



NHRC notice to UP DGP over journalist's thrashing

LUCKNOW, JUNE 14

Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports on the thrashing of a journalist in Shamli, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police demanding a report within four weeks.

The NHRC has also sought the action-taken report against the guilty public servants and the status of FIR registered against them.

The NHRC said, "Just a few hours after the Supreme Court ordered the release of a journalist, another TV journalist in West UP's Shamli district was assaulted by the SHO of the Government Railway Police on the Tuesday night (June 11). He, along with a constable, was booked and suspended after videos of the attack went viral."

"Reportedly, some reporters

assembled in the Dhimanpura area where two bogies of a goods train had derailed in the night. An argument took place between the journalist and the police personnel. The victim was then thrashed and dragged to the local GRP police station where he was locked up. The victim has claimed that he was stripped and the SHO urinated in his mouth," the NHRC stated.

The victim has reportedly accused the police personnel of attacking him out of vengeance as last month he had run a story about an encroachment by unauthorised vendors in connivance with GRP personnel, the NHRC notes.

An FIR based on the journalist's complaint has been registered and a departmental inquiry ordered under the supervision of the IG Railways. — TNS



Rights body seeks report on assault of journalist in UP's Shamli dist



OUR CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW: Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Friday issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh DGP, seeking a report within four weeks on the assault of a TV journalist in Shamli on Tuesday.

The human rights body sought a detailed report from the DGP, including action taken against the guilty public servants and the status of the FIR registered against them, an NHRC press release said.

In its notice, the NHRC said just a few hours after the Supreme Court ordered the release of a journalist, Amit Sharma was brutally assaulted by an SHO of the Government Railway Police (GRP). The victim has claimed that he was stripped and the SHO urinated in his mouth, the release said.

The GRP has, however, denied this charge.

The commission observed that the contents of media reports, if true, amount to a gross violation of the victim's human rights. "Going by the reported allegations, this kind of cruel and uncivilised act by a public servant is highly disgraceful and cannot be tolerated in a civilised society," the release read.

"Stern action should be taken against the police personnel if found guilty so that such a barbaric act is not repeated by any public servant in future," the human rights body stated in the release.

A case was against four police personnel, including SHO Rakesh Kumar, on Wednesday under sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for causing hurt, insult, robbery and wrongful confinement.

Of the four GRP officers, SHO Rakesh Kumar and constable Sanjay Pawar were suspended. The incident had taken place after the policemen entered into an argument with Sharma when he was covering the derailment of a goods train in Shamli on June 11.



Hindustan Times, Delhi

Saturday, 15th June 2019; Page: 25

Width: 5.52 cms; Height: 7.82 cms; a4; ID: 21.2019-06-15.227

Open to suggestions from civil society, NGOs: NHRC chairperson

Justice HL Dattu, NHRC Chairperson, said the commission was always open to suggestions from the civil society, NGOs and human rights defenders towards fulfilling its mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights under the Protection of Human Rights Act. He was chairing a meeting of the commission's core group of NGOs and Human Rights Defenders, HRDs at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi. He said the Commission treats human rights defenders and the civil society as its eyes and ears.



New Indian Express, Chennai

Saturday, 15th June 2019; Page: 11

Width: 22.27 cms; Height: 11.18 cms; a4r; ID: 33.2019-06-15.14

NHRC seeks report on children pawned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday took *suo motu* cognizance of a media report that said over 500 families of several villages in Rajasthan's Banswara used their children as a pawn for ₹1,500-2,000. The commission has sought a detailed report from the state government within six weeks.

The families belonging from the Gadaria community were

found to have used their children to get food. "The contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issue of violation of human rights of the innocent young children who instead of getting proper education and upbringing, have been given in custody of unknown people in lieu of money," NHRC said in a statement.

The Commission has asked the state government to inform about the status of implementation of flagship programmes

announced and being run by the Centre and the state.

"The authorities are expected to identify all the victim children and to take steps to you reunite them with their families and ensure all basic amenities including food and education to the children of the aggrieved families. The state government is also expected to conduct a survey to check, if such practice is prevailing in other districts of the State," said NHRC.



