



HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony." Mahatma Gandhi

NHRC Regional workshop at Chandigarh on Elimination of Bonded Labour

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India held a day long "Regional Workshop on Elimination of Bonded Labour System" at Chandigarh on the 5th July, 2019. It also covered the issues of Child Labour, Inter-State Migrant Workers and Human Trafficking. It was organized in collaboration with the Chandigarh Administration. The participants felt that proactive action was needed from all the stakeholders to end this menace.

Chairing the workshop, the NHRC Member, Mr. Justice P.C Pant urged upon the need for the effective implementation of various Acts formulated for elimination of bonded labour and prosecution of the offenders. He said that attention needs to be paid to the rehabilitation of rescued bonded labourers.

The participants were of the view that bonded labour exists pre-dominantly in the unorganized sector, which employs maximum labour force in the country. It is also common in the agriculture, mining, silk production, carpet manufacturing, beedi factories, brick-kilns etc. It

was observed that modern forms of bonded labour like employment in mines, road constructions, constructions of malls/multi storey buildings may increase in the times to come ahead. There are many reasons for bonded labour including inequality, gender and caste discrimination and inadequate education. The problem of bonded labour also gives rise to other problems such as ill health, sexual assault, abductions, human trafficking

The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness among the various stakeholders to eliminate the persisting menace of Bonded Labour, Child Labour and Human Trafficking along with addressing the issues of Inter-State Migrant Workers. The concern was to sensitize DMs/SDMs to end this menace from our society.

The workshop was attended by Mr. Justice Iqbal Ahmad Ansari, Chairperson, Punjab State Human Rights Commission, Mr. Justice. S. K. Mittal, Chairperson, Haryana State Human Rights Commission, Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission, Mr. Manoj Parida, Adviser to the Administrator, UT, Chandigarh and senior officers from the States of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir & Union Territory of Chandigarh along with

other representatives of workers unions, NGOs and other stakeholders. The Commission has organized 48 workshops on elimination of bonded labour so far.



NHRC Member, Mr. Justice P.C Pant addressing the Workshop

and other crimes, especially against women and children. The workshop also brought forward the practical difficulties being faced by many of the Government agencies towards elimination of bonded labour.

Workshop for State Commissions for Women on Laws Related to Women

Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, Member, National Human Rights Commission delivered a talk in the "Workshop for State Commissions for Women on Laws Related to Women" on the 20th June, 2019 at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) at Mussoorie, Uttarakhand. It was organized in collaboration with the National Commission for Women, New Delhi. The aim of the workshop was to create synergy amongst members of State Commissions for Women, orient them about various issues concerning



NHRC Member, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra, addressing the Workshop

women and discuss challenges in the implementation of safeguards enacted for women.

Considering the nature of

complaints, received by the Women Commissions, Mrs. Kalra explained to the participants laws related to dowry, harassment of woman by husband and his relatives and domestic violence. After giving a basic idea about these laws, a case study was distributed amongst the participants and they were asked to explain the laws violated therein. The participants were specifically explained the remedies available to the aggrieved women and which forum they can approach for redressal of their grievances.

Cases of Human Rights Defenders

On 3rd July, 2019 a communication was received by the Focal Point for Human Rights Defenders of the Commission from Mr. Bhajaman Biswal, alleging that he has been receiving threatening calls. He also alleged that he was attacked by some hooligans but despite reporting the matter to the police, no action had been taken in the matter. The matter was immediately taken up with the DGP, Odisha for urgent necessary action in the matter and for

providing protection to the Human Rights Defender, if the circumstances warrant so. The DGP, Odisha was also requested to submit a report in the matter within four weeks for perusal by the Commission. The matter has been registered as Case No. 2391/18/3/2019 for further processing.

Another call was received on 10th July, 2019 from Shri Ponmudi @ Raja, a Human Rights Defenders, apprehending threat to his life. The

matter was immediately taken up with the concerned SP in Tamil Nadu for immediate appropriate action. He was also requested to submit a report in the matter within two days for perusal by the Commission. The matter has been registered as Case No. 1529/222/46/2019 for further processing. The Human Rights Defenders were also apprised of the intervention by the Focal Point in their matters, which were subsequently placed before the Commission.

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 11 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during 16th June to 15th July, 2019 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of the cases are as follows:

Suicide in a police station (Case No.2009/4/24/2019-AD)

The media reported that a local leader of the ruling JD(U), allegedly, hanged himself inside a police station in Nalanda, Bihar. He was detained in connection with a kidnapping case. The family of the leader, identified as Ganesh Ravidas, claimed that the police tortured him in custody. The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Bihar calling for a detailed report in the matter.

