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Overhauling criminal justice system necessary, says NHRC Chairperson

Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC, accompanied by Shri J.S. Kochher, Joint Secretary, attended the 58th Session of the NHRIs' Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) held in Geneva, Switzerland from the 30th June to 2nd July, 2014. In his oral statement before the Committee on the 30th June, 2014, Justice Balakrishnan said that for the successful implementation of women related policies, it was of critical importance that the 16th Lok Sabha urgently passed the Women's Reservation Bill to give them one third seats in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. He also said that conviction in crime against women was low and the criminal justice system needed to be



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan and Jt. Secretary, Shri J.S. Kochher attending the CEDAW Session.

overhauled as it had not been able to respond to the needs of widespread gender-based violence. These included dowry deaths, early marriages, domestic violence, abductions,

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NHRC Chairperson attends APF Forum Council Working Group Meeting

Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan attended the APF Forum Council Working Group Meeting on 'Strategic Planning, 2015 - 2020' at Sydney, Australia from the 25th to 27th June, 2014. The Group, comprising of the representatives of the NHRIs in the region, discussed specific areas of human rights issues which could be the focus area for APF during the next five years starting from 2015. These will be in addition to the other issues of human rights violations which the NHRIs have been addressing through their interventions. Justice Balakrishnan also held meeting with the officials of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

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acid attacks, sexual assault as well as female foeticide etc.

Justice Balakrishnan said that the Twelfth Plan document, on the basis of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, indicates that total number of crimes against women had increased by 29.6% between 2006 and 2010. Most often, in the cases of sexual assault, many a times, the victims were discouraged by the community and even by the police for resorting to legal remedy. He said that police seemed to be insensitive to such cases due to traditional and patriarchal mind-sets. Therefore, it should be made more accountable. The Armed Forces Special Power Act in Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States conferred an impunity which often led to the violation of human rights.

He said that despite long drawn out legal process, the low conviction rate was also resulting in the harassment of the victims. As per the statistics of the NCRB, the conviction rate in 2012 for rape cases was only 24% and for dowry deaths, it was 32%.

During 2013, the National Human Rights Commission registered a total of 288 cases of sexual harassment of women at different places. 59 cases of sexual harassment in Government offices were registered. This despite the fact that the Supreme Court had laid the guidelines in the famous case of Vishakha Vs. State of Rajasthan in 1997 ensuring women's safety at workplace.

The NHRC Chairperson said that trafficking of women and girls still continued both for sexual exploitation as well as for illegal labour in spite of the Government initiative like Ujjwala Scheme. The protection of human rights defenders,

especially women, was another area of concern. They faced different kinds of harassment, including false implication and unlawful detention. In fact, much more was needed to be done as there were indications that Dalit women elected representatives faced serious barriers in exercising their legal rights and performing their role as leaders within the community.

Justice Balakrishnan said that India also continued to have high number of child marriages despite legal and policy framework to eliminate this practice. Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, as amended in 2003, prohibited use of diagnostic technologies for detection of sex but widespread misuse of diagnostic techniques continues. Open defecation was rampant due to the lack of toilet facilities for a large percentage of households in many States having repercussions on health of people, especially women and children. Open defecation, especially in rural areas, also increased vulnerability of girls to rape as was seen in the recent case in Badayun in Uttar Pradesh.

In all India Gross Enrolment Ratio, there was a gender gap both in the general and the reserved categories of boys and girls and same was the case with the overall literacy rate even though it had increased for women from 53.67% in 2001 to 65.46% in 2011 Census.

The NHRC Chairperson said that the progress towards reaching the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 was slow and needed renewed efforts, especially in the area of maternal health.

Suo motu cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 35 cases of alleged human rights violations during June, 2014 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of some of these cases are as follows:

Defecation in open and lack of toilets (Case No. 872/34/0/2014)

The media reported quoting the 2011 Census that half of India went for toilet in open. 77% population in Jharkhand and Odisha and 76% in Bihar and 64% in Uttar Pradesh did not have toilet in their houses. More than 62 crore people in India defecated in open. Reportedly, the UPA Government, in October, 2013, accepted that the lack of toilets in houses was one of the main reasons for increasing incidents of rape. A survey also pointed that 30% women who went out for toilet became victims of sexual assault.

The National Human Rights Commission has sought reports from the Secretary, Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories on the issue.

