



Human Rights Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 2, FEBRUARY, 2014

NHRC's Camp Sitting in Uttar Pradesh

The National Human Rights Commission held a three day camp sitting at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from the 15th – 17th January, 2014. Inaugurating it, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC said that the Commission is continuously endeavoring to promote culture of human rights in the country. He said that despite laws in place and the best efforts of the Commission, the situation of human rights does not present a bright picture in the country and a lot needs to be done to improve it.



NHRC Chairperson, Members and senior officers at the Lucknow Camp Sitting

Justice Balakrishnan said that the Camp Sitzings in different States are an important event of the Commission to monitor, among others, issues relating to socio-

Contd. on Page-2

NHRC's Winter Internship concludes

The NHRC's month-long winter internship programme on human rights concluded in New Delhi on the 28th January, 2014. 46 interns selected from different institutions and universities of the country completed the programme, which commenced on the 30th December, 2013. The best intern award was shared by the four interns.



Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member NHRC addressing the valedictory function

Addressing the valedictory function, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member, NHRC said that the knowledge gained by the interns during their internship with the NHRC will be of no use if they did not remain vigilant about the human rights violations in their surroundings. Shri S.C. Sinha, Member, NHRC said that the interns should

Contd. on Page-2

MORE IN THIS ISSUE

SUO MOTU COGNIZANCE 3

- Attacks on African nationals
- Scarcity of Shelter Homes and deaths of homeless persons
- Atrocities on women protesters
- Forced manual scavenging and police inaction
- 13 child deaths in 19 days in a Government Hospital
- Death of a rape victim
- Recovery of 9 dead bodies
- Non-payment of wages under MGNREGA
- Bonded labourers tortured
- A child labour assaulted

NHRC's Spot Enquiry 4

Important Intervention 4

- NHRC asks MCI and Union Health Ministry to respond to its suggestion for starting MD in Gerontology
- Status report on implementation of 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act' sought
- NHRC calls for report on the education facilities for children of brick kiln labourers in all States and UTs
- NHRC sends third team to assess the situation in relief camps at riot-hit districts of UP
- NHRC holds demolition without prior notice illegal
- Report on action taken against the guilty in a case of death due to ragging sought

Recommendations for relief 6

Compliance with NHRC recommendations 7

NHRC Chairperson attends the launch ceremony for the Global Appeal on Leprosy in Indonesia 7

Shri KHC Rao, DSP, NHRC gets President's Medal for Distinguished Services 8

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/Conferences 8

Complaints received/ processed in January, 2014 8

NHRC Website : www.nhrc.nic.in

NHRC's Camp Sitting in Uttar Pradesh.....Contd. from page-1

political, cultural and economic rights as well as implementation of various welfare oriented flagship programmes. Such visits also help the Commission in disposal of some long pending cases of human rights violation as well as sensitization of different stakeholders, including civil society, NGOs, government functionaries and the media.

Earlier, Shri Javed Usmani, Chief Secretary of the State Government said that the protection and promotion of human rights is the first responsibility of any civilized society. He said that the Uttar Pradesh administration would continue to follow advice and recommendations of the NHRC and ensure compliance thereof at the earliest.

During the Lucknow sitting, 95 cases concerning police action were taken up for hearing. These included 5 in Full Commission, comprising Chairperson and Members of the Commission, 33 in the Division Bench-I, comprising Justice Shri K. G. Balakrishnan and Member, Shri S.C. Sinha and 57 in the Division Bench - II, comprising Members, Justice Shri D. Murugesan and Shri Satyabrata Pal. A total amount of ₹ 1 crore 20 lakh 50 thousand was recommended to be paid to the next of kin of the deceased in 25 cases.

The State Government was asked to improve investigation done by the CBCID in encounter and custodial death cases. The Commission also interacted with some NGOs who complained that the police was insensitive and biased against women. This issue was

later brought to the notice of the senior officers at a meeting in which various issues of socio-economic importance were also discussed.