Rashtriya Sahara, Delhi

Saturday, 15th June 2019; Page: 9

Width: 23.28 cms; Height: 16.49 cms; a4r; ID: 36.2019-06-15.98

यूपी के डीजीपी से जवाब तलब

■ नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)।

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने उत्तर प्रदेश के शामली जिले में पुलिस द्वारा पत्रकार की पिटाई खबरों पर स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए प्रदेश के पुलिस महानिदेशक से चार सप्ताह में विस्तृत रिपोर्ट तलब की है।

आयोग ने कहा है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा एक पत्रकार को रिहा करने का आदेश देने के कुछ ही घंटे में शामली में एक अन्य पत्रकार को राजकीय रेलवे पुलिस (जीआरपी) के एसएचओ ने 11 जून की रात बर्बरता से पीटा। घटना का वीडियो वायरल होने के बाद एसएचओ और

पत्रकार की पिटाई

मानवाधिकार आयोग
ने खबर पर लिया खुद
ही संज्ञान

एक कांस्टेबल को निलंबित कर दिया गया। पत्रकारों का एक समूह मनीपुर क्षेत्र में मालगाड़ी के दो डिब्बे पटरी से उतरने की घटना की कवरेज करने गया था। आयोग ने कहा कि पत्रकारों और पुलिसकर्मियों में कहासुनी हो गई। उसके बाद पत्रकार को पीटा गया और जीआरपी थाने ले जाकर हवालात में बंद कर दिया गया। पीड़ित पत्रकार का दावा है कि

उसे नंगा कर एसएचओ ने उसके मुंह में पेशाब किया।

आयोग ने कहा कि मीडिया की खबरों में जो कुछ आया, अगर वह सही है तो यह पीड़ित के मानवाधिकारों का घोर उल्लंघन है। कथित आरोपों को देखें तो सरकारी कर्मियों की हरकत सभ्य समाज में बर्दाश्त नहीं की जा सकती। आयोग ने पुलिस महानिदेशक को नोटिस भेजकर चार सप्ताह में विस्तृत रिपोर्ट मांगी है। पत्रकार का दावा है कि उसने जीआरपी कर्मियों की मिलीभगत से अनधिकृत रेहड़ी-पटरी के अतिक्रमण पर खबर दी थी, जिससे बौखलाए जीआरपी कर्मियों ने उसकी पिटाई की।



NHRC notice to police over assault on scribe

‘Gross violation of the victim’s rights’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission on Friday issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh Police over reports of a Government Railway Police station house officer assaulting a television journalist in Shamli district on Tuesday.

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of media reports, the NHRC said, if true, the reports pointed towards gross violation of the victim’s rights.

The scribe was brutally attacked by a SHO of the GRP when he had gone to report on a train derailment in the area, along with other reporters.

“An argument took place between the journalists and the police personnel. The victim was then thrashed

and dragged to the local GRP police station where he was locked up. The victim has claimed that he was stripped and the SHO urinated in his mouth,” the NHRC said.

Calling for a report within four weeks from the DGP, the NHRC said: “Going by the reported allegations, this kind of cruel and uncivilised act by a public servant is highly disgraceful and cannot be tolerated in a civilised society. Stern action should be taken against the police personnel, if found guilty, so that such barbaric act is not repeated by any public servant, in future.”

After video of the incident went viral on social media, the SHO and a constable were booked and suspended.



Hindustan Times, Delhi

Saturday, 15th June 2019; Page: 13

Width: 6.08 cms; Height: 8.21 cms; a4; ID: 21.2019-06-15.86

Rights body seeks report on assault of journalist in UP

LUCKNOW: Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Friday issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh DGP, seeking a report within four weeks on the assault of a TV journalist in Shamli on Tuesday. The human rights body sought a detailed report from the DGP, including action taken against the guilty public servants and the status of the FIR registered against them, an NHRC press release said.