Gang rape of a Dalit girl (Case No.1577/7/21/2019-WC)

The media reported that a 12-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly abducted, taken to an under-construction house of a "cop" and gang raped for two days in Nuh, Haryana. Reportedly, the grandmother of the victim had approached the police authorities on 09.07.2019 but no help was provided to her by the police. The police eventually filed a case under the POCSO Act on 11.07.2019, and nabbed three persons, who reportedly confessed to the crime. The Commission has issued a notice to the

Director General of Police, Haryana calling for a detailed report including the status of the investigation and the relief and rehabilitation and counselling provided to the victim girl.

Suicide in police custody (Case No.1515/22/46/2019-AD)

The media reported on 12.07.2019 that a man attempted suicide in police custody in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu on 11.07.2019. The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu calling for a detailed report including Inquest Report, Post-mortem Examination Report and report of the Magisterial Enquiry.

Sexual assault of a school girl by a teacher (Case No. 1584/7/15/2019-WC)

The media reported on 12/7/2019 that a class 11 student, studying in a government school in Panipat district of Haryana, was, allegedly, repeatedly raped by one of the teachers in the school and the victim is now seven months pregnant. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana calling for a detailed report including the status of the investigation and arrest of the accused. The authorities are also expected to provide all possible assistance and support to the family of the victim to overcome the trauma and to facilitate her rehabilitation.

Death in police custody in Udham Singh Nagar (Case No. 718/35/12/2019-AD)

The media reported that in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand, an 18 year old man died in police custody on 11.07.2019. According to the reported police claim, he hanged himself in the police lock-up but his family has alleged that he was beaten up by the police personnel and there were injury marks on his body. The Commission has issued a notice to the Director General of Police, Uttarakhand calling for a detailed report including Inquest Report, Post-mortem Examination Report and report of the Magisterial Enquiry conducted in the matter.

A student gets injured as ceiling fan falls on him in school (Case No.3211/30/2/2019)

The media reported on 11/07/2019 that a ceiling fan fell on a 13 year old student seriously injuring him in a government school in Trilok Puri area of Delhi on 09.07.2019. The uncle of the injured student has reportedly alleged that no teacher or the principal accompanied the boy rather two school guards took him to the hospital. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi calling for a detailed report in the matter. The Commission has also directed the Chief Secretary to ensure that the best

treatment is provided to the injured student and the authorities concerned are sensitized to conduct a survey at all the government schools to identify and rectify unsafe fixtures and fittings, immediately so that such incidents do not recur in future.

**Four persons died while cleaning the storm water disposal tank
(Case No.1439/7/17/2019)**

The media reported on 27.06.2019 that four workers died while cleaning the pump in a storm water disposal tank near meat market on Kacha Beri road, Rohtak, Haryana on the 26.06. 2019. An FIR had been registered against the Public Health Engineering (PHE) on the complaint of the brother of the victims that they were not provided the safety

devices. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary of the state and the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak, Haryana calling for a detailed report in the matter including status of investigation, payment of compensation to the next of kin of the deceased workers and the steps taken for their rehabilitation.

Important Intervention

Notices to Union Health Ministry and all the States/UTs over reported deplorable health infrastructure

Expressing serious concern over the deplorable public health infrastructure in the country, the Commission has taken suo motu cognizance of a series of media reports about the loss of precious human lives in various parts of the country in recent times due to deficiencies and inadequacies in the healthcare system. This follows a notice issued in the matter of deaths due to encephalitis in Bihar on 17.06.2019 in case No. 1720/4/23/2019.

The Commission has observed that a large number of deaths of the innocent people including women, children and elderly persons are taking place due to the lack of proper medical care, infrastructure, manpower and administrative failure,

across the country.

The Commission has therefore issued notices to:

- the Chief Secretaries of all the States and UTs to submit their reports giving the details of the incidents relating to deaths due to the lack of health and medical care facilities that have taken place during the last three years and steps taken by them to prevent their recurrence along with efforts made by providing relief and rehabilitation to the aggrieved; and
- the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to submit a comprehensive report within four weeks on the observations made by the Commission.

