• Vol. 24 • No. 8

August, 2017

From the Editor's Desk

Human Rights

Newsletter

The part of the

The month of July, 2017 became very significant from the perspective of human rights. The Supreme Court ordered for a CBI enquiry into 95 cases of encounters in Manipur between 2000 to 2012, while hearing the Writ Petition (CRL.) No. 129 of 2012 on the 14th July. These cases were part of the Commission of enquiry, judicial enquiry and High Court and NHRC proceedings. The Apex Court also dwelt at length upon the constraints of the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC in fulfilling its mandate under the Protection of Human Rights, PHR Act.

This order was widely covered by most of the prominent English and Hindi newspapers. It underscores the constitutional and judicial importance attached to human rights in India. It also serves as a critique on the responsibilities of governments towards strengthening our human rights protection mechanism.

It noted that "The general submission of the NHRC is that there should be implementation of its communications and Guidelines, enforcement of the orders passed by it and serious consideration of the recommendations made by the NHRC and necessary provision for its effective functioning." Observing that the difficulties faced by the NHRC due to inadequate officers and staff have something to worry about from the human rights perspective, the Court said that the provisions of the PHR Act make it an obligation on part of the Central Government to "provide adequate officers and staff so that the NHRC can perform its functions efficiently."

The court, very significantly, also observed that "Considering that such a high powered body has brought out its difficulties through affidavits and written submissions filed in this Court, we have no doubt that it has been most unfortunately reduced to a toothless tiger. We are of the clear opinion that any request made by the NHRC in this regard must be expeditiously and favorably respected and considered by the Union of India otherwise it would become impossible for the NHRC to function effectively and would also invite avoidable criticism regarding respect for human rights in our country. We direct the Union of India to take note of the concerns of the NHRC and remedy them at the earliest and with a positive outlook.... We expect all State Governments to abide by the directions issued by the NHRC in regard to compensation and other issues as may arise from time to time. If the people of our country are deprived of human rights or cannot have them enforced, democracy itself would be in peril."

Having shared the concerns of the NHRC towards its effective functioning, the court however, expressed its disappointment on the failure of the Commission to bring out its annual reports timely. The court noted that the latest annual report available on the NHRC website was of 2012-2013. According to PHR Act, the Commission is required to "submit an annual report to the Central Government and State Government concerned, which they are required to lay before each House of Parliament or the State Legislature respectively, as the case may be, along with a memorandum of action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations of the Commission and the reasons for non-acceptance of the recommendations, if any."

This process may take time and thus, delay the tabling of annual report in Parliament. Moreover, understandably, it is the privilege of Parliament to know first the contents of the report and hence, till the process of its tabling before Parliament is complete, it is not disclosed in public domain.

Nevertheless, given the importance of human rights, the Supreme Court's hope for expeditious availability of annual reports of the Commission would serve as a guiding light to take steps for any possible course correction to this effect by the NHRC as well as the Central Government. May be, in order to avoid delay, the report is first tabled in Parliament thereby giving grounds to the legislature to question Government(s) on their actions or inactions, if any, on the recommendations of the Commission rather than tabling the report alongwith the ATRs of the Government(s) on the recommendations of the Commission.

NHRC, India attends UN General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

Justice Shri H.L. Dattu, Chairperson, NHRC accompanied by Dr. Ranjit Singh, Joint Secretary, (P&A), attended the 8th Session of the UN General Assembly's 'Open-ended Working Group, OEWG on Ageing' at New York, USA from the 5th -7th July, 2017. The OEWG is a UN working group established by a resolution at the 2010 General Assembly. Its main purpose is to strengthen the mechanism for the protection of human

Contd...P/2

'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting' at Dehradun



From L to R: NHRC Members, Smt. Jyotika Kalra, Justice Shri P.C. Ghose and Justice Shri D. Murugesan at the 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting'

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC organised two days' 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting' at Girls ITI (IRDT) Auditorium, Dehradun, Uttarakhand on the 13th-14th July, 2017. Inaugurating the programme, Justice Shri P.C. Ghose, Member, NHRC said that 'Open hearings' manifest the Commission's mandate for protection and promotion of human rights. He said that these hearings

Contd...P/2

More in this issue...