Neglected Primary Health Centre (Case No. 821/1/7/2014)

The media reported that the operation theater of a six-bedded Primary Health Centre in Hyderabad for pregnant women and new mothers remained non-functional and

covered in dust. Allegedly, there had been no electricity in the Centre for the last four months due to non-payment of electricity bill of ₹72,000/-. Reportedly, no doctor had been posted there since January this year and Auxiliary Nurses and Midwives (ANM) had been running the Centre. The Centre catered to about 70 thousand population. A notice has been issued to the Chief Secretary, Government of Telengana calling for a report into the allegations.

Atrocity against a Dalit bridegroom (Case No. 1293/12/10/2014)

The media reported that a Dalit bridegroom, while riding a horse in his wedding procession, was allegedly forced to get down and beaten up by the upper caste men in Sadwa village of District Chhattarpur, Madhya Pradesh on the 7th June, 2014. Reportedly, as per the village tradition only upper caste bridegrooms were allowed to ride on a horse to seek the blessings of the village elders.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Principal Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh calling for a report.

Social boycott of Dalits (Case No. 563/19/18/2014)

The media reported that 105 families of Scheduled Castes had been facing social boycott by upper caste people

in Baopur village of Moonak Sub-Division of District Sangrur, Punjab since the 15th May, 2014. Reportedly, they were facing this situation since they decided to cultivate 26 acres of Panchayat land, which though reserved for the Scheduled Castes, was being cultivated by upper caste people in the names of Dalits.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab calling for a report.

Lack of water supply (Case No. 6200/7/8/2014)

The media reported that farmers of Nidani village close to Jind City had not been getting water for irrigation since last three years as the authorities had failed to repair the dilapidated water channel. The farmers had been constrained to use ground water which was unfit for irrigation purpose. As a result their crop production had gone down.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary and the Secretary, Irrigation Department, Government of Haryana calling for reports.

Acute shortage of schools (Case No. 2199/4/0/2014)

The media reported that there was acute shortage of middle-level schools in Bihar and the children had to walk miles even for primary education. Quoting a Government survey, it said that there was no elementary education facility within one kilometer area of 896 inhabited locations. 2974 inhabited locations did not have middle schools within an area of three kilometers. Even more than 65 years after the independence of the country, there were 2100 locations which were deprived of education facilities.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Government of Bihar, through its Chief Secretary, calling for a report about the steps taken by the State Administration to fulfill the shortage of schools in the State. He has also been asked to inform about the timeframe in which the entitlements as per the Right to Education Act would be fulfilled. The Commission has also sought status of availability of Primary School Teachers in the State.

Rise in cases of leprosy in the country (Case No. 735/1/0/2014)

The media reported that though the Government had declared that leprosy was under control, yet the official data showed that the incidence of the crippling disease had been on the rise in the country with 126800 new cases in 2010-11, 127295 in 2011-12 and 134752 in 2012-13. New cases were being reported from many States and immediate steps were needed to contain them to maintain the level of elimination, i.e., less than one case per ten thousand population at the national level. The Commission has issued a notice to the Secretary, Ministry of Health, Government of India calling for a report.

The National Leprosy Elimination Programme was a vertical programme run by specially trained staff under District Leprosy Officers, but, according to the media report, the situation started worsening after 2002-2003 following

integration of leprosy services with General Healthcare System. Only 25% of the vertical staff including paramedics, physiotherapist, health educator were retained with the National Leprosy Elimination Programme and the rest were surrendered to the General Healthcare System. Therefore, providing dedicated personnel for leprosy related work became difficult. It was also reported that during the last six years, a number of vacancies were not filled resulting in shortage of manpower at Block level.

Children's death due to Encephalitis (Case No. 721/25/11/2014)

The media reported that at least nine children, aged between three to five years, died in three days in village Kaliachak, District Malda, West Bengal from a disease showing symptoms of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome, loosely described as Litchi Syndrome. The affected children were reported to be mostly from around a Litchi plantation.

The report carried on the 9th June, 2014 also quoted some experts saying that colouring agents and insecticides used on Litchi crop were the cause behind the disease. The disease does not allow much time to the doctors to treat the affected child. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal calling for a report. He has also been asked to inform whether similar cases have been reported from other parts of the State.

Irregularities in distribution of mid-day meal (Case No. 3231/30/0/2014)

The media reported the irregularities in distribution of mid-day meal at Aanganwadi Centres in Delhi. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi calling for a report.

According to the media report, eight lakh children, who were shown to be registered and provided with mid-day meal for years, actually never came to 11 thousand Aanganwadi Centres. This indicated fraud of crores of rupees at the cost of the Government exchequer. 23 NGOs were involved in the supply of mid-day meal at these Centres.