The Commission has also directed that the teams comprising doctors on the panel of the Commission along with its officers will visit hospitals, primary health centres and other health facilities in vulnerable States one by one starting with Bihar, U.P., Haryana and Punjab to conduct on-the-spot fact-finding investigations. The teams will also take stock of the ground situation, especially, in vulnerable areas with regard to difficulties being faced by the people and shortcomings on the part of the respective State Government/Central agencies. The Commission finally intends to issue suitable guidelines for the implementation by the States/ Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

From the NHRC Investigation files / Case No. 321/36/10/2017

The Commission received a complaint from Mulkala Pally Krishna alleging that his son namely Mulukalapally Charan, a student of 5th class of TSWRS (Telengana Social Welfare Residential School) and living in boys hostel was killed on 09.08.2016 by the senior students during ragging and inaction by the state authorities. The police report

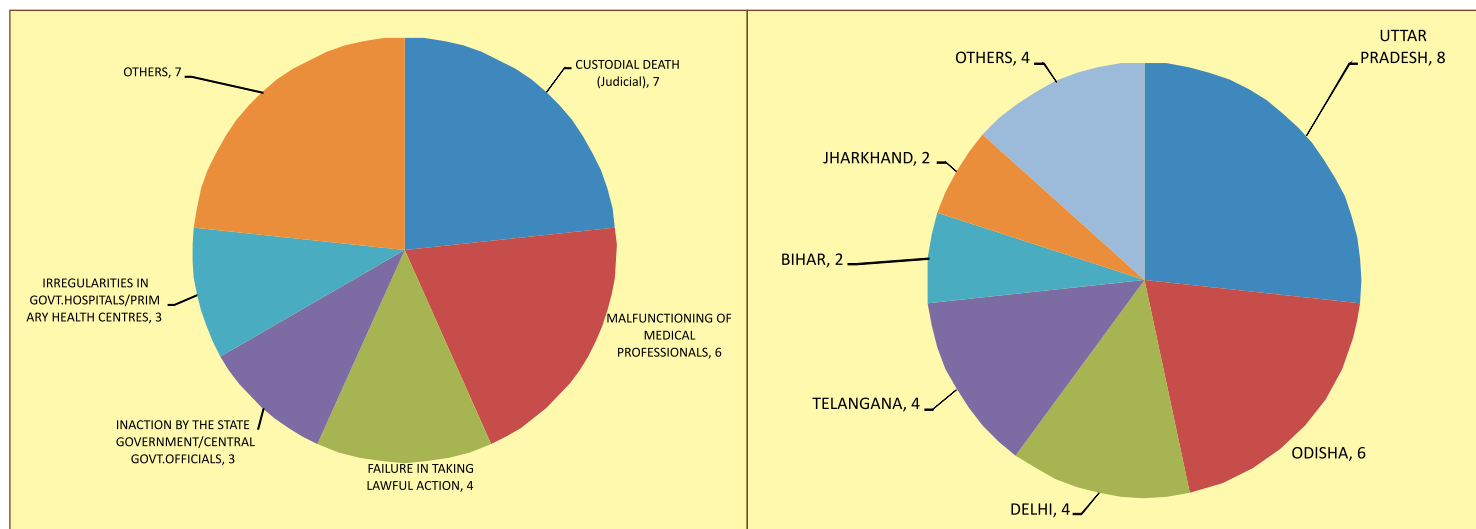
revealed that the boy was a patient of epilepsy and the cause of his death was injuries sustained by him during an epilepsy attack. Pursuant to the directions of the Commission, a spot enquiry was conducted by a team of its Investigation Division. The school authorities were found negligent and lax in handling the situation and

circumstances that led to the untimely and unfortunate death of a small child. The administration of TSWRS had already initiated departmental action against the then School Principal for her negligent attitude towards management of school affairs. The Commission recommended Rs. 2 lakhs compensation to NoK of the deceased.

Recommendations for Relief

Apart from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 86 cases were taken up during 04 sitting of the Full Commission and 02 sitting of Divisional Bench w.e.f. 16th June to 15th July, 2019. On 30 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 8370000/- for the victims or their next of kin, where it found that public servants had either violated human rights or been negligent in protecting them. **The specific details of these cases can be downloaded from the Complaint Section in the NHRC website by logging the case no given in the table:**