- Suo Motu Cognizance
- Important Intervention
- Recommendations for Relief
- Compliance with NHRC Recommendations
- Workshop on Elimination of Bonded Labour
 - Complaints received / processed in July, 2017

Visit NHRC, India at: www.nhrc.nic.in

NHRC, India attends UN General Assembly's.....contd. from P/1

rights of older people.

Justice Dattu, during discussions, highlighted the Constitution of India and various Government policies which have provisions for the well being and protection of elderly persons. These include, 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007'. The Chairperson said that with the increasing number of older persons in India, the issues related to their security, good health, dignity, equality and comfortable living would require to be addressed. The Chairperson also focused on the Commission's initiatives and best practices towards the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons.

The initiatives include constitution of Core Group on protection and welfare of the older persons, suggestions to government on National policy for senior citizens, starting a post graduate course in medicine on Gerontology, promotion of research, spreading awareness through training, seminars and bringing out publications for wider dissemination of information on the rights of elderly

persons. The best practices of NHRC, include robust 'Complaint Management System', suo motu cognizance of the issues of human rights violations of elderly persons, 'Open hearings & Camp sittings' of the Commission, monetary relief recommended by the Commission, having a 'Focal Point for Human Rights Defenders', directions for: establishing Old-Age Homes and Appellate Tribunals, appointing Special Rapporteurs, calling for action taken reports from Government(s) on its recommendations.

During the discussions it was felt, among others, that the special measures and positive actions were required to be taken to ensure equality and non-discriminatory approach, both in policies and practise, to address the disadvantages faced by older persons. Besides, implementation of some of the existing policy frame works were required to be expedited to protect the vulnerable older persons from physical, financial and psychological exploitation. In the dialogues with states, the monitoring mechanisms and special procedures should pay special attention to the condition of older persons.

'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting'.....contd. from P/1

have been instrumental in giving voice and on the spot relief to the people from the marginalized sections of society. On the occasion, Dr. Ranbir Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, assured the Commission that the State government is committed to the promotion and protection of human rights.

After the inaugu-ration, the NHRC members, Justice

Shri P.C. Ghose, Justice Shri D. Murugesan and Smt. Jyotika Kalra heard 27 matters in the 'Open Hearing'. The Commission disposed of 15 cases giving directions to the concerned authorities for redressal of the grievances of the complainants.

In a case of death of one Kanwar Singh due to falling in an open drain on the Delhi-

Dehradun Highway, the Commission has recommended that the Government of Uttarakhand pay ₹ 3 lakhs as compensation to the next of kin of the deceased. In four cases, the Commission has sought the comments of the complainants on the reports presented by the State government. In some cases, the Commission has called

for further reports from the authorities. It also expressed concern over the delay by the Police in registration of First Information Reports in some cases.

While hearing the cases of bonded labour, the Commission expressed displeasure over the poor response from the concerned government authorities. It said that the District Magistrates and officers of Labour Department

needed to be sensitized about provisions of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act.

Several issues human rights violations' including bonded labour, problems of Scheduled Castes and other depressed sections society, were discussed during the meeting with the Chief Secretary, Addl. Chief Secretary, DGP and secretaries of



A corss section of people present at the Open Hearing and Camp Sitting

various departments of the State Government. They were told that dealing with the problems of the people with a humane approach would only help them in achieving their goal towards good governance.

The Commission also discussed with the senior officers, the issues raised during its meeting with NGOs.

These related to the rights of differently able persons such as non-availability of ramps or lifts for them in public offices, issue of disability certificates, certificate of Autism, denial of admission to such children in regular schools despite the Right to Education Act and other legal provisions, absence of specially trained teachers for them. The subject of denial of admission to street children in schools due to non-issue of birth certificates by Nagar Nigam, despite orders from Child Welfare Committees was also raised.

Issues of forest dwellers' rights and sufferings of Rudiya community, non-payment of compensation to villagers displaced due to acquisition of their lands for development

projects, issues of rampant displacement and migration due to lack of education and health facilities, shortage of doctors, nurses, para-medical staff and specialist doctors in government hospitals and lack of mental health care facilities in the State were also brought to the notice of the Commission. The issue of non-implementation of the Disaster Management Act in the State was raised. It was also pointed out that there was lack of remedial measures for issues related to the sexual harassment of women and domestic violence and that there were no rehabilitation centres for victims of such crimes.