The issue of rehabilitation of the victims of communal violence in Muzaffarnagar and Shamli was also taken up. The State Government admitted that 47 persons had died in the relief camps and the Commission asked it to look into the cause of these deaths and give reasonable compensation to the bereaved families. The State Government was also asked to provide adequate protection against winter to the inmates in the camps. The Commission emphasized upon quick and expeditious action in 13 cases of crime against displaced women so that they feel safe and secure.

The implemen-

tation of various welfare schemes launched by the Central and State Governments was reviewed. The State Government explained that complaints regarding non-provision of work under MNREGA could be made on a helpline which was recently launched.

NHRC Secretary General, Dr. Parvinder Sohi Behuria, DG (Investigation), Smt. Kanwaljit Deol, Registrar (Law), Shri A. K. Garg, Joint Secretary, Shri J.S. Kochher, State Principal Secretary (Home) Shri Anil Kumar Gupta, DGP Shri Rizwan Ahmad and other senior officers of the NHRC and the State Government also attended the Camp Sitting.



Senior officers of NHRC and Uttar Pradesh Government during an interaction

NHRC's Winter Internship Concludes.....Contd. from page-1

develop self-belief that they could bring about a change in the mindset of society, which at times, appeared to be afflicted with cynicism about human rights.

During the internship, Chairperson, Members and senior officers of the Commission interacted with the interns who were exposed to various facets of the

functioning of the Commission and also sensitized on various issues of human rights. Apart from giving interns the expert guidance in writing dissertations on various issues of human rights, they were also taken for field visits to a jail, an NGO and police stations.

Suo motu cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 16 cases of alleged human rights violations during January, 2014 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of some of these cases are as follows:

Attacks on African nationals

(Case No. 252/30/8/2014)

The National Human Rights Commission stated that it condemned any act of discrimination against any caste, colour, race, sex etc., after the media reported attacks and the acts of discrimination against African nationals in the National Capital. Taking suo motu cognizance of the media reports in this regard, the Commission issued notices to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Chief Secretary, Government of NCT Delhi and Delhi Police Commissioner calling for reports with specific reference to the incidents happened in Khirki Extension area of South Delhi.

Scarcity of Shelter Homes and deaths of homeless persons

(Case Nos. 58/30/2/2014, 308/30/4/2014 & 1/30/0/2014)

The month of January, 2014 saw extensive coverage of the plight of homeless persons in Delhi. A report carried that about 1.5 lakh destitute persons were spending life on footpaths and over-bridges in Delhi either due to shortage of Shelter Homes or lack of facilities in the existing ones. In the meantime, there were reports about the deaths of homeless persons in different parts of the National Capital. One of the reports alleged that two homeless persons were found dead at a distance of 30 to 40 feet from each other near a Shelter Home in the Yamuna Pusta area on the 1st January, 2014. Another report, carried on the 19th January, 2014, stated that six persons died around Kashmere Gate in North Delhi. Further, a report said that due to the absence of night shelters, 12 homeless persons died during the last 24 hours.

The Commission thrice took cognizance of the issues raised in these reports during the month and issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and the Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, Government of NCT of Delhi calling for reports. They have also been directed to inform the Commission about the steps taken to protect the poor homeless persons from cold.

Atrocities on women protesters

(Case No. 1541/24/28/2014)

The media reported that some police personnel were found kicking and lathi-charging women

protestors in Ferozabad district, Uttar Pradesh. Reportedly, the women and others were protesting against the death of two persons in an accident at Village Rajopura, Matsena, Ferozabad. A notice has been issued to the Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh calling for a report in the matter.

Forced manual scavenging and police inaction

(Case No. 140/24/13/2014)

The media reported that some influential people of Village Adra, Police Station Badasarai, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh forced a dalit at gunpoint to do manual scavenging and the police, when approached, did not register the complaint of the victim under appropriate sections of the law. The Commission has issued notices to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh calling for a report in the matter.