SR. NO.	FILE NO	INCIDENT NAME	COMP. AMOUNT	STATE NAME
1	3341/30/3/2016	HEALTH	200000	DELHI
2	4186/30/7/2017	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	100000	DELHI
3	835/10/14/2015	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	2100000	KARNATAKA
4	3322/18/28/2014	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	200000	ODISHA
5	5065/18/12/2017	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	300000	ODISHA
6	2289/19/15/2013	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	200000	PUNJAB
7	34432/24/48/2015	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
8	2387/18/12/2016	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT.HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	300000	ODISHA
9	81/36/2/2018	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT.HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	25000	TELANGANA
10	10592/24/4/2016	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT.HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
11	2473/4/20/2017-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (JUDICIAL)	300000	BIHAR
12	2511/30/9/2010-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (JUDICIAL)	500000	DELHI
13	482/34/16/2017-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (JUDICIAL)	100000	JHARKHAND
14	1007/1/7/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (JUDICIAL)	200000	TELANGANA
15	945/36/0/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (JUDICIAL)	300000	TELANGANA
16	993/36/0/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (JUDICIAL)	200000	TELANGANA
17	21892/24/51/2017-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (JUDICIAL)	300000	UTTAR PRADESH
18	45951/24/70/2013	DENIAL OF MEDICAL FACILITIES	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
19	1646/4/32/2017	ARBITRARY USE OF POWER	300000	BIHAR
20	599/20/29/2018	ABUSE OF POWER	300000	RAJASTHAN
21	3443/18/5/2017	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	300000	ODISHA
22	18892/24/7/2016	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
23	25774/24/18/2016	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
24	40318/24/52/2015	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
25	896/22/37/2010	ILLEGAL ARREST	500000	TAMIL NADU
26	3451/30/2/2017	NON-PAYMENT OF PENSION/COMPENSATION	25000	DELHI
27	26074/24/14/2013-WC	GANG RAPE	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
28	1289/34/4/2016	INACTION BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT/CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	70000	JHARKHAND
29	14010/18/5/2015	INACTION BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT/CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	150000	ODISHA
30	2911/18/16/2016	INACTION BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT/CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	300000	ODISHA

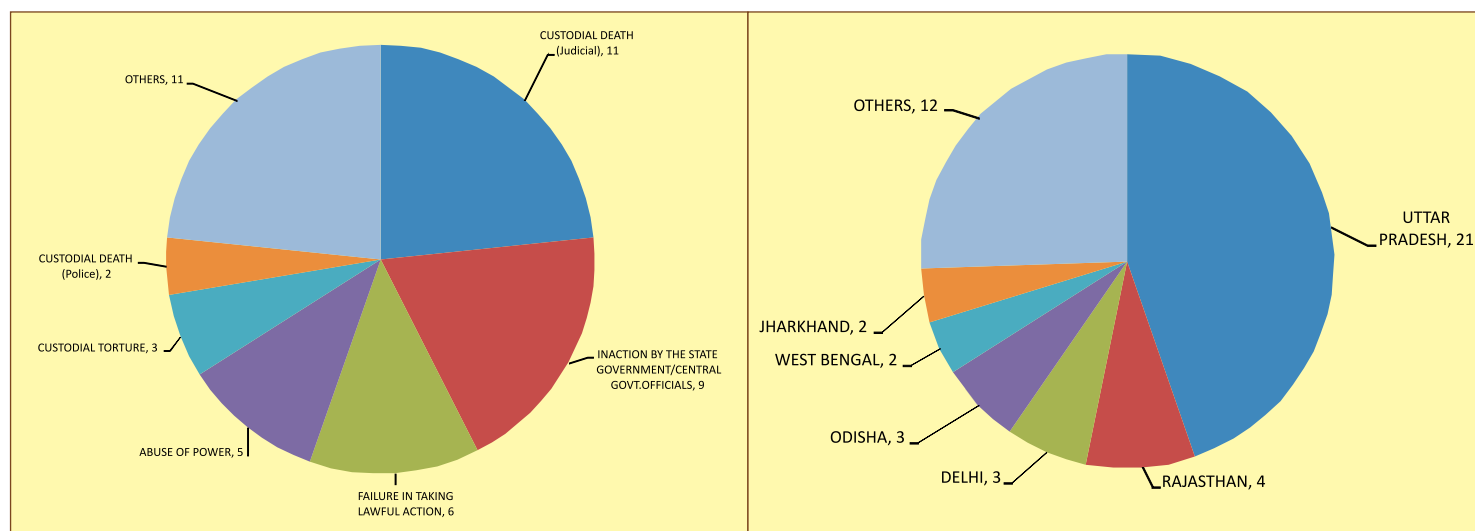


Payment of relief on NHRC Recommendations

The Commission closed 47 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments, it had recommended, totalling ₹ 87000000/- the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin. **The specific details of these cases, closed w.e.f. 16th June-15th July, 2019, can be downloaded from the Complaint Section in the NHRC website by logging the case no given in the table below:**

