ष को नोटिस



नई दिल्ली | विशेष संवाददाता

अमृतसर रेल हादसे को लेकर राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (एनएचआरसी) ने पंजाब के मुख्य सचिव व रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष को नोटिस जारी कर चार सप्ताह में विस्तार से रिपोर्ट देने को कहा है।

अमृतसर में शुक्रवार को दशहरा मेला देखने के दौरान पटरी पर खड़े लगभग 60 लोगों की ट्रेन से कटकर

सिद्ध की पत्नी के खिलाफ मामला दर्ज

मुजफ्फरपुर। अमृतसर हादसे को लेकर आरोप-प्रत्यारोप के बीच दशहरा कार्यक्रम के आयोजकों और मुख्य अतिथि नवजोत कौर सिद्ध के खिलाफ बिहार की एक अदालत में सोमवार को एक मामला दायर किया गया।

मौत हो गई थी। आयोग ने इस घटना से संबंधित मीडिया में छपी खबरों को खुद संज्ञान लेते हुए यह कदम उठाया है।

आयोग ने राज्य सरकार के पीड़ित परिवार को सहायता व हादसे में घायलों के उपचार के बारे में बताने के लिए कहा है। आयोग ने कहा है कि दशहरा मेला

‘दसियों बार ट्रैक पर न जाने की चेतावनी दी थी’

अमृतसर। दशहरे के दिन अमृतसर में हुए ट्रेन हादसे के लिए जिम्मेदार कार्यक्रम के आयोजक ने खुद को निर्दोष बताया है। दशहरा मेले के आयोजक सौरभ मदान उर्फ मिट्टू ने दावा किया है कि उसने दसियों बार लोगों को ट्रैक पर नहीं जाने की चेतावनी दी थी।

देखने वाले लोगों के लिए पटरी पर आने को उचित नहीं ठहराया जा सकता है, लेकिन इस मामले में प्रशासन की लापरवाही भी नजर आती है। ऐसा लगता है कि स्थानीय अधिकारियों व आयोजकों ने भीड़ से निपटने के लिए पर्याप्त इंतजाम नहीं किए थे।

अमृतसर रेल हादसे पर बिहार की अदालत में नवजोत सिद्धू की पत्नी के खिलाफ केस

मानवाधिकार आयोग ने लापरवाही पर रेलवे और पंजाब सरकार को नोटिस जारी कर जवाब मांगा

एजेंसी | अमृतसर/मुजफ्फरपुर

अमृतसर हादसे पर आरोप-प्रत्यारोपों की जंग के बीच सोमवार को बिहार के मुजफ्फरपुर की एक अदालत में दशहरा कार्यक्रम के आयोजकों और मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. नवजोत कौर के खिलाफ केस दायर किया गया। चीफ ज्यूडिशियल मजिस्ट्रेट की अदालत में 3 नवंबर को इस पर सुनवाई होगी।

शिकायत दायर करने वाले सोशल एक्टिविस्ट ने अमृतसर में ट्रेन से कटकर हुई 60 से ज्यादा लोगों की मौतों के लिए आयोजकों और डॉ. नवजोत कौर को जिम्मेदार बताया है। शिकायत में कहा गया कि डॉ. कौर की मौजूदगी के कारण इतने लोग एकत्रित हुए थे। उनके भाषण के कारण भीड़ बढ़ती गई और लोग ट्रैक तक पहुंच

गए। सुरक्षाकर्मी भीड़ को नियंत्रित करने के बजाय सिर्फ डॉ. कौर को सुरक्षा मुहैया करवाने में व्यस्त रहे। दूसरी तरफ राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने भी रेलवे और पंजाब सरकार को नोटिस जारी कर जवाब मांगा है। आयोग ने कहा कि इसे सिर्फ लोगों के ट्रैक पर बैठने की सामान्य घटना बता पल्ला नहीं झाड़ सकते। खौफनाक हादसे में जिला प्रशासन के स्तर पर लापरवाही स्पष्ट है। आयोजन के दौरान लोगों की सुरक्षा करना और उन्हें सुरक्षित माहौल मुहैया करवाना राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है। पंजाब और हरियाणा हाईकोर्ट में भी एक याचिका दायर कर हादसे की जांच सीबीआई या एसआईटी से करवाने की मांग की गई है। याचिकाकर्ता दिनेश कुमार डाकोरिया ने भी आयोजकों को ही इस हादसे के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराया है।