Later, the Commission briefed the media about the outcome of the 'Open Hearing and Camp Sitting'.

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance of alleged human rights violations reported by media during July, 2017 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of four cases are as follows:

Torture by Police (Case No. 1115/18/1/2014)

The media reported on the 4th July, 2017 regarding the physical torture of a farmer by some police personnel in Jhalawar district of Rajasthan. As per the report, an altercation took place between the two neighbourers in the Devdungari village. The matter was reported to the police by one of the parties. In the meantime, reportedly, the dispute was resolved.

However, the police called both the parties to the Police Station to sign a document towards compromise. Reportedly, the victim, Ghanshyam Lodha got late in reaching the police station. The police personnel caught Ghanshyam on the way and bet him severely before carrying him in their vehicle. Later, he was tied to a tree and again beaten up mercilessly. When his condition deteriorated, he was taken to the Primary Health Centre from where he was referred to the Jhalawar District Hospital.

The Commission observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raised a serious issue of violation of human rights of the poor farmer and transferred the press clipping, as per the provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act, to the Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission for taking appropriate action in the matter.

Unethical remarks by a public servant (Case No. 2078/4/2/2017)

The media reported that the District Magistrate of Aurangabad district of Bihar, while addressing a gathering

in a village on the issue of defecation in open, linked the issue of construction of toilets with the dignity of women. He, reportedly, stated that it costs ₹ 12,000/- only to construct a toilet and then asked the people to raise hands, if anybody thought that his wife was worth less than that amount.

In response one of the villagers said that he cannot afford to construct a toilet due to paucity of funds. On this, the bureaucrat, reportedly, got irritated and retorted: if that was the case then he should sell his wife..... If that was his mentality, then he should go and auction the dignity of his home.

The District Magistrate pointed out that several persons had taken advance payment of ₹ 12,000/-under the government scheme, 'Ghar ka Samman' for the construction of toilets but instead of doing so, they had wasted the money.

The Commission observed that though, the officer was addressing the villagers executing his duty to create awareness about the "Swacch Bharat" campaign of the Government of India, still, the comments, reportedly, made by him in public, cannot be termed as ethical. Being a public servant, the officer is supposed to keep in mind the sentiments and self respect of the people and be more sensible while addressing any issue. If the contents of the news item are true, it becomes a fit case of violation of human rights, inviting its intervention. Accordingly, it has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar calling for a detailed report in the matter.

Abduction of children (Case No. 2982/30/2/2017-WC)

The media reported on the 1st July, 2017 about the

abduction of two minor sisters, aged 13 and 16 years, from their residence in Ghazipur area of East Delhi on the 27th June, 2017. Allegedly, the police were not cooperating by conducting the investigations in the case expeditiously. However, reportedly, the police authorities had registered a criminal case Under Section 363 of Indian Penal Code, IPC and the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) had stated that they were taking action and investigating the case as per the guidelines of the National Human Rights Commission.

The Commission observed that the contents of the news report revealed a gruesome incident wherein two girls had been abducted in the midnight from their residence. It also indicated the helplessness of the aggrieved family as well as fearlessness of the perpetrators. It further observed that a fair and quick investigation is required in the matter as it may have links with trafficking of girl children.

The Commission also recalled that it had recommended certain guidelines in connection with the Case No. 2948/13/16/2013-FC relating to the issue of missing children and the amount of effort required to trace them in the first 72 hours. These were communicated to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government

of India. The Commission, therefore, has issued a notice to the Commissioner of Police, Delhi calling for a report along with the status of the investigations in the instant case.

Not providing ambulance (Case No. 338/33/15/2017)

The media reported on the 4th July, 2017 regarding an incident in the Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh, wherein one person having sustained burn injuries died in the District Medical College and Hospital but no ambulance was provided to his family to carry his dead body. As a result, the family had to carry the dead body on a handcart. When the family left the 'Hospital', the administration woke up and rushed an ambulance to them but now, the family members of the deceased refused its services.