SR NO	FILE NO	INCIDENT NAME	COMP. AMT.	STATE NAME
1	1268/25/6/2017	SEXUAL HARASSMENT/UNNATURAL OFFENCE	200000	WEST BENGAL
2	231/12/23/2010	PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS	400000	MADHYA PRADESH
3	3039/20/33/2015	MALFUNCTIONING OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS	250000	RAJASTHAN
4	16053/24/47/2017	IRREGULARITIES IN GOVT.HOSPITALS/PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
5	1085/1/10/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	150000	ANDHRA PRADESH
6	258/4/8/2012-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	BIHAR
7	760/33/1/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	CHHATTISGARH
8	789/6/25/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	500000	GUJARAT
9	354/11/13/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	300000	KERALA
10	851/20/21/2015-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	RAJASTHAN
11	1060/1/7/2013-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	TELANGANA
12	16293/24/55/2012-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
13	18307/24/22/2014-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
14	28202/24/57/2016-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
15	37313/24/48/2012-JCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Judicial)	500000	UTTAR PRADESH
16	388/34/4/2018-WC	RAPE OUTSIDE POLICE STATION	200000	JHARKHAND
17	593/30/0/2017	ABUSE OF POWER	50000	DELHI
18	2734/20/23/2014	ABUSE OF POWER	25000	RAJASTHAN
19	2051/24/40/2014	ABUSE OF POWER	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
20	27930/24/18/2015	ABUSE OF POWER	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
21	3032/24/30/2018	ABUSE OF POWER	500000	UTTAR PRADESH
22	2868/20/22/2015-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	500000	RAJASTHAN
23	18908/24/30/2016-PCD	CUSTODIAL DEATH (Police)	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
24	2956/24/23/2016	CUSTODIAL TORTURE	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
25	33143/24/52/2014	CUSTODIAL TORTURE	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
26	18/25/4/2017	CUSTODIAL TORTURE	100000	WEST BENGAL
27	550/34/20/2012	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	100000	JHARKHAND
28	8/23/5/2012	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	TRIPURA
29	12066/24/3/2014	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
30	18967/24/18/2014	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
31	29095/24/1/2015	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
32	8414/24/61/2013	FAILURE IN TAKING LAWFUL ACTION	25000	UTTAR PRADESH
33	7/16/3/2016	VICTIMISATION	75000	MIZORAM
34	55/9/2003-2004-AD	ALLEGED CUSTODIAL DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY	500000	JAMMU & KASHMIR
35	30738/24/27/2013-WC	DOWERY DEATH OR THEIR ATTEMPT	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
36	3358/30/10/2013-WC	INDIGNITY OF WOMEN	20000	DELHI

SR NO	FILE NO	INCIDENT NAME	COMP. AMT.	STATE NAME
37	545/13/6/2013-WC	RAPE	100000	MAHARASHTRA
38	354/3/9/2013	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	100000	ASSAM
39	1446/30/0/2015	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	300000	DELHI
40	1191/18/17/2017	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	600000	ODISHA
41	13304/18/8/2015	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	600000	ODISHA
42	3746/18/32/2013	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	10000	ODISHA
43	17753/24/19/2014	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	270000	UTTAR PRADESH
44	28399/24/19/2013	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	100000	UTTAR PRADESH
45	37408/24/12/2014	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	50000	UTTAR PRADESH
46	5410/24/46/2016	INACTION BY THE STATE /CENTRAL GOVT.OFFICIALS	200000	UTTAR PRADESH
47	16672/24/52/2012-AD	ALLEGED CUSTODIAL DEATH	NULL	UTTAR PRADESH



Success Stories

The following are the summaries of some of the important cases wherein the Commission, after enquiries, held the public authorities accountable for human rights violations during the one month w.e.f. 16th June, 2019 to 15th July, 2019:

Case No.77/99/4/2019

Five Indian seamen, working on-board MT-APECUS, IMO No.7333810 under the flag – Palau, were kidnapped on 19.04.2018, while their ship was anchoring at the Port Abuja, Nigeria. The Commission took cognizance in the matter on 08.05.2019. The Commission met the relatives of the seamen and also took

up the matter of their release with the officers in the Ministry of External Affairs - Overseas Employments & Protectorate General of Emigrants, Indian Ambassador in Nigeria, Director General, Shipping and Commissioner of Police, Navi Mumbai. As a result, the High Commission of India, Nigeria nominated the Coordinating Officer in the Embassy to be in constant touch with the family members of the kidnapped seafarers. Due to persuasive efforts of the Commission, the five Indian seamen were released by the Nigerian Pirates on 29.06.2019.