चार दिन बाद दशहरा आयोजक मिट्टू आया सामने, हाथ जोड़ मांगा सहयोग

अमृतसर | दशहरा पर्व दौरान हुए रेल हादसे के बाद हर कोई यह जानना चाह रहा था कि आखिर इतने लोगों की मौत का जिम्मेदार सौरव मदान उर्फ मिट्टू सोमवार को सामने आया और सोशल मीडिया पर अपनी एक वीडियो वायरल कर उसने हादसे पर दुख प्रगट किया और साथ ही खुद को बेकसूर बताते हुए लोगों से सहयोग दिए जाने की मांग की है। वीडियो में मिट्टू रोते हुए दिखाई दिया। अब उसके आंसुओं में कितनी सच्चाई थी। इस बारे अभी कुछ कहना मुश्किल है। क्योंकि जिस तरह से वह रिएक्ट कर रहा था। उसे देखने वाले यह समझ रहे कि यह किसी फिल्म के सीन की एक्टिंग कर रहा हो। फिलहाल वह वीडियो में यही कह रहा था कि दशहरे के लिए सारे इंतजाम किए थे और

अब उसे ही आरोपी ठहराया जा रहा है। अब हाथ जोड़ने वाले मिट्टू रेलवे लाइनों पर खड़े लोगों को देखकर वाह-वाही लूट रहा था। हादसे के बाद आई एक वीडियो में मिट्टू नवजोत कौर सिद्धू को खुश करने के लिए बोल रहा था कि 'मैडम जी! ऐधर देखो कोई फिकर नई लैणां दा ओहनां नूं, भावें पंज सौ गड्डियां लंघ जाण, पंज हजार तों ज्यादा बंदा लैणां ते खलोता है ऐस्स वेल्ले।' असल में शुक्रवार को हादसे के तुरंत बाद लोगों ने आरोप लगाए थे कि नवजोत कौर सब-कुछ जानते हुए भी वहां से निकल गईं। अभी तक तमाम वीडियो पर गौर करें तो हकीकत भी कुछ ऐसी ही है। हादसे के ठीक तीन मिनट बाद लाल पगड़ी वाले एक व्यक्ति ने नवजोत कौर को इसकी जानकारी दी।



Hindustan Times, Delhi

Tuesday, 23rd October 2018; Page: 7

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JAHANGIRPURI SEWER DEATH

Safety equipment was there, but manpower was missing, say police

Shiv Sunny

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NEW DELHI: A day after a 32-year-old labourer died while working inside a Delhi Jal Board sewer tank in north Delhi's Jahangirpuri, the police said even though the man was equipped with safety gear, there wasn't sufficient manpower at the accident spot to rescue him.

Doman Ray had drowned in a deep sewer tank at a DJB sewage pumping station at 5.30 am on Sunday after he entered to remove a valve to allow the flow of drain water.

According to AK Lall, additional deputy commissioner of police (north-west), a project manager and a supervisor were questioned about the circumstances of the death. The two officials work for a private firm that was hired by the DJB to carry out repair works in old sewer lines in Jahangirpuri. Ray was working for the private firm.

"Ray had an oxygen mask and a safety belt, but there were just two workers at the spot when he was trapped inside. Had there been two-three more workers at the spot, Ray could have been rescued," said Lall.

The police also questioned other workers, who were an eyewitness to Ray's death. However, no one was arrested on Monday. "We are in the process of checking documents about the terms of Ray's employment. A decision on arrests will be taken on Tuesday," said Lall.

A case of causing death by negligence and under sections of Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act has already been registered against the firm. "The death was caused by asphyxiation due to drowning," said the officer. On Monday, Ray's elder

brother Ramesh visited Delhi to collect his body. Ramesh has been ill for a few months and said it was Ray who often paid for his treatment from his meagre salary.