पत्रकार की पिटाई का मामला: मानवाधिकार आयोग ने यूपी के डीजीपी को दिया नोटिस

एजेंसी ►► लखनऊ

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने यूपी के शामली जिले में पुलिस द्वारा पत्रकार की पिटाई खबरों पर स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए प्रदेश के पुलिस महानिदेशक से चार सप्ताह में विस्तृत रिपोर्ट तलब की है।

आयोग की ओर से शुक्रवार कहा गया कि मीडिया में आई खबरों में बताया गया है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट द्वारा एक पत्रकार को रिहा करने का आदेश देने के कुछ ही घंटे में शामली में एक अन्य पत्रकार को राजकीय रेलवे पुलिस (जीआरपी) के एसएचओ ने 11 जून की रात बर्बरता से पीटा। घटना का वीडियो वायरल होने के बाद एसएचओ और एक कांस्टेबल को निलंबित कर दिया गया। बताया जाता है कि

घटना से कलंकित हुआ सभ्य समाज

आयोग ने कहा कि खबरों में जो कुछ आया, अगर वह सही है तो यह पीड़ित के अधिकारों का घोर उल्लंघन है। कथित आरोपों को देखें तो सरकारी कर्मों की हरकत सभ्य समाज में बर्दाश्त नहीं की जा सकती।

पत्रकारों का समूह मनीपुर क्षेत्र में मालगाड़ी के दो डिब्बे पटरी से उतरने की घटना की कवरेज करने गया था। आयोग ने कहा कि पत्रकारों, पुलिसकर्मियों में कहासुनी हो गई। उसके बाद उक्त पत्रकार को पीटा गया, जीआरपी थाने ले जाकर लाकअप में बंद कर दिया गया। पीड़ित पत्रकार का दावा है कि उसे नंगा कर एसएचओ ने उसके मुंह में पेशाब किया है।

पीसीआई ने सरकार से मांगा जवाब, तथ्यान्वेषी समिति गठित की

नई दिल्ली। यूपी के शामली जिले में पुलिस द्वारा पत्रकार की कथित रूप से पिटाई की घटना पर स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए भारतीय प्रेस परिषद (पीसीआई) ने तथ्यान्वेषी समिति गठित की, राज्य सरकार से जवाब मांगा। पीसीआई के सदस्य जयशंकर गुप्ता, उत्तम चंद्र शर्मा की तथ्यान्वेषी समिति शनिवार को शामली का दौरा करके घटना की जानकारी जुटाएंगे।

जीआरपी की करतूत

पत्रकार का दावा, उसने जीआरपी कर्मियों की मिलीभगत से अनधिकृत वेंडारों के अतिक्रमण पर खबर दी थी, जिससे बौखलाए जीआरपी कर्मियों ने उसकी पिटाई की है।



मानवाधिकार आयोग ने एसपी से मांगों रिपोर्ट

जयपुर. राज्य मानवाधिकार आयोग के अध्यक्ष जस्टिस प्रकाश टाटिया व सदस्य जस्टिस महेश चन्द्र शर्मा की खंडपीठ ने महिलाओं से मारपीट करने और उन्हें निर्वस्त्र घुमाने के संबंध में अखबारों में छपी खबरों पर शुक्रवार को प्रसंज्ञान लिया। इस मामले में खंडपीठ ने धौलपुर एसपी से 16 जुलाई तक तथ्यात्मक रिपोर्ट पेश करने को कहा है। खंडपीठ ने



Hindu, The, Bengaluru

Saturday, 15th June 2019; Page: 13

Width: 4.23 cms; Height: 6.98 cms; a4; ID: 82.2019-06-15.10

NHRC sends notice to police on scribe's assault

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh police over reports of a Government Railway Police officer assaulting a television journalist in Shamli district on Tuesday. Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the NHRC said, if true, the reports pointed towards gross violation of rights. The scribe was brutally attacked by the station house officer when he had gone to report on a train derailment.



Hindustan, Allahabad

Saturday, 15th June 2019; Page: 10

Width: 7.57 cms; Height: 5.64 cms; a4; ID: 74.2019-06-15.6

मानवाधिकार आयोग ने डीजीपी को दिया नोटिस

राखनऊ। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने शाम्भली में पुलिस द्वारा पत्रकार की पिटाई की खबरों का स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए प्रदेश के पुलिस महानिदेशक ओपी सिंह से चार सप्ताह में विस्तृत रिपोर्ट ललब की है। आयोग की ओर से शुक्रवार को बताया गया कि पत्रकारों का एक समूह मनीपुर क्षेत्र में मालगाड़ी के दो डिब्बे पटरी से उतरने की घटना की कवरेज करने गया था। आयोग ने कहा कि पत्रकारों और पुलिस कर्मियों में कहासुनी हो गई।