The Commission has observed that media report is indicative of violation of human rights of the deceased and his family members. This is illustrative of insensitive approach of the hospital administration. The Commission, in exercise of its power of Under Section 13 (6) of the 'Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993', has transferred the press clipping to the Chhattisgarh State Human Rights Commission for taking appropriate action in the matter.

Important Intervention

Inhuman treatment to 32 prisoners (Case No. 647/10/1/2017)

The National Human Rights Commission has taken cognizance of a complaint about inhuman treatment meted out to the 32 prisoners at Parappana Agrahara Bangalore Central Jail in July, 2017. They were beaten black and blue and shifted over night in the injured condition to various other prisons at Mysore, Bellary, Belagavi and Davanagere. According to the complaint, dated 17th July, 2017, by Ms Shobha Karandlaje, M.P., Lok Sabha, the family members of these prisoners were not able to meet them.

Allegedly, the prisoners were treated inhumanly due to their initiative for staging a protest dharna inside the jail premises as they were not allowed to speak to Smt. D. Roopa, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Prisons, Bangalore, when she visited the jail. She, in fact, also brought out certain grave irregularities inside the Bangalore Central Jail including, providing special facilities to some of the prisoners.

Allegedly, the 32 prisoners were shifted in a hasty manner in order to avoid the enquiry officer, who was expected to visit the Parappana Agrahara jail on Monday, the 17th July, 2017. The alleged comment of Superintendent of Bangalore Jail has also been described as specious that as per jail manual, dharna is not allowed, hence, the prisoners had been punished by shifting them to other jails.

The Commission has observed that the allegations regarding physical torture of the prisoners and their overnight transfer to other jails, in an injured condition, if true, raise serious issue of violation of their Right to Life and Dignity. It need not be restated that a prisoner is not a slave of the State and is not denude of his fundamental rights, in judicial custody.

Accordingly, it has issued notices to the DGP and IG Prisons, Karnataka to submit a detailed report on the allegations, along with present location and state of health of the injured/shifted prisoners of the Bangalore jail.

₹ 12 lakh paid as relief in a case of deaths due to negligence (Case No. 2756/30/1/2012)

The National Human Rights Commission has prevailed upon the Government of NCT of Delhi to pay Rs. 3,00,000/- each to the next of kin of the four persons who died when an illegal under construction building collapsed in Karol Bagh area of the National Capital in 2012.

The Commission during the course of enquiry found that the local police had informed the authorities of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, MCD about the ongoing illegal construction but they did not give them any instructions to stop it as required under Section 344 (2) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act. The carelessness, negligence and inaction on part of the MCD officials had been clearly established. Therefore, the Commission had recommended that the Government of NCT of Delhi pay ₹ 3,00,000/- each to the families of the victims. It also

called for reports on the action taken against the guilty officials.

The Delhi Government informed that it had already paid ex-gratia relief of ₹ 2,00,000/- each to the families of the four victims and an FIR had also been registered in the matter. However, the Commission asked the Delhi Government to release ₹ 1,00,000/- each more to the families of the four victims to make it ₹ 3,00,000/- each as recommended by it for relief to them, which was eventually paid. However, having received no information on the progress in the FIR and the case against the owner of the building as well as the action taken against the delinquent officials, the Commission has asked the Delhi Government, through its Chief Secretary, to submit the reports to this effect expeditiously.

Recommendations for relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 36 cases were considered during 03 sittings of the Full Commission and 61 cases were taken up during 05 sittings of Divisional Benches in July, 2017.

On 46 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹89,35,000/- 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.

| SI. No. | Case Number | Nature of Complaint | Amount Recommended (in ₹) | Public Authority |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | 701/1/21/2012-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh | Govt. of Andhra Pradesh |
| 2. | 3717/4/16/2014-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Three lakh | Govt. of Bihar |
| 3. | 537/4/8/2014-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Three lakh | Govt. of Bihar |
| 4. | 83/4/8/2015-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Three lakh | Govt. of Bihar |
| 5. | 614/33/10/2013-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Two lakh | Govt. of Chhattisgarh |
| 6. | 1743/34/16/2014-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Three lakh | Govt. of Jharkhand |
| 7. | 898/34/16/2013-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Three lakh | Govt. of Jharkhand |
| 8. | 2093/13/23/2014-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Three lakh | Govt. of Maharashtra |
| 9. | 2862/13/12/2014-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh | Govt. of Maharashtra |
| 10. | 383/13/23/2013-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Three lakh | Govt. of Maharashtra |
| 11. | 1450/19/9/2012-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh | Govt. of Punjab |
| 12. | 983/19/3/2013-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh | Govt. of Punjab |