Ray's wife and one-year-old daughter lives with his in-laws in Bihar's Katihar district. "Ray also took care of his wife, daughter and in-laws. We have all been orphaned," said Ramesh, adding that the family is in debt after the last rites of Ray's mother last year. Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission has taken cognizance of the death and sent notices to the Centre and the Delhi government on Monday.



■ Navjot Singh Sidhu is under fire following the accident at a function presided over by his wife Navjot Kaur. SAMEER SEHGAL/HT PHOTO

Will adopt children affected by train tragedy, says Sidhu

HT Correspondents

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AMRITSAR/NEWDELHI: Punjab minister and Amritsar East MLA Navjot Singh Sidhu on Monday said he will adopt child victims of Friday's train accident and take responsibility for the affected families, while the National Human Rights Commission issued notices to the Railways and the Punjab government for negligence and sought a report from the state chief secretary and rail board chairman in four weeks.

Sidhu is under fire after the accident that claimed the lives of more than 60 Dussehra revellers at a function organised by his aide Saurabh Mithu Madan and presided over by his wife Navjot Kaur, who reached the event late, delaying the burning of Ravan's effigy. The delay is seen as one of the reasons behind the tragedy as people watching the burning effigy did not see the approaching train in the dark and got run over.

"It seems that the local authorities and the organisers did not properly manage the crowd, gathered to watch the Dussehra celebrations. It was the responsibility of the State to provide proper safety and protection to the citizens during the event," the NHRC said while taking suo motu cognisance of media reports about the incident.

A petition was filed by an advocate in the Punjab and Haryana high court, seeking a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation or a special investigation team.

I commit to take all kind of responsibility to educate them (the victims) and settle them from my own pocket.

NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU, Punjab minister

Dinesh Kumar Dakoria, the petitioner, blamed the event organisers for the tragedy. A similar petition filed in the chief judicial magistrate's court in Bihar's Muzaffarpur against Navjot Kaur, seeking registration of a case against her. The case will be heard on November 3.

Accompanied by Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar, Sidhu told reporters in Amritsar, "I commit to take all kind of responsibility to educate them (the victims) and settle them from my own pocket. Besides, I also take responsibility of the persons who became disabled or the elderly who lost the breadwinner of the family," he said.

He visited the local civil hospital and Guru Nanak Dev Hospital to enquire after the health of the injured.

Jakhar criticised the manner in which the minister of state for railways and the rail board chairman had washed their hands of the accident by giving a clean chit to the driver.

The Punjab Government disbursed the compensation amount of ₹5 lakh each to 21 families of the deceased in the first phase.

NHRC notice on train accident

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23, 2018

Incident happened in Amritsar on Oct 19

Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued notices to the Punjab government and the Railway Board in connection with a train running over people watching Dussehra celebrations in Amritsar on October 19.

The accident had left more than 60 people dead and several injured when the train ran over people standing on the tracks, watching an effigy of Ravan burn.

Detailed report

The NHRC issued notices to the Punjab Chief Secretary and the chairperson of the Railway Board asking for a detailed report in four weeks, a statement said. The Punjab government was also asked for details about the disbursement of relief and rehabilitation to those affected.

The NHRC observed that “it cannot be said to be a sane act by people to sit on the railway tracks, at the same time, the negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent behind this bizarre and horrific incident”. The NHRC statement added that it had seemed that local authorities and the organisers of the event had not managed the crowd properly.

“It was the responsibility of the State to provide proper safety and protection to the citizens during the event. If it is true, as reported in some sections of the media, that the railway authorities were not informed about the event, it indicates towards highly negligent and reckless attitude of the authorities responsible. This is a case of serious violation of human rights of the victims,” the NHRC said.

Amritsar train tragedy: NHRC notices to Punjab, railway board

Updated: Oct 22, 2018, 20:06 IST

NEW DELHI: The NHRC on Monday issued notices to the Railways and the Punjab government over the Amritsar accident in which nearly 60 Dussehra revellers were killed when they were run over by a train while watching the festivities.

Issuing the notices, the commission observed that it cannot be said to be a "sane act" by people to sit on railway tracks, but at the same time, the "negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent" behind this "bizarre and horrific incident".