13 child deaths in 19 days in a Government Hospital

(Case No. 3308/24/43/2014)

The media reported that 13 children died in 19 days at Child Hospital, Helot, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh due to lack of proper treatment and shortage of beds. However, no steps were taken by the hospital authorities to improve the situation. It was also reported that contrary to the claims of the Chief Minister that all types of medicines were available in the Government Hospitals for indoor patients, the attendants of the patients at the Child Hospital, Helot had to buy even syringes from outside. The Commission has issued notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh calling for report in the matter.

Death of a rape victim

(Case No. 14/25/15/2014-WC)

The media reported that a 16 year old girl succumbed to her burn injuries after she was set on fire allegedly by the goons who gang raped her twice in Kolkata, West Bengal as her family refused to withdraw the complaint lodged against them with the police. After her death, the local police hurried for cremation instead of handing over the body to her family. The father of the deceased had also filed a complaint against the Medical Superintendent of R.G. Kar Hospital, Kolkata alleging negligence in her daughter's treatment. The Commission has issued notice to the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, West Bengal calling for a report in the matter.

Recovery of 9 dead bodies

(Case No. 2/17/1/2014)

The media reported that highly decomposed nine dead bodies covered in polythene sheets were found in a gorge in Dimapur district of Nagaland bordering Assam. Reportedly, the persons were blindfolded with their

hands tied and then shot dead from close range. One of the bodies had been identified to be of a missing Karbi student leader from Bokajan, a town in the trouble torn Karbi Anglong district of Assam. Eight bodies were yet to be identified. The Commission has issued notices to the Director Generals of Police, Nagaland and Assam and also to the SP, Dimapur calling for reports.

Non-payment of wages under MGNREGA

(Case No. 1/13/4/2014)

The media reported that seven families across Maharashtra and Jharkhand lost their members due to delayed payments under the MGNREGA scheme. Reportedly, 27 lakh labourers in West Bengal, 18.20 lakh in Bihar, 13.40 lakh in Kerala, 11 lakh in Rajasthan and 8.7 lakh in Andhra Pradesh were still waiting for their wages under the MGNREGA. The Commission has issued notices to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Rural Development and the Chief Secretaries of the Governments of Maharashtra, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Kerala, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh calling reports in the matter.

Bonded labourers tortured

(Case No. 9/8/4/2014-BL)

The media reported that some labourers from Jashpur, Chhattisgarh were kept as bonded labourers in Jawali, district, Kangra Himachal Pradesh. They were also beaten-up in the captivity. The Commission has issued notices to the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh calling for reports in the matter.

A child labour assaulted

(Case No. 30/10/11/2014-CL)

The media reported that a brick kiln owner in District Gulbarga, Karnataka assaulted a child labourer with an iron rod so severely that he was in danger of losing his left hand. The 12 year old child labourer hailed from District Bolangir, Odisha. The report also highlighted that due to lack of effective action by the State authorities migrant labourers from Odisha in Karnataka continued to suffer into the hands of touts and brick kiln owners. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretaries of Government of Karnataka and Odisha calling for reports.

NHRC's Spot Enquiry

Following is the list of cases wherein spot enquiries were conducted by the Commission's officers:

Sl. No.	Case Number	Allegations	Date of visit
1	3035/30/0/2013	Corporation and Police officials using force to get the land vacated occupied by Shiv Bhawari Netraheen Centre, Delhi having 40 blind children from lower strata of society.	3 rd January, 2014
2	32971/24/57/2013	Visit of riot relief camps in Loi, Muzaffarnagar and Malakpur, Shamli, Uttar Pradesh.	7 th January, 2014
3	61/22/13/2014	Illegal detention and torture of a human rights defender, Shri V. Gouthaman and five students by police in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.	21 st to 24 th January, 2014
4	257/24/40/2014	Visit to riot relief camps in Shamli and Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh.	28 th to 31 st January, 2014

Important intervention

NHRC asks MCI and Union Health Ministry to respond to its suggestion for starting MD in Gerontology

The National Human Rights Commission has observed that with the passage of time, the percentage of aged persons in the country is liable to go up considerably. To deal with their problems, it is necessary that the healthcare system should be well equipped to provide the elderly persons dedicated facilities, as required under Section 20 of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

Therefore, it has asked the Medical Council of India and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to explore the possibility of introducing a post-graduate level course in 'Gerontology' in medical colleges. It has also sought response from the Secretaries, Medical Council of India and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in this regard.