Gas leakage in Bhilai Steel Plant (Case No. 577/33/5/2014)

The media reported about the gas leakage in the Bhilai Steel Plant on the 12th June, 2014. Six people, including three senior officials, were killed and many others injured in the leakage which occurred in a methane gas pipeline in the plant. The Commission has issued a notice to the Government of Chhattisgarh, through its Chief Secretary, calling for a report.

Delivery of a child on road (Case No. 6197/7/4/2014)

The media report that the insensitive attitude of staff at Public Health Centre (PHC), Kulan, District Fatehabad, Haryana led to delivery of a baby on the road outside the delivery hut which was locked though expected to be functional round the clock. The Government of Haryana had set up delivery huts in PHCs to promote clean and safe delivery practices in rural areas.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Government of Haryana calling for a report.

Burning of 300 hutments
(Case No. 18382/24/46/2014)

The media reported that at least 300 huts were reduced to ashes in Dilwar Nagar settlement in Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh on the 6th June, 2014 due to alleged complicity of Forest Department officials. Reportedly, the fire brigade team took three hours and the local authorities took more than six hours to reach the spot.

The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh and to the District Magistrate, Lakhimpur calling for reports. They have also been asked to inform what relief has been given or proposed to be given to the affected people.

Drowning of students in the Beas river
(Case No. 103/8/8/2014)

The media reported that more than 24 students had drowned in a flash flood in the river Beas at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh on the 8th June, 2014. Allegedly, unannounced release of water from the Larji Hydel Project dam caused the flash flood. The B.Tech. students of Vigyan Jyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Bachuapalli, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh were on an excursion to Himachal Pradesh. The Commission has issued notices to

the Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh and to the Deputy Commissioner, Mandi calling for a report in the matter.

Child trafficking for orphanages
(Case No. 280/1/0/2014)

The media reported that Railway Police in Palakkad Railway Station, Kerala busted a gang of child traffickers who carried along with them children, mostly from Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar. A team of Jharkhand Labour Department had confirmed trafficking of over 500 children brought to Kerala from eastern States. Reportedly, these children were being supplied to orphanages in North Kerala. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretaries and Director Generals of Police of Governments of Jharkhand and Kerala calling for a detailed report in the matter.

Pollution in Ghaggar river
(Case No. 559/19/11/2014)

The media reported that the river Ghaggar, running through Punjab and Haryana, was polluted and smelling foul leaving it unfit for drinking or irrigation. The main cause of the pollution was stated to be the release of untreated industrial effluents into the river. The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretaries of Governments of Punjab and Haryana calling for a report.

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.	3406/30/9/2014	Illegal detention and custodial torture in Police Station, Janakpuri, Delhi	16 th – 19 th & 23 rd June, 2014
2.	3157/30/5/2013	Police inaction in East Rohtas Nagar, Shahadra, Delhi	17 th – 20 th June, 2014
3.	1566/30/1/2014	False implication and custodial torture, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi	18 th – 20 th June, 2014

Important intervention

Death of an alleged Naxalite in police custody

The National Human Rights Commission has recommended that Government of Chhattisgarh pay ₹5 lakh as relief to the next of kin of Pudiyami Mada, who died due to torture in illegal custody of police from the 9th January, 2012 to 13th January, 2012 in District Dantewada. The Chief Secretary of the State has been asked to submit compliance report along with the proof of payment.

The Commission had taken suo motu cognizance of the issue on the 19th January, 2012 on the basis of a media report alleging that Pudiyami Mada, a suspected Naxalite,

committed suicide at the Sukma Police Station on the 13th January, 2012. However, the local police put the blame on the CRPF personnel saying that they had nabbed Mada a few days earlier and had tortured him.

In response to the notices, the State Government provided various reports, including the Magisterial Enquiry Report, which confirmed that Pudiyami Mada died in police custody, possibly due to torture that might have been inflicted upon him from the 9th to 13th January, 2012.

Botched up cataract surgery

The National Human Rights Commission has recommended that the Government of Chhattisgarh pay ₹50 thousand each to the 16 patients who lost their eyesight after cataract surgery at the Community Health Centre, Bagbehra, District Dhamtari. This amount will be in addition to a similar amount paid by the State Government

to them which the Commission had held as inadequate. The Commission found that the medicines given to the patients were also of poor quality. The Chief Secretary of the State has been asked to submit compliance report along with the proof of payment. Details of disciplinary proceedings initiated against the three doctors have also been sought.