The National Human Rights Commission issued notices to the state's chief secretary and the chairman of the railway board seeking detailed reports in the matter in four weeks, an NHRC spokesperson said.

The NHRC has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports that many people died on the spot and several others got seriously injured in Amritsar district of Punjab, where several people watching Dussehra celebrations from the railway tracks were mowed down by a passenger train on October 19.

"It seems that the local authorities and the organizers did not properly manage the crowd, gathered to watch the Dussehra celebrations. It was the responsibility of the State to provide proper safety and protection to the citizens during the event.

NHRC notices to Pb Railway Board over train mowing down Dussehra revellers in Amritsar

PTI October 22, 2018 18:31 IST

New Delhi, Oct 22 (PTI) The NHRC on Monday issued notices to the Railways and the Punjab government over the Amritsar accident in which nearly 60 Dussehra revellers were killed when they were run over by a train while watching the festivities.

Issuing the notices, the Commission observed that it cannot be said to be a "sane act" by people to sit on railway tracks, but at the same time, the "negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent" behind this "bizarre and horrific incident".

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"It seems that the local authorities and the organizers did not properly manage the crowd, gathered to watch the Dussehra celebrations. It was the responsibility of the State to provide proper safety and protection to the citizens during the event.

"If it is true, as reported in some sections of the media, that the railway authorities were not informed about the event, it indicates towards highly negligent and reckless attitude of the authorities responsible. This is a case of serious violation of human rights of the victims," the NHRC said in a statement.

The state government is expected to provide all details to the NHRC regarding disbursement of relief and rehabilitation to the aggrieved families as well as information on the status of the treatment being provided to the injured in different hospitals of Amritsar, it said.

The railway authorities have stated that they cannot be blamed, as they were not informed about the event.

Business Standard

NHRC notices to Punjab government, Chairman, Railway Board over Amritsar train tragedy

IANIS | New Delhi Last Updated at October 22, 2018 18:50 IST

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued notices to Punjab government and Chairman, Railway Board, over the Amritsar tragedy in which over 60 people were crushed to death by a train while watching the burning of the Dusshera effigy.

The Commission has sought a detailed report within four weeks.

The Commission observed that it cannot be said to be a "sane act by people" to sit on the railway tracks, at the same time, the negligence on the part of the district authorities is "apparent."

"It seems that the local authorities and the organizers did not properly manage the crowd, gathered to watch Dussehra celebrations. It was the responsibility of the state to provide safety and protection to the citizens during the event," the NHRC said in a statement.

"If it was true that the railway authorities were not informed about the event, it indicates highly negligent and reckless attitude of the authorities. This is a case of serious violation of human rights," it added.

The NHRC also sought to know from the state government the details regarding disbursement of relief and rehabilitation to the aggrieved families as well as information on the status of the treatment being provided to the injured in different hospitals of Amritsar.

People watching the Dusshera proceedings from the railway tracks near Joda Phatak in Amritsar on October 19 were crushed by the speeding Jalandhar-Amritsar DMU (diesel multiple unit) train.

The railways has given a clean chit to the train driver and other officials saying that they (railways) were not informed about the Ravan effigy burning event so close to the railway tracks and the presence of hundreds of people on the tracks.

Amritsar tragedy: NHRC seeks report from Punjab govt, Railway Board

Tribune News Service, New Delhi, October 22

Holding the state responsible for providing for safety of people during public functions such as Dasehra, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued notices to Chief Secretary, Punjab government, and Chairman, Railway Board, on the Dasehra day tragedy at Amritsar.

It asked for a report within four weeks.

Taking suo moto cognisance of media reports, the NHRC asked for detailed report within four weeks observing that it was the responsibility of the state to provide proper safety and protection to the citizens during the event.

In a release, the NHRC said if it is true, as reported in some sections of the media, that the railway authorities were not informed about the event, it indicates towards "highly negligent and reckless attitude of the authorities responsible. This is a case of serious violation of human rights of the victims".