Status report on implementation of 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act' sought

In a related development, the Commission has sought status report on the implementation of provisions of Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 from all the States and Union Territories. Notices have been issued to the Chief Secretaries of all States and Administrators of Union Territories, calling for reports on the following points:

- i) Whether the State Governments/Union Territories have constituted Maintenance Tribunals as required u/s 7(1) of the said Act?
- ii) Whether the State Governments/Union Territories have constituted Appellate Tribunal as

required in Section 15 of the Act?

- iii) Whether the State Governments/Union Territories have established Old Age Homes as required u/s 19 of the Act?
- iv) Whether the State Governments/Union Territories have ensured medical support for the senior citizens as required u/s 20(1)(2)(5) of the Act?

The Commission has also observed that there is a need to have a full time officer in the capacity of a Maintenance Officer at Sub-Division level, as the officers entrusted with the work relating to senior citizens have no time to deal with it.

NHRC calls for report on the education facilities for children of brick kiln labourers in all States and UTs

The labourers working at the brick kilns in different parts of the country normally move from one place to another along with their families. Understandably, there are no facilities for the education of their children in the vicinity of their engagement. Therefore, the Commission has observed that if true, this amounts to serious violation of the Right to Education of their children under Article 21A of Right to Education Act, 2009. Issuing notices to the Chief Secretaries of all the States and Administrators of Union Territories, the Commission has called for the reports on the following

points, district-wise, fully compiled at their end:

- i) Number of brick kilns functioning in their State/UT;
- ii) Number of workers employed in the brick kiln (male/female);
- iii) Number of school going children of brick kiln workers (age group 0-6 yrs., 6-14 yrs., 14-18 yrs.);
- iv) Details about the educational facilities available at the brick kiln and if not;
- v) Steps taken by the State Government to ensure fulfillment of educational needs of these children.

NHRC sends third team to assess the situation in relief camps at riot-hit districts of UP

In the wake of a series of media reports about the forceful dismantling of the relief camps in Loi and Malakpur in the riot-hit Muzaffarnagar and Shamli Districts of Uttar Pradesh, the NHRC, on the 6th January, 2014, directed its Investigation Division to send a team

to visit these camps and other places which it deemed fit for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation.

Prior to this, two NHRC teams had visited the relief camps on the 20th December, 2013 and on the 10th - 11th October, 2013.

NHRC holds demolition without prior notice illegal

Setting aside the contention of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation that it could remove any unauthorized construction without prior notice, the National Human Rights Commission, citing provisions in the amended Manual of Instructions on Unauthorized Constructions, has recommended to the Govern-

ment of NCT of Delhi, through its Chief Secretary that it pay ₹ 2 lakh as monetary relief to the owner of the building, which was demolished without prior notice. A compliance report along with proof of payment has also been sought.

The Commission had found that at no stage the

MCD authorities had carried out survey of the alleged illegal construction. The complainant's house in the Village Hastal, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi was also not found

included in the list of unauthorized buildings on the 17th December, 2011, when it was demolished. Hence, it held that a case of breach of human rights was made out.

Report on action taken against the guilty in a case of death due to ragging sought

The National Human Rights Commission has accepted the submission of the Uttar Pradesh Government that it has paid ₹ 3 lakh as monetary relief to the next of kin of Alkeshwar Mishra, who died due to ragging in the hostel of Moti Lal Nehru Regional (MLNR) Engineering College, Allahabad in the year 2007.