Case No. 32401/24/47/2016

The Commission received a

complaint dated 20.08.2016 from Mr. Sanjiv Ahirwar stating that on 02.08.2016 at about 11.00 a.m., he took his sister-in-law (brother's wife) to the District Women Clinic, Lalitpur, U.P. for delivery. Around 2.00 p.m.. The Doctor assured him about normal delivery and well-being of the mother and the new-born baby, but was asked to pay a bribe for the normal delivery. It is alleged that Mrs. Deepti was taken to the Labour room and was manhandled by the Nurses and the delivery was carried out in a very inhumane manner. After delivery, the child was put in the incubator and the complainant was again asked to pay for a bribe of Rs. 3,000/.

Later, the complainant was informed about the death of his sister-in-law as well as the new-born child. The Complainant approached the CO and the Inspector-in-charge, PS, Lalitpur, but to no avail. Pursuant to the Commission's directions an enquiry was conducted by the Chief Medical Superintendent, District Health Centre, Lalitpur. He, prima facie, found the doctor responsible for the incident and initiated departmental action against him. Accordingly, the Commission recommended payment of Rs.3.00 lakh as monetary relief to the NoK of the deceased and has sought a compliance report from the Chief Secretary, Government of UP.

Case No. 3451/30/2/2017

The complainant of this case retired from the Health Department, East Delhi Municipal Corporation in December, 2016. But his retirement benefits were not released. Pursuant to the directions of the Commission, reports were received, according to which the Municipal Authorities and the Government of Delhi blamed each other in the matter. Apparently, the complainant's grievance could not be addressed by any of the State Authorities. Thus, he was left to face hardships and harassments post-retirement violating his human rights. The Commission has directed the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi to pay interim relief of Rs.25,000/- to the complainant. The East Delhi Municipal Corporation was also directed to make payment of all the legitimate dues alongwith the applicable interest.

Case No.15878/24/43/2018

The complainant alleged that officers of Kanpur Nagar Police came to his godown on 04.04.2018 around 12.30 p.m. and demanded monthly bribe of Rs.5,00,000/-. Although he complained to the superior police officers but instead of taking action

against the errant officers, the police personnel again reached his house on 13.04.2018 around 11.00 p.m. and beat him. They snatched money and gold chain from him. On his refusal to pay the bribe, the police team picked him and took to the Police Station. He was falsely implicated in a case on 06.04.2018 and sent to jail. The complainant sought protection. The enquiry report of the State Authorities confirmed the allegations of harassment, torture made by the complainant. The Commission noted that the human rights of the complainant and his father were violated. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh was issued a notice to show cause why an interim relief of Rs.1,00,000/- each should not be granted to the victims. The Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh has been directed to submit report regarding the penal prosecution and the departmental proceedings initiated against the delinquent police personnel.

Case No.1081/13/30/2018

The complainant, while returning to his house on 13.05.2018, found a group of people fighting and intervened to control the situation. The police reached the spot and allegedly misbehaved with the complainant and took him to PS – Bazarpeth. He was assaulted and harassed by five police officials without any offence. The Superintendent of Police, Thane Rural, Maharashtra in his enquiry report confirmed excesses on the part of police officials. He also informed that appropriate action against the named police officials had been recommended.

The relief noted that the human rights of the complainant had been violated by the public servants. Accordingly, the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra was issued a notice to show cause why monetary

relief of Rs.2,00,000/- should not be recommended to be paid to the victim. The Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh has been directed to submit report regarding the penal prosecution and the departmental proceedings initiated against the delinquent police personnel.

Case No. 2511/30/9/2010-JCD

The Commission has recommended the payment of Rs 5 lakh in a case of death in judicial custody to the next of the kin of Sheru @ Pankaj, who died in Tihar Central Jail, New Delhi on 24/06/2010, where he was lodged as an under trial prisoner since 11/04/2008. On the basis of material on record provided by the concerned public authority, in response to the notices of the Commission, it was found that Sheru was physically tortured in custody by the prison authorities leading to his death. The Commission besides seeking a compliance report from the Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT, Delhi for the proof of payment of monetary relief to the victim's family. It has also asked him to initiate disciplinary proceedings against all the erring jail officials as per the Magisterial Enquiry Report. The Commission has asked the Additional Commissioner of Police (Vigilance), Delhi to further enquire the case FIR No. 296/12 under the provisions of Section 173(8) with the permission of concerned court in view of the findings recorded in the magisterial enquiry.

Case No.18908/24/30/2016

The Commission in a case of death in police custody recommended Rs. 2 lakh as monetary relief to the next of kin of deceased. In response, the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, paid the amount and submitted the proof of payment to the Commission. The victim Vinod was in the custody of police and died on 29/04/2016.

