



HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

● Vol. 21 ● No. 12 ● DECEMBER, 2014

From the Editor's Desk

The prison population, mainly comprising under trials, is beyond the capacity of most of the jails but the success is eluding to resolve the issue. Obviously, the amenities and staff may fall short of meeting, sometimes, even the basic requirements of prisoners, who, as human beings, are also entitled to rights, though within the ambit of imprisonment. Colonial concept of prison has changed but it needs to translate into action on the ground to make them as centers of reform in reality to prepare the inmates mentally, physically and vocationally to join the mainstream of society. The NHRC has been persistently trying to draw the attention of the governments to reform prisons with a human rights perspective. Our cover story pegs yet another such effort of the Commission.

It is a noble idea to set up camps in the interiors of the country to provide healthcare services to those who cannot afford and have easy access to them. But, this turns ignoble, if such camps unwittingly become tools of achieving targets neglecting care and hygiene. Botched-up cataract surgeries and sterilizations leading to loss of eyesight and life in two camps in Chhattisgarh will remain in question for this. Unequivocally, such actions need to be condemned which amount to grave violation of human rights of the victim patients who are mostly gullible masses.

The issue of farmers' suicide is again in news and the Commission has taken its cognizance. It cannot be said for sure that all of them commit suicide only because of their inability to repay debt, though, generally, it is understood to be one of the major reasons. Already, our agriculture is heavily dependent on the vagaries of weather. Further, the paucity of nearby markets to sell produce, lack of quality roads, transport to ship them to distant mandis and storage facilities to save produce from rotting and shrinking land holdings have always been a major challenge for our farmers to earn enough and repay loans. Farmers, like anybody else, too need money to meet their requirements. But, at times, one wonders whether the institutional lending mechanism to save the unsuspecting people from the clutches of traditional moneylenders has worked as a good alternative or not.

National Seminar on Prison Reforms



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan addressing the seminar

The National Human Rights Commission organised a two-day National Seminar on Prison Reforms in New Delhi from the 13th-14th November, 2014. The aim of the seminar was to assess the status of the implementation of the recommendations made in its

Contd. on Page-2

Open Hearing and Camp Sitting in Chandigarh



NHRC Chairperson and Members at 'Open Hearing' in Chandigarh

The National Human Rights Commission organised a three-day programme of 'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting' in Chandigarh for the three States of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Chandigarh from the 26th-28th

Contd. on Page-7

More in this issue...

■ Camp Sitting in Odisha	3	■ International Conference on Regional Human Rights Mechanisms in South Asia	6	■ Other important visits/seminars/ programmes/conferences	8
■ Suo motu cognizance	3	■ Health Awareness Workshop for Elderly Persons	6	■ Complaints received/processed in November, 2014	8
■ NHRC's spot enquiry	4	■ NHRC organises an interaction with Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi	7		
■ Important Intervention	4				
■ Recommendations for relief	5				
■ Compliance with NHRC recommendations	6				

Visit us at : www.nhrc.nic.in

National Seminar on Prison ReformsContd. from Page-1

earlier seminar on the subject held on the 15th April, 2011 and to discuss what further steps would require to be taken to improve prisoners' condition and prison administration with a human rights perspective.

Addressing the participants, the Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh said that despite prisons being a State subject, the Centre would make all efforts to provide funds for modernization of jails. From the next financial year, the Centre would focus on the second phase of their modernization. For the first phase, the Centre had provided ₹ 18 hundred crores.

Shri Singh appreciated the NHRC for reviewing the action taken by States on several recommendations about prison reforms and said that he would also visit some prisons in the country to see how many of them had been implemented. He said that the Centre is committed to implementing the recommendations of the NHRC with the cooperation from States. The Home Ministry had issued advisories to the States on various aspects of prison reforms based on several recommendations. He observed that there was little improvement in some prisons, but by and large, they remained in a pathetic condition. Skill development of prisoners did not meet the expectations. A Model Prison Manual had been prepared, which also required some modifications.

Earlier, the NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan said that there should be uniformity in Prison Manuals so that prisoners in the jails of different States get the same privileges. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs can also suggest some Model Rules for amendment in the 1894 Prison Act. He said that the action taken reports of different States presented some good picture of reforms in prisons, however, a lot was required to be done. States needed to spend more on prison reforms.

Justice Balakrishnan said that after filing of chargesheets in courts, the undertrial prisoners should be released on bail to reduce the burden of overcrowding in jails, which is a serious problem and may lead to violation of basic human rights of inmates. He also said that a large number of courts were required to be set up to clear the cases so that undertrial prisoners did not stay in jails beyond one year.

Highlighting some of the key recommendations of the Seminar, the NHRC Member, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph said that there was near unanimity that Governments should provide sufficient funds to prisons. He said that prison should be perceived as a "home for corrective and

reformatory custody and care" and that the prisoners were also entitled for basic human rights within the limitations of imprisonment. Some of the other important recommendations were as follows:

1. The 1894 Prison Act, being very old, is needed to be replaced with a new Prison Act and the NHRC should prepare a draft Bill.
2. Prison Manuals also require amendments with a human rights perspective.
3. All possible measures should be taken to reduce overcrowding which is one of the biggest problems in most of the prisons.
4. A separate Prison and Correctional Services Cadre should be set-up.
5. Promulgate and notify the rights of prisoners in a form of a Charter in multiple languages.
6. Digitise prisoners' activities and details of all prisoners should be made available on the website of the concerned jail.
7. The bail, parole and furlough should be made more liberalized.
8. Construct separate prisons for women, which should be managed by women officers and staff.
9. All Central Prisons should have necessary medical equipment and tele-medicine system should be introduced to address shortage of doctors.
10. Environmental friendly devices like solar energy, bio-gas, water harvesting should be set-up to reduce burden on the resources in jails.
11. Provide effective grievance redressal system with the provisions of complaint box and CCTV cameras and alert system in the barracks of jails.
12. Sanitation and potable drinking water facilities should be improved.
13. Skill development and capacity building of prisoners must be given high priority for which public-private partnership model must be exercised.
14. Foreign nationals should be shifted to detention centers from prisons after completion of their sentence till they are deported to their respective countries.
15. Constitute Board of Visitors in all prisons who could periodically review and advise the prison authorities on various aspects of facilities, training, correctional work etc.
16. NHRC should conduct a study on the condition of the released prisoners.



Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh addressing the seminar

17. Connect courts and jails through video conferencing to avoid physical production of Under Trial Prisoners in courts.

NHRC Members, Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Shri S.C. Sinha, former NHRC Members, Justice Shri V.S