However, it has asked the State Government,

through its Chief Secretary, to take disciplinary action against the police personnel and the named staff of the MLNR Engineering College, Allahabad and submit report. The CBCID report held that Alkeshwar Mishra died due to ragging and recommended action against five delinquent police personnel, four Professors and one Warden.

Recommendations for relief

Apart from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 231 cases were considered during 6 sittings of the Full Commission, and 12 sittings of Division Benches in January, 2014.

On 47 cases, listed in the table below, the

Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 180.9 lakh 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.

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	2456/24/67/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
2.	168/11/12/09-10-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Kerala
3.	1838/20/17/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Rajasthan
4.	2340/4/37/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Bihar
5.	176/12/36/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
6.	1128/25/10/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Two lakh	Government of West Bengal
7.	565/22/34/2010-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
8.	558/13/11/08-09-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Maharashtra
9.	196/13/16/2011-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Maharashtra
10.	44122/24/40/2010-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
11.	23388/24/2001-2002	Death in Police Encounter	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
12.	4753/24/2005-2006	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
13.	33397/24/2005-2006	Death in Police Encounter	Ten lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
14.	38084/24/2005-2006	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
15.	1553/24/2006-2007	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
16.	20332/24/2006-2007	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
17.	47291/24/45/07-08	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
18.	7562/24/32/2010-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
19.	14607/24/30/2010-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Ten lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
20.	452/24/37/2011-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
21.	39641/24/46/2011-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
22.	5/3/18/2010-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Assam
23.	206/3/0/2011-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Assam
24.	16/14/14/2012-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Ten lakh	Government of Manipur
25.	20/14/14/2012-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
26.	11/14/4/2010-AFE	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
27.	200/3/11/2010-AFE	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Assam
28.	247/3/16/2011-PF	Death in Encounter (Para-Military Forces)	Twenty Five lakh	Union Ministry of Home Affairs
29.	2/2/11/2012-AF	Death in Encounter (Defence Forces)	Ten lakh	Union Ministry of Defence
30.	5683/24/31/2011	Custodial Torture (Police)	Sixty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
31.	38363/24/43/2011	Custodial Torture (Police)	Two lakh fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
32.	528/1/25/2012	Unlawful Detention (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Andhra Pradesh
33.	751/34/7/2013	False Implication (Police)	Ten thousand	Government of Jharkhand
34.	335/25/13/2013	Abuse of Power (Police)	Five lakh	Government of West Bengal
35.	4883/30/9/2010	Failure in Taking Lawful Action (Police)	Twenty thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
36.	49115/24/33/2011	Failure in Taking Lawful Action (Police)	Five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
37.	33128/24/64/2012	Failure in Taking Lawful Action (Police)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
38.	1570/18/25/2011-WC	Indignity of Women	One lakh	Government of Odisha
39.	1443/30/10/2012-WC	Indignity of Women	Ten thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
40.	42032/24/27/2012-WC	Abduction, Rape and Murder	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
41.	20804/24/24/2010	Non-payment of Pension/ Compensation	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
42.	28319/24/43/09-10	Disappearance	Ten thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
43.	432/18/5/2012	Inaction by State Government officials	Three lakh	Government of Odisha
44.	562/12/33/2012	Inaction by State Government officials	Two lakh fifty thousand	Government of Madhya Pradesh
45.	897/30/9/2012	Atrocities by State Government officials	Two lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
46.	1579/18/18/2012	Medical Profession Malpractice	Two lakh	Government of Odisha
47.	4415/7/1/2013	Medical Profession Malpractice	Three lakh	Government of Haryana

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In January, 2014, the Commission received 14 compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had

recommended, totalling ₹ 45.3 lakh 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.	50/11/2006-2007-CD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Two lakh seventy thousand	Government of Kerala
2.	112/6/2006-2007-CD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Five lakh	Government of Gujarat
3.	3965/24/72/08-09-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
4.	17629/24/56/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
5.	20/32/0/09-10-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Puducherry
6.	296/1/7/09-10-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
7.	1334/1/20/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
8.	1311/4/24/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Bihar
9.	405/10/2006-2007-CD	Custodial Death (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Karnataka
10.	39743/24/3/2010-ED	Death in Police Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
11.	6916/24/2005-2006	Alleged Fake Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
12.	3305/30/5/09-10	Unlawful Detention (Police)	Sixty thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
13.	5664/30/3/2012-WC	Rape	Five lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
14.	20961/24/48/2010-WC	Rape	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh

NHRC Chairperson attends the launch ceremony for the Global Appeal on Leprosy in Indonesia

Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC attended the launch ceremony for the Global Appeal, 2014 to 'End Stigma and Discrimination against People affected by Leprosy' on the 27th January, 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The programme was launched at the initiative of the Nippon Foundation, together with Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the NHRC Chairperson said that despite conclusive evidence of leprosy being among the least infectious of all communicable diseases, the social prejudice and discrimination against the leprosy-affected persons

continue to remain deeply entrenched in society though these have started to alter very slowly.

He said that as per international standards, less than one case per 10000 population is considered as the level of elimination. 32 States and Union Territories in India have attained the level of leprosy elimination and out of the 633 districts, 510 have achieved elimination status. Though in India, as per statistics available until 2011, prevalence ratio of leprosy is 0.69 per 10000 population, the country remains home to around 60% of the leprosy-affected persons in the World.

Giving an insight into various efforts on the part of the Government of India, the NHRC, India and civil society, Justice Balakrishnan said that while many of them have borne positive results but the only concrete way forward would be to shatter myths about leprosy by creating more awareness among people through education and information. The NHRC, India, among other stakeholders, is committed towards achieving this

goal through its interventions like seminar, conferences, awareness workshops and recommendations in the complaints relating to leprosy affected persons.

The NHRC Chairperson expressed the hope that a historic global initiative to end stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy will set into motion a strong current of action to realise the vision of a truly egalitarian society.

Shri KHC Rao, DSP, NHRC gets President's Medal for Distinguished Services

On the occasion of the Republic Day, 2014, Shri K. Harischandra Rao, Dy. S.P., NHRC got the President's Medal for Distinguished Services. Shri Rao joined the Investigation Division of the NHRC in 1995 and has been instrumental in various investigations done by the Commission on issues of human rights violations. These include enquiries relating to police atrocities in Naxal affected areas of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha. The Commission had also sent him to Australia and Thailand to further hone up his investigation skills.

Prior to joining the NHRC, DSP Rao was in the elite Special Protection Group as an officer of the BSF. He was specially deputed to perform the duties of Main Personal Security Officer to the three Prime Ministers of India.



Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
NHRC's National Seminar in Hindi on 'Women Empowerment - Media and Human Rights' at Cochin, Kerala from the 8 th January, 2014 - 10 th January, 2014	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member, Dr. Parvinder Sohi Behuria, Secretary General and Shri J.S. Kochher, Joint Secretary
8 th Convocation of MITS University at Lakshmangarh, Rajasthan from the 23 rd - 24 th January, 2014	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson
Inauguration of the Workshop on 'Local Governments & Food Security' organised by Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), at Thrissur, Kerala from 10 th January, 2014 - 14 th January, 2014	Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member
Visit to Central Jail, Hyderabad from the 30 th January, 2014 - 1 st February, 2014	Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member
One day Seminar on Human Rights at Varanasi U.P. on the 21 st January, 2014	Shri Indrajeet Kumar, AR (Law)

Complaints received/processed in January, 2014 (As per an early estimate)

Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	8478
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	7056
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	30261

Important Telephone Numbers of the Commission:

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

Other Important E-mail Addresses

jlawnhrc@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 Parvinder Sohi Behuria, Secretary General, on behalf of the National Human Rights Commission. 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.

Edited & Designed by : Jaimini Kumar Srivastava
Ph. : 91-11-24663381, E-mail : ionhrc@nic.in