Sub-committee on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The National Human Rights Commission constituted a Sub-Committee headed by its Member, Dr. D.M. Mulay and comprising Mr. P.K. Pincha, Special Rapporteur and Mr. Rajive Raturi, Core Group member to review the extent of compliance to the requirement of harmonization and to identify legislative gap between UN Convention on Rights of Persons with

Disabilities UNCPRD and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and also to provide recommendations for the same. India became a signatory to the Convention in March, 2007 and ratified it in October, 2007.

The Sub-Committee along with the special invitees from the Department of Empowerment of

Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of NCT of Delhi and representatives of civil society organizations finalized a draft report for the consideration of the Commission.

Meeting on the rights of leprosy affected people

A meeting was held in the Commission on the 18th June 2019 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice P.C. Pant, Member, NHRC to discuss the rights of people affected by Leprosy. He stated that with Leprosy come all sorts of socio-economic problems related to education, poverty, discrimination, employment. Despite laws in place, the people affected by Leprosy are still being discriminated against as the mindsets remain unchanged.

Dr. Vineeta Shanker, Executive Director, Sasakawa India Leprosy

Foundation said that there is no way to identify the systems for the onset of disease. Also, not much research has been done to see the linkage between Leprosy and hygiene, awareness, malnutrition and poverty. Despite the public health programmes run by the government, the numbers of new cases have not declined, thereby making Leprosy a major public health concern. She said that Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have a significant number of Leprosy cases.

Giving an insight into the NHRC recommendations on leprosy in

2012, Dr. M.D.S Tyagi, Joint Director (Research) said that there is a need to generate awareness about it. He also said that discriminating provisions against the leprosy affected people, like Indian Railways Act 1989, Sec.56, Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation Act, 1980, needed to be removed for more affirmative action to change the mindsets about leprosy affected persons to end their problems. Besides the delegation of Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, NHRC Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind and other officers participated in the discussions.

Meeting on human rights of seafarers

The National Human Rights Commission organized a meeting on human rights of seafarers at Manav Adhikar Bhawan, New Delhi on 09.07.2019. Dr. D.M. Mulay chaired it. He said that the reports of human rights abuse of seafarers is a serious matter of concern and a more coordinating approach was required between the Ministries of Shipping and External Affairs to handle their issues. Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, NHRC said that such interactions would be useful for understanding of the problems



NHRC Member, Dr. D. M. Mulay chairing the Meeting

and various challenges being faced by seafarers. Captain Sanjay Prashar, Vice President, Forum for Integrated National Security, (FINS) through his presentation, highlighted how illegal agents were cheating thousands of young men in the country in the name of providing them job opportunities in

the Merchant Navy. But they do not take responsibility when the seafarers are abandoned or end-up in foreign jails due to irregularities committed by their employers. It was decided that a working groups would be constituted to regularly monitor the cases of human rights violations of Indian

seafarers. The participants included, among others, officials from the Union Ministries of Shipping and External Affairs, representatives of FINS, Human Rights Activists, NHRC, DG (I), Mr. Prabhat Singh, Registrar (Law), Mr. Surajit Dey.

NHRC Short Term Internship

The National Human Rights Commission, through its Training Division, has been organizing various training programmes including the Short Term Internships, STIs of fifteen days for the graduate and post graduate level students from different colleges and universities for building awareness about human rights.



Interns with the NHRC Member Mrs. Jyotika Kalra and senior officers after completion of their Short Term Internship

Now, the STIs have also been made more structured on the lines of its much in demand month long summer and winter internships. The first such structured STI was held from 3rd July to 17th July, 2019. 61 students completed it. They were exposed to various aspects of human rights including laws, international covenants, jurisdiction and

functioning of the Commission. They were taken for field visits and given project works on human rights issues and also participated in the declamation competition for which cash prizes were also announced for the winners. The NHRC Members, Mr. Justice P.C. Pant, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra and Dr. D.M. Mulay, Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind, Director General (I), Mr. Prabhat Singh and other senior officers interacted with them. Some subject specialists, including human rights defenders, were also invited as guest speakers to interact with them. All the students were given certificates on completion of their internship.

Video Conference with senior officers of State Governments

In continuation with the series of video-conferences with the State Government authorities, the NHRC officers, led by Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, interacted with the senior officers of Sikkim, Punjab and Haryana in the month of July, 2019 to get pending reports in the cases of human rights violations from them. Apart from this, the State authorities were also informed about the linking of NHRC online complaints filing

system with the Common Service Centres and asked to publicise this facility so that common people could easily lodge the complaints of their human rights violations in far flung areas easily.