Plight of pony-palakiwallas enroute Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

The National Human Rights Commission has taken cognizance of a complaint into the plight and misery of the ponywallas, palakiwalls, pithoos and other such workers enroute Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine at Katra in Jammu and Kashmir. It said that their wages were being prescribed by the Shrine Board, but the State authorities were neglecting them. A notice has been issued to the Chief Secretary,

Government of Jammu & Kashmir calling for a report into the allegations. Allegedly, they were not being provided benefits of any welfare schemes, such as, life insurance, health insurance, education, insurance of their pony etc. The engagement of child ponywallas was equivalent to child labour which is prohibited under the law. There were no education facilities for such children.

₹ 3 lakh as monetary relief to the victim of sexual assault

The National Human Rights Commission, not acceding to the contention of the Himachal Pradesh Government that the three constables accused of gang rape were not on duty at the time of the incident on the 1st July, 2013, recommended ₹ 3 lakh as monetary relief to the victim. The Commission found that one of the constables was drunk on

duty and the conduct of the three police personnel was unbecoming of a public servant. They were arrested and put in the jail. Therefore, contrary to the claims of the State Government, the liability of monetary relief relied with it. The Chief Secretary of the State has been asked to send the proof of payment.

Recommendations for relief

Apart from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 45 cases were considered during 04 sittings of the Full Commission in June, 2014.

On 35 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission

recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹61.8 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.	50/1/11/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
2.	634/1/7/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
3.	857/22/37/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
4.	1551/22/36/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
5.	311/13/17/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Maharashtra
6.	608/13/23/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Maharashtra
7.	1390/13/16/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Maharashtra
8.	1754/25/17/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of West Bengal
9.	890/25/4/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of West Bengal
10.	1864/35/16/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttarakhand
11.	818/35/5/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttarakhand
12.	1879/12/22/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
13.	2203/12/30/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
14.	10019/24/48/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
15.	25927/24/36/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
16.	31780/24/42/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
17.	33505/24/26/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
18.	43235/24/13/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
19.	2040/18/10/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Odisha
20.	2519/20/17/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Rajasthan
21.	2/11/12/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Kerala
22.	3/8/10/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Himachal Pradesh
23.	2941/30/5/2011	Unlawful Detention (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
24.	1308/7/22/2012	Unlawful Detention (Police)	One lakh	Government of Haryana
25.	121/24/36/2012	Failure in taking lawful action (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
26.	365/33/14/2013	Failure in taking lawful action (Police)	One lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
27.	3275/4/5/2012	False implication (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Bihar
28.	43925/24/24/2012-WC	Abduction/Rape (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
29.	208/34/16/2013	Abuse of Power	Fifty thousand	Government of Jharkhand
30.	33475/24/75/2012	Atrocities on SC/ST (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
31.	39963/24/33/2012	Electrocution Death	Two lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
32.	33/15/2/2013	Nuisance by local ruffians	Twenty five thousand	Government of Meghalaya
33.	48811/24/28/2011	Irregularities in Jails	Two lakh thirty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
34.	15/16/3/2011	Atrocities by Departments of State Government	Fifty thousand	Government of Mizoram
35.	610/34/4/2012	Irregularities in Government Hospitals/ Primary Health Centres	Three lakh	Government of Jharkhand

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In June, 2014, the Commission received 23 compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended, totalling ₹43.1 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.	49/11/2006-2007-CD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Kerala
2.	14/11/12/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Kerala
3.	37451/24/48/09-10-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
4.	4381/24/72/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
5.	22316/24/73/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
6.	26370/24/4/07-08-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
7.	1236/24/42/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
8.	9668/24/2006-2007-CD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
9.	322/10/15/09-10-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Karnataka
10.	48/3/5/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Assam
11.	1011/25/5/07-08-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of West Bengal
12.	257/1/7/09-10-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Andhra Pradesh
13.	330/22/5/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
14.	2422/20/26/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Rajasthan
15.	176/12/36/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
16.	17990/24/10/2010	Unlawful Detention	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
17.	3688/7/17/2011	Failure in taking lawful action (Police)	One lakh	Government of Haryana
18.	29991/24/33/2012-WC	Abduction/Rape (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
19.	751/34/7/2013	False Implication (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Jharkhand
20.	1280/4/11/08-09	Negligence of State authorities	Two lakh	Government of Bihar
21.	4697/30/0/2011	Negligence of State authorities	One lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
22.	519/12/40/2012	Negligence of State authorities	Sixty thousand	Government of Madhya Pradesh
23.	432/18/5/2012	Electrocution Death	Three lakh	Government of Odisha

NHRC, India hosts 'Advance Human Rights Education Programme' of APF

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) hosted a two-day workshop of six Master Trainers of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) followed by a three-day 'Advanced Human Rights Education Programme' in New Delhi from the 9th June, 2014. Shri J.S. Kochher, Joint Secretary represented the NHRC as the APF Master Trainer.