Hindustan, Agra

Saturday, 15th June 2019; Page: 11

Width: 9.31 cms; Height: 5.93 cms; a4; ID: 73.2019-06-15.9

मानवाधिकार आयोग ने पत्रकार की पिटार्ई केस में डीजीपी से मांगा जवाब

लखनऊ। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने शामली में पुलिस द्वारा पत्रकार की पिटार्ई की खबरों का स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए प्रदेश के पुलिस महानिदेशक ओपी सिंह से चार सप्ताह में विस्तृत रिपोर्ट तलब की है।

आयोग की ओर से शुक्रवार को

बताया गया कि पत्रकारों का एक समूह मनीपुर क्षेत्र में मालगाड़ी के दो डिब्बे फटते से उतरने की घटना को कवरज करने गया था। आयोग ने कहा कि पत्रकारों और पुलिस कर्मियों में कहासुनी हो गई। उसके बाद पत्रकार को पीटा गया और लाकअप में बंद कर दिया गया।



NHRC seeks govt report on kids 'sold' for money

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Taking suo motu cognizance of a media report about children being pledged off for money in Banswara, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued notices to the chief secretary, government of Rajasthan to give a detailed report.

The media report stated that, "Several villages in Banswara district of the state of Rajasthan, wherein more than 500 families were found to have used their children as pawns in exchange of Rs 1,500 to 2,000 from the Gadaria (shepherd) community to get food." The report had also carried the photographs of the children, aged between 8 to 12 years, who had been pledged off for money.

According to the media report, carried on June 13, 2019, the shepherds put the children on the work of cattle grazing. Chundai, Bor Talab and Memkhor areas in the Banswara district and Bawdi Kheda, Limbodi and Ambaghati areas falling under Pratapgarh district, are the worst affected. It is also mentioned in the news report that government-run schemes like MGNREGA and Bhamashah have never been implemented in these areas.

Issuing the notice, the commission has given six weeks' time to the state government to submit their report. "It has been observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issue of violation of human rights of the innocent young children who

instead of getting proper education and upbringing, have been given in custody of unknown people in lieu of money," the commission observed. The commission has also asked the state government to inform about the status of implementation of flagship programmes announced and being run by the Central and state governments in Rajasthan.

The authorities are expected to identify all the victim children and to take steps to reunite them with their families and ensure all basic amenities including food and education to the children of the aggrieved families. The state government is also expected to conduct a survey to check, if such a practice is prevailing in other districts of the state.



Hindu, The, Chennai

Saturday, 15th June 2019; Page: 17

Width: 3.86 cms; Height: 6.91 cms; a4; ID: 83.2019-06-15.17

NHRC sends notice to police on scribe's assault

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued a notice to the Uttar Pradesh police over reports of a Government Railway Police officer assaulting a television journalist in Shamli district on Tuesday. Taking suo motu cognisance of media reports, the NHRC said, if true, the reports pointed towards gross violation of rights. The scribe was brutally attacked by the station house officer when he had gone to report on a train derailment.



Telegraph, Kolkata

Saturday, 15th June 2019; Page: 6

Width: 8.35 cms; Height: 13.72 cms; a4; ID: 30.2019-06-15.26

NHRC open to suggestions

**OUR LEGAL
CORRESPONDENT**

New Delhi: Justice H.L. Dattu, the National Human Rights Commission chairperson and former Chief Justice of India, has said the panel is "always open to the suggestions from civil society, NGOs and human rights defenders towards fulfilling its mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights".

Addressing a meeting of the commission's core group of NGOs and human rights defenders here, Justice Dattu said the commission treated human rights defenders and the civil society as its eyes and ears as the whole idea was to ensure how best to serve the cause of human rights.

In this context, the commission is also open to criticism that leads to course correction, if any required, the chairperson said.

Justice Dattu said since its inception in 1993, the NHRC

has endeavoured to create an enabling environment for the realisation of civil and political rights as well as social and economic justice.

However, despite its efforts to safeguard human rights, newer challenges continue to emerge, making it imperative for the commission and other civil society actors to act expeditiously to devise measures to address the new challenges.

The meeting discussed various dimensions of the protection of human rights defender and the ways in which challenges faced by them across India could be addressed.