Login credentials to access HRCNet Portal and uploading pending reports have been provided to State Nodal Officers Human Rights (Civil & Police). Till now, hundreds of reports have been uploaded in the portal by State

Govt. Authorities.

Mr. Prabhat Singh, Director General (Investigation) and Mr. Surajit Dey, Registrar (Law) Ms. Chhaya Sharma, DIG, Ms. Manzil Saini, SSP, Ms. Sumedha Dwivedi, SSP, Mr. Sunil Arora, JR(Law), Nodal Officers for the States from the law Division, Mr. Jaimini Kumar Srivastava, DD (M&C) and Mr. Sanjeev Sharma, Senior Systems Analyst participated in the video conference.

Editorial Board Meeting of NHRC English Journal, 2019

Mr. Justice H. L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC chaired the Editorial Board Meeting of the Commission's English Journal- 2019 on the 27th June, 2019. The contents & themes were discussed on which articles from domain experts and eminent persons could be invited. The themes included 'Right to Food and Nutrition', 'Freedom of speech and expression', 'Environment

and Human Rights', 'Social security and health status of workers in the unorganized Sector', 'Safe and sustainable access to drinking water and sanitation' etc.

The participants included NHRC Members, Mrs. Jyotika Kalra and Dr. D.M. Mulay, Prof. R. Venkat Rao, Vice-Chancellor, NLSIU, Prof. Faizan

Mustafa, Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Prof. Yogesh Tyagi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi, Prof. Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor, NLU Delhi, Mr. T.K. Oommen, Emeritus Professor, JNU and Prof. Sanjay Hazarika, Director, CHRI. Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, Mr. Dilip Kumar, Joint Secretary (A&R) and Dr. M.D.S. Tyagi, Joint Director (Research), NHRC.

Union Home Minister Mr. Amit Shah to grace NHRC's Foundation Day

Mr. Jaideep Govind, Secretary General, NHRC met the Union Home Minister, Mr. Amit Shah on the 18th July, 2019 and extended him the invitation of the NHRC Chairperson, Mr. Justice H.L. Dattu to grace the Foundation Day function of the Commission on the 12th October, 2019. He has accepted the invitation. Mr. Govind also briefed the Home Minister about the various activities of the Commission.



NHRC Secretary General, Mr. Jaideep Govind meeting the Union Home Minister, Mr. Amit Shah

Kondagaon district of Chhattisgarh tops aspirational district rankings of NITI Ayog

Kondagaon district in the Bastar Division of Chhattisgarh, for which Mr. Dilip Kumar, Joint Secretary, NHRC was entrusted the responsibility as the Central Prabhari Officer, has topped the aspirational district rankings issued by the NITI Ayog in May, 2019 and has evolved as a role model. Despite being affected by the left wing extremism and away from the mainstream, Kondagaon showed consistency in maintaining high rankings throughout the year due to the sustained application of

innovative methods of governance as part of a collaborative exercise between the Central Prabhari Officer and State Nodal and Prabhari

officer in close coordination with the district administration. These monthly rankings were started in 2018 after identifying 115 districts across the country that were low on human development indices. The rankings measure the incremental progress on the basis of 49 indicators across six development areas including health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure.



NHRC Joint Secretary, Mr. Dilip Kumar visiting a skill development centre in Kondagaon district, focussed on the assembly of LED bulbs.

Snippets

HRC Net Portal in State Human Rights Commissions

The State Human Rights Commissions, SHRCs of Bihar and Meghalaya have also sent their consent to the National Human Rights Commission for joining the HRCNet Portal in the month of July 2019. So far 17 SHRCs have joined the HRCNet portal.

Visits

The following delegations visited the NHRC, India to understand its functioning from 15th June to 15th July, 2019 :

1. A delegation of 9 Officers of RPF Academy, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
2. 19 Officers from LNIN National Institute of Criminology & Forensic Sciences, MHA, New Delhi

Appointments

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC, India has appointed five Special Monitors, who would report to the Commission on their assigned thematic issues of human rights from across the country. They include Mr. Ajeet Singh, Mr. Rajive

Raturi, Ms. Razia Ismail, Ms. Maja Daruwala and Mr. Ambuj Sharma. Ms. Razia Ismail, Mr. Ajeet Singh, Mr. Rajive Raturi and Mr. Ambuj Sharma visited the Commission and had an interaction with the senior NHRC officers led by the Secretary General,

Mr. Jaideep Govind to understand the functioning of the Commission with an orientation to their assignments. Their appointments will be for a period of one year with effect from 11th July, 2019.

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