| Sl. No. | Case Number | Nature of Complaint | Amount Recommended (in ₹) | Public Authority |
|---------|----------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 13. | 137/22/36/2013-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Five lakh | Govt. of Tamil Nadu |
| 14. | 2010/24/6/2014-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Three lakh | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 15. | 28160/24/1/2012-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 16. | 3738/24/48/2014-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 17. | 456/25/5/2013-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh | Govt. of West Bengal |
| 18. | 620/25/5/2013-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh | Govt. of West Bengal |
| 19. | 7343/7/5/2015-PCD | Custodial Death (Police) | Three lakh | Govt. of Haryana |
| 20. | 30776/24/64/2013-JCD | Custodial Death (Police) | Four lakh | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 21. | 4018/18/11/2014 | Irregularities in Govt. Hospitals/Primary Health Centers | Three lakh seventy thousand | Govt. of Odisha |
| 22. | 3658/18/5/2015 | Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials | One lakh | Govt. of Odisha |
| 23. | 38557/24/37/2014 | Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials | One lakh | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 24. | 5487/24/34/2013 | Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials | One lakh | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 25. | 4176/18/14/2014 | Failure in taking lawful action | Two lakh | Govt. of Odisha |
| 26. | 1412/22/16/2015 | Failure in taking lawful action | Twenty five thousand | Govt. of Tamil Nadu |
| 27. | 18628/24/15/2014 | Failure in taking lawful action | Twenty five thousand | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 28. | 44798/24/30/2014 | Failure in taking lawful action | Twenty five thousand | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 29. | 553/33/1/2013 | Abuse of Power | Fifty thousand | Govt. of Chhattisgarh |
| 30. | 9307/24/8/2013 | Abuse of Power | Thirty thousand | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 31. | 19216/24/54/2014-WC | Gang Rape | Three lakh | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 32. | 1799/18/30/2014-WC | Rape | Seventy thousand | Govt. of Odisha |
| 33. | 31499/24/31/2014-WC | Rape | Twenty five thousand | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 34. | 36492/24/18/2012 | Abduction, Rape and Murder | Fifty thousand | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 35. | 1115/18/1/2014 | Exploitation of Children | Seventy thousand | Govt. of Odisha |
| 36. | 961/18/1/2014 | Exploitation of Children | Fifty thousand | Govt. of Odisha |
| 37. | 3559/18/30/2014 | Sexual Harassment | Fifty thousand | Govt. of Odisha |
| 38. | 3358/30/10/2013-WC | Indignity of Women | Twenty thousand | Govt. of NCT of Delhi |
| 39. | 1397/13/13/2013 | Victimization | Ten thousand | Govt. of Maharashtra |
| 40. | 1031/24/43/2014 | False Implications | Fifty thousand | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |

| SI. No. | Case Number | Nature of Complaint | Amount Recommended (in ₹) | Public Authority |
|---------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 41. | 24735/24/31/2014 | False Implications | Fifty thousand | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 42. | 20264/24/78/2013 | Illegal Arrest | Two lakh | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 43. | 376/20/11/2016 | Atrocities on SC/ST/OBC | Fifty thousand | Govt. of Rajasthan |
| 44. | 38367/24/8/2014 | Unlawful Detention | Fifty thousand | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 45. | 430/12/32/2012 | Hazardous Employments | Twelve lakh | Govt. of Madhya Pradesh |
| 46. | 744/20/5/2010 | Miscellaneous | Ten lakh sixty five thousand | Govt. of Rajasthan |