Jaideep Govind, secretary-general of the NHRC, highlighted how the commission had expanded its outreach through its portal and Common Service Centres across the country. He said that the commission had also improved its complaint management system.



Morning Standard, New Delhi

Saturday, 15th June 2019; Page: 9

Width: 22.62 cms; Height: 10.87 cms; a4r; ID: 32.2019-06-15.68

NHRC seeks report on children pawned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday took *suo motu* cognizance of a media report that said over 500 families of several villages in Rajasthan's Banswara used their children as a pawn for ₹1,500-2,000. The commission has sought a detailed report from the state government within six weeks.

The families belonging from the Gadaria community were

found to have used their children to get food. "The contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issue of violation of human rights of the innocent young children who instead of getting proper education and upbringing, have been given in custody of unknown people in lieu of money," NHRC said in a statement.

The Commission has asked the state government to inform about the status of implementation of flagship programmes

announced and being run by the Centre and the state.

"The authorities are expected to identify all the victim children and to take steps to you reunite them with their families and ensure all basic amenities including food and education to the children of the aggrieved families. The state government is also expected to conduct a survey to check, if such practice is prevailing in other districts of the State," said NHRC.

NHRC notice to Raj govt over reports of children used as pawns by parents to get money

Press Trust of India | New Delhi Last Updated at June 14, 2019 22:50 IST

The National Human Rights Commission has sent a notice to the Rajasthan government over reports that many families in Banswara district are allegedly using their children as a pawn to get money for food.

The NHRC Friday observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issue of violation of human rights of the innocent young children, who instead of getting proper education and upbringing, have been given to the custody of unknown people in lieu of money.

The NHRC in a statement said, "It has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that there are several villages in Banswara district of the state of Rajasthan in which more than 500 families were found to have used their children as pawn in exchange of Rs 1,500-2,000 from the Gadaria (shepherd) community to get food."

The media report has also carried the photographs of children, aged 8 to 12 years, who had been pledged for money.

"The commission has issued a notice to the chief secretary, the government of Rajasthan calling for a detailed report in the matter within six weeks," it said.

The NHRC has also asked the state government to inform about the status of implementation of flagship programmes announced and being run by the Centre and the state government in Rajasthan.

"The authorities are expected to identify all the victim children and to take steps to reunite them with their families and ensure all basic amenities, including food and education, to the children of the aggrieved families. The state government is also expected to conduct a survey to check if such practice is prevailing in other districts of the state," it said.

According to the media report, carried Thursday, the shepherds put them to the work of cattle grazing.

Chundai, Bor Talab and Memkhor areas in the district of Banswara and Bawdi Kheda, Limbodi and Ambaghati areas falling under Pratapgarh district are the worst affected, it added.

It is also mentioned in the news report that government-run schemes like MGNREGA and Bhamashah have "never been implemented" in these areas, the NHRC statement said.

Issuing the notice, the commission has observed that the Right to Food is the basic human right and it is aware of the fact that the central government has introduced

several schemes to ensure that poor citizens, particularly in the villages, do not die due to starvation.

The commission has further observed that apparently the state has "failed in implementation" of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009, which mandates free and compulsory education to all children aged 6-14.

NHRC Issues Notice to Rajasthan Government Over Children ‘Used as Pawn’ in Banswara

The families belonging from the Gadaria community were found to have used their children to get food.

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New Delhi: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken *suo motu* cognizance of the media report that over 500 families of several villages in Rajasthan’s Banswara used their children as a pawn for Rs. 1500-2000.

The families belonging from the Gadaria community were found to have used their children to get food.

NHRC has issued a notice to Rajasthan government and asked for a report within six weeks.

It has observed that news report, if true, raise a serious issue of violation of human rights of children who instead of getting education and upbringing, have been given to the custody of unknown people in lieu of money.

The NHRC is a Statutory public body constituted under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance which was later given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

The NHRC is responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the Act as “Rights Relating To Life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants”.

The Times of India city

NHRC seeks govt report on kids 'sold' for money

TNN | Updated: Jun 14, 2019, 15:50 IST

Jaipur: Taking suo motu cognizance of a media report about children being pledged off for money in Banswara, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued notices to the chief secretary, government of Rajasthan to give a detailed report.