Issuing the notices, the Commission observed "it cannot be said to be a sane act by people to sit on the railway tracks, at the same time, the negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent behind this bizarre and horrific incident. It seems that the local authorities and the organisers did not properly managed the crowd, gathered to watch the Dasehra celebrations".

The state government is expected to provide all the details regarding disbursement of relief and rehabilitation to the aggrieved families as well as the information on the status of the treatment being provided to the injured in different hospitals of Amritsar.

Amritsar tragedy: Case against Sidhu's wife; NHRC notices to Railways, Punjab

Tue, Oct 23, 2018

Amritsar: Amid a blame-game over the Amritsar tragedy, a case was filed in a Bihar court on Monday holding organisers of the Dussehra event and chief guest Navjot Kaur Sidhu responsible for mowing down of several revellers by a passing train, while the National Human Rights Commission served notices to the Railways and the Punjab government.

Congress MP Sunil Jakhar and Punjab minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, however, came forward in defence of Sidhu and sought to put the blame on the Railways for the tragic incident in which nearly 60 people, including migrants from Bihar, died while watching the Dussehra celebrations from across the tracks on Friday evening.

A similar petition was filed by an advocate on Monday in the Punjab and Haryana high court, seeking a probe by the Central Bureau Investigation or a special investigation team into the accident. Dinesh Kumar Dakoria, the petitioner, too has blamed the event organisers for the tragedy.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, who has gone to Israel, reviewed the situation through video-conference with the state government officials and asked them to expedite the process of providing relief and compensation to the families of those dead and to the injured.

People angry over the train accident had pelted stones and clashed with security personnel on Sunday. They sat on the railway tracks, where the accident happened, and protested. They were later removed by authorities.

During the review meeting, the officials also told Singh that all victims, except one, had been identified.

Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, meanwhile, returned from the United States, with officials attributing the delay in his return to non-availability of tickets and problem of connecting flights.

Goyal, who had gone to the US for an award ceremony, had said soon after the incident that he was cancelling all his engagements there to immediately return to India. On his arrival, Goyal was briefed about the latest developments regarding the incident.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission issued notices to the Railways and the Punjab government, observing that it cannot be called a “sane act” for people to sit on railway tracks, but the “negligence on the part of the district authorities is apparent” as well in this “bizarre and horrific incident”. While it is rare for such a

large number of revellers getting mowed down by a train in a single incident, nearly 50,000 people have lost their lives between 2015 and 2017 on railway tracks after being hit by trains, according to official data from the Indian Railways.

Detailed reports have been sought from the state's chief secretary and from the chairman of the Railway Board in four weeks, an NHRC spokesperson said. "It seems that the local authorities and the organisers did not properly manage the crowd, gathered to watch the Dussehra celebrations. It was the responsibility of the State to provide proper safety and protection to the citizens during the event," the NHRC said while taking suo motu cognisance of media reports about the incident. The railway authorities have stated that they cannot be blamed, as they were not informed about the event, while Punjab government has ordered a magisterial probe. In distant Muzaffarpur, Bihar, a complaint case was filed in a court against Navjot Kaur Sidhu, seeking registration of a case against her.

The complaint claimed that Sidhu and organisers of the Dussehra event were solely responsible for the tragedy and the court should order a trial against her. The case was filed by a social activist in a Chief Judicial Magistrate's court, which fixed November 3 as the date of hearing.

The complainant contended that a large crowd had gathered there due to Sidhu's presence and her emotive speech led to a surge in the crowd that spilled over to the railway track. Besides, all the security personnel present at the venue were engaged in providing safety and security to Kaur, instead of controlling the crowd, members of which were mowed down by a train near the Joda Phatak, when they were watching the burning of a Ravan effigy while standing on the railway tracks, the complaint said.

Hashmi alleged that Kaur, who was a doctor by profession, instead of helping the victims, fled the scene and made a false alibi that she was not present at the site when the accident occurred. The footage of the incident shown on television had hurt him deeply, the complainant said, while praying for initiating a case against Kaur under Indian Penal Code sections 295 (injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class), 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) among others.