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

n July, 2017, the Commission closed 13 cases on receipt of compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended, totalling ₹ 38,75,000/- to the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin. Details are in the table below:

| Sl. No. | Case Number | Nature of Complaint | Amount Recommended (in ₹) | Public Authority |
|---------|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | 487/33/14/2012-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | Three lakh | Govt. of Chhattisgarh |
| 2. | 1117/19/3/2013-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh | Govt. of Punjab |
| 3. | 225/24/52/2014-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 4. | 43723/24/72/2012-JCD | Custodial Death (Judicial) | One lakh | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 5. | 90/7/20/2014 | Irregularities in Govt. Hospitals/ Primary Health Centers | One lakh | Govt. of Haryana |
| 6. | 2756/30/1/2012 | Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials | Twelve lakh | Govt. of NCT of Delhi |
| 7. | 37675/24/9/2014 | Inaction by the State/ Central Govt. Officials | One lakh twenty five thousand | Govt. of Uttar Pradesh |
| 8. | 1227/35/6/2013 | Failure in taking lawful action | Twenty five thousand | Govt. of Uttarakhand |
| 9. | 122/27/0/2014 | Abuse of Power | Ten lakh fifty thousand | Govt. of Chandigarh |
| 10. | 1137/25/15/2013-PF | Abuse of Power | Twenty five thousand | Govt. of West Bengal |
| 11. | 778/13/23/2010-AF | Abduction/Rape | Fifty thousand | Govt. of Maharashtra |
| 12. | 1981/18/13/2014 | Sexual Harassment | Six lakh | Govt. of Odisha |
| 13. | 1298/12/7/2014 | Victimization | One lakh | Govt. of Madhya Pradesh |

Workshop on Elimination of Bonded Labour

The National Human Rights Commission organised a day long Workshop on 'Elimination of Bonded Labour' in collaboration with the Government of Bihar in Patna on the 21st July, 2017. Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member,



NHRC Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan inaugurating the Workshop on "Elimination of Bonded Labour"

NHRC inaugurated and chaired the Workshop. He said that the main purpose of such workshops is to make aware the district level officials, particularly, the District Magistrates about the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Prohibition) Act, 1976 and sensitize them about the importance of the issue. He said that the District Magistrates have been given vast powers under the Act to work towards elimination of bonded labour system. They can summarily dispose bonded labour cases through trials in a very short span of time with the assistance from the officers of the Labour department.

Shri Vijay Prakash, Minister of Labour Resources Department, Government of Bihar, affirmed the commitment of the State Government towards the elimination of bonded labour system.

Justice Murugesan also heard 11 cases registered in the Commission on bonded labour concerning Bihar.

The participants of the Workshop included senior officers of the Government of Bihar, State Human Rights Commission of Bihar, NGOs and representatives of brick kilns, stone crushing and other related industries. Academicians, research scholars and final year law students from Universities in Bihar were also invited to attend the Workshop.

Apart from the District level officers, the State Labour officers, members of vigilance committees, representatives of brick kilns, stone crushing and other related industries were also familiarized and sensitized with the process of identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded



Workshop on "Elimination of Bonded Labour" in progress

labourers as per the provisions of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and related laws. The Commission has organized 40 workshops on elimination of bonded labour so far.

| Complaints received/processed in July, 2017 (As per an early estimate) | | |
|---|-------|--|
| Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission | 7591 | |
| Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old | 7060 | |
| Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old | 29442 | |

Important Telephone Numbers of the Commission:

Facilitation Centre (Madad): 011-2465 1330 For Complaints: Fax No. 011-2465 1332

Other Important E-mail Addresses

jrlawnhrc@nic.in (For complaints), cr.nhrc@nic.in (For general queries/correspondence)

Focal point for Human Rights Defenders

Mobile No.: 9810298900, Fax No. 011-2465 1334 E-mail: hrd-nhrc@nic.in

This Newsletter is also available on the Commission's website www.nhrc.nic.in

NGOs and other organizations are welcome to reproduce material of the Newsletter and disseminate it widely acknowledging the NHRC.

Printed and Published by Jaimini Kumar Srivastava, Deputy Director (Media & Communication) on behalf of the National Human Rights Commission and Printed at Dolphin Printo- Graphic, 4E/7, Pabla Building, Jhandewalan Extn., New Delhi-110055 and published at National Human Rights Commission, Manav Adhikar Bhawan, Block-C, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023. Editor: Jaimini Kumar Srivastava

Design: Jaimini Kumar Srivastava Editor's Contact Ph.: 91-11-24663381, E-mail: dydir.media.nhrc@nic.in