The media report stated that, "Several villages in Banswara district of the state of Rajasthan, wherein more than 500 families were found to have used their children as pawns in exchange of Rs 1,500 to 2,000 from the Gadaria (shepherd) community to get food." The report had also carried the photographs of the children, aged between 8 to 12 years, who had been pledged off for money.

According to the media report, carried on June 13, 2019, the shepherds put the children on the work of cattle grazing. Chundai, Bor Talab and Memkhor areas in the Banswara district and Bawdi Kheda, Limbodi and Ambaghati areas falling under Pratapgarh district, are the worst affected. It is also mentioned in the news report that government-run schemes like MGNREGA and Bhamashah have never been implemented in these areas.

Issuing the notice, the commission has given six weeks' time to the state government to submit their report. "It has been observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issue of violation of human rights of the innocent young children who instead of getting proper education and upbringing, have been given in custody of unknown people in lieu of money," the commission observed. The commission has also asked the state government to inform about the status of implementation of flagship programmes announced and being run by the Central and state governments in Rajasthan.

The authorities are expected to identify all the victim children and to take steps to reunite them with their families and ensure all basic amenities including food and education to the children of the aggrieved families. The state government is also expected to conduct a survey to check, if such a practice is prevailing in other districts of the state.

Rajasthan Government Issued Notice by NHRC Over Children Being 'Used as Pawn' in Banswara

NEWS Team Latestly Jun 14, 2019 09:59 PM IST

Jaipur, June 14: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday issued a notice to the Rajasthan government over reports which claimed that children are being "used as pawn" in Banswara village. The Commission has asked the Ashok Gehlot-led regime to submit a report within the next six weeks.

In Banswara, claimed reports, children are being used as pawns by villagers to avail Rs 1,500-2,000 to buy food grains. The children are sent in custody of unknown people, who are feared to misuse them as child labourers or push the minors into trafficking

"It has observed that news report, if true, raise serious issue of violation of human rights of children who instead of getting education and upbringing, have been given in custody of unknown people in lieu of money," the NHRC notice said.

Nearly 500 families from the Gadaria community have reportedly used their children as pawn to get food. The incident is likely to draw widespread condemnation.

This is the second major instance of human rights violation in Rajasthan in the last few days. In the past month, the Commission had dispatched a notice to the state government over the alleged delay into the filing of an FIR in the rape case of a Dalit woman in Alwar.

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NHRC notice to Raj govt over reports of children used as pawns by parents to get money

PTI New Delhi Updated: 14-06-2019 22:57 IST Created: 14-06-2019 22:48 IST

The National Human Rights Commission has sent a notice to the Rajasthan government over reports that many families in Banswara district are allegedly using their children as a pawn to get money for food. The NHRC Friday observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issue of violation of human rights of the innocent young children, who instead of getting proper education and upbringing, have been given to the custody of unknown people in lieu of money.

The NHRC in a statement said, "It has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that there are several villages in Banswara district of the state of Rajasthan in which more than 500 families were found to have used their children as pawn in exchange of Rs 1,500-2,000 from the Gadaria (shepherd) community to get food." The media report has also carried the photographs of children, aged 8 to 12 years, who had been pledged for money.

"The commission has issued a notice to the chief secretary, the government of Rajasthan calling for a detailed report in the matter within six weeks," it said. The NHRC has also asked the state government to inform about the status of implementation of flagship programmes announced and being run by the Centre and the state government in Rajasthan.

"The authorities are expected to identify all the victim children and to take steps to reunite them with their families and ensure all basic amenities, including food and education, to the children of the aggrieved families. The state government is also expected to conduct a survey to check if such practice is prevailing in other districts of the state," it said. According to the media report, carried Thursday, the shepherds put them to the work of cattle grazing.

Chundai, Bor Talab and Memkhor areas in the district of Banswara and Bawdi Kheda, Limbodi and Ambaghati areas falling under Pratapgarh district are the worst affected, it added. It is also mentioned in the news report that government-run schemes like MGNREGA and Bhamashah have "never been implemented" in these areas, the NHRC statement said.

Issuing the notice, the commission has observed that the Right to Food is the basic human right and it is aware of the fact that the central government has introduced several schemes to ensure that poor citizens, particularly in the villages, do not die due to starvation. The commission has further observed that apparently the state has "failed in implementation" of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act of 2009, which mandates free and compulsory education to all children aged 6-14.