If held guilty, the accused could be sent to jail for three months to two years. Amid calls from opposition parties Akali Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party for action against the Sidhu couple, Congress MP Partap Singh Bajwa sought government job for family member of each victim who lost life in the incident. Punjab minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, however, defended Kaur, saying she was not at fault and blamed the railway gateman for the incident. He also rubbished the Shiromani Akali Dal's demand of removing her husband Sidhu from the cabinet over the incident. Earlier, Sidhu had also targeted the Railways, asking how a "clean chit" was given to the loco-pilot of the train within "one day". Defending his wife, the Congress leader had said as soon as she got to know about the accident, she went to the hospital to visit the injured.

Amritsar tragedy: Case in Bihar court against Navjot Kaur Sidhu; NHRC notices to Railways, Punjab Govt

People angry over the train accident had pelted stones and clashed with security personnel on October 21.

PTI@moneycontrolcom

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Punjab minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, however, defended Sidhu, saying she was not at fault and blamed the railway gateman for the incident. He also rubbished the Shiromani Akali Dal's demand of removing her husband Navjot Singh Sidhu from the cabinet over the incident.

Earlier, Navjot Singh Sidhu had also targeted the Railways, asking how a "clean chit" was given to the loco-pilot of the train within "one day".

Amritsar train tragedy: NHRC issues notices to state govt, Chairman and Railway board; demands report in 4 weeks

By IANS | Oct 22, 2018 07:00 pm

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday issued notices to Punjab government and Chairman, Railway Board, over the **Amritsar tragedy** in which over 60 people were crushed to death by a train while watching the burning of the Dusshera effigy.

The Commission has sought a detailed report within four weeks. The Commission observed that it cannot be said to be a “sane act by people” to sit on the railway tracks, at the same time, the negligence on the part of the district authorities is “apparent.”

“It seems that the local authorities and the organizers did not properly manage the crowd, gathered to watch Dussehra celebrations. It was the responsibility of the state to provide safety and protection to the citizens during the event,” the NHRC said in a statement.

“If it was true that the railway authorities were not informed about the event, it indicates highly negligent and reckless attitude of the authorities. This is a case of serious violation of human rights,” it added.

The NHRC also sought to know from the state government the details regarding disbursement of relief and rehabilitation to the aggrieved families as well as information on the status of the treatment being provided to the injured in different hospitals of Amritsar.

People watching the Dusshera proceedings from the railway tracks near Joda Phatak in Amritsar on October 19 were crushed by the speeding Jalandhar-Amritsar DMU (diesel multiple unit) train. The railways has given a clean chit to the train driver and other officials saying that they (railways) were not informed about the Ravan effigy burning event so close to the railway tracks and the presence of hundreds of people on the tracks.

Notice To Chhattisgarh Police Over Alleged Stripping Of Mother, Daughter

According to a media report, the matter came to light when both the victims were produced before the court where they narrated the incident.

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The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notice to the police chief of Chhattisgarh over reports of an elderly woman and her daughter being allegedly stripped naked and severely beaten by a woman police personnel in front of male colleagues at a police station in Bilaspur.

Describing it as an "inhuman and barbaric act", the NHRC in a statement on Monday said it has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report on the matter.

According to the report, the 60-year-old woman and her 27-year-old daughter, arrested on the charges of theft, were stripped naked and severely beaten by a woman police personnel in front of male police officials at City Kotwali Police Station on October 14, the NHRC said.

"Reportedly, being a patient of hypertension, the mother requested for medical treatment but was not heard. The injuries were inflicted even on their vital body parts," the rights panel said.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police (DGP), Chhattisgarh, seeking a report within four weeks along with details on action taken against the guilty police personnel.

While issuing the notice, the NHRC has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, raise serious issue of violation of human rights of the victims.

"Once a person is taken into custody, it becomes the duty of the police authorities to ensure his/her safety but in this case, the police personnel themselves appear to have behaved in a cruel and inhuman manner and subjected the victims to physical torture, which is an inhuman and barbaric act," the Commission observed.

According to the media report, carried on October 17, the matter came to light when both the victims were produced before the court where they narrated "traumatic tale of police brutality".

The court has, reportedly, ordered an inquiry into the matter by a gazetted officer and the report has been sought by October 26. The court has also mentioned about injuries of the victims and that they were unable to walk.