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan inaugurating 'Advance Human Rights Education Programme'

The aim of workshop was to provide a forum to the Master Trainers to share ideas and experiences to strengthen the region-wide training programme on human rights issues such as torture prevention, rights of migrant workers,

investigation of human rights violations, media and communication skills etc.

The Master Trainers are those representatives of NHRIs who had been especially trained to plan, strategize and conduct human rights education training programmes for their respective NHRIs as well as for the programmes of Asia Pacific Region as Resource Persons.

The aim of the Advanced Human Rights Education programme was to strengthen familiarization of the Trainers of Trainers with the theoretical frameworks of adult education and human rights education; their effective implementation and strategizing the development of human rights education programme as per the requirements of each NHRI in the region.

Inaugurating the programme, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC said that human rights education was of utmost importance in a society, as also recognized in the Preamble of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to ensure that human rights were respected and promoted for the dignity of all. It gave every individual a scope to self-introspect and adopt attitudes and approaches encouraging respect for the rights of all.

The programme had participation of experienced trainers and educators from the NHRIs of India, Afghanistan, Palestine, Jordan, Mongolia, Nepal, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

NHRC team visits North Sikkim

Shri S.C. Sinha, Member, NHRC, accompanied by Dr. Savita Bhakhry, Joint Director (Research), Shri K.H.C. Rao, Dy. S.P., Shri C.S. Mawri, AR (Law) and Sushri Sonali Huria, Research Consultant, visited North Sikkim from 24th - 29th June, 2014 in connection with the 'visit to 28 Backward District Programme' of the Commission. The team visited PDS shops, District Hospital, schools, Health Centres, Aanganwadi Centres and made an on-the-spot assessment of the human rights situation, awareness and implementation of welfare schemes. A workshop on human rights awareness was organised for the District level functionaries which was also attended by the representatives of some NGOs. The Member also met with the senior officers of the District representing different departments and sensitized them on the importance of human rights issues and the Commission's interventions.



NHRC Member, Shri S.C. Sinha addressing the participants at the workshop

Smt. Kanwaljit Deol, DG (I) attends SEOs Roundtable in Sydney

Smt. Kanwaljit Deol, Director General (Investigation), NHRC attended the Senior Executive Officers'

Roundtable of Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs at Sydney, Australia from the 23rd - 24th June, 2014. The meeting was

aimed at providing an opportunity to share experiences, including lessons learnt and the best practices in the context of the promotion and protection of human rights and the administration of National Institutions.

Drawing experience about the collaborative exercises by some of the NHRIs in the West Asia towards promotion and protection of human rights, Smt. Deol felt that on combating human trafficking, the NHRC, India could explore the same possibility with the NHRIs of the South

Asia. She was also of the view that just as in civil police forces, the Commission could also encourage appointment of Nodal Officers for Human Rights in armed and security forces. Also, the Commission could involve itself in ensuring basic government services, such as, healthcare and education to UNHCR mandated refugees along with evolving polices for dealing with internal refugees due to disasters, communal riots etc.

NHRC's Open Hearings/Camp Sitzings

The NHRC will be holding its Open Hearings/Camp Sitzings for the matters of Madhya Pradesh at Bhopal from the 10th to 12th September, 2014 and for the matters

of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Chandigarh at Chandigarh from the 29th to 31st October, 2014.

NHRC's Summer Internship begins

A month-long Summer Internship Programme of the NHRC began in its premises in New Delhi on the 2nd June, 2014. 50 students from 14 Universities of different States/UTs are attending it. They would be exposed to various human rights issues and laws, composition, role and

functions of the Commission. The interns would be guided to write dissertations on various issues and aspects of human rights. Field visits to prisons and NGOs would also be organised to give them first-hand account of the functioning of such institutions.

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
'International Conference of Jurists & Writers – 2014' organised by the International Council of Jurists & International Commission of Writers at London, United Kingdom from the 22 nd – 23 rd June, 2014.	Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson
3 rd Dr. Ambedkar International Convention organised by the 'Dr. Ambedkar International Mission' at Paris, France from the 29 th June – 6 th July, 2014	Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson

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

Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	9359
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	6642
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	37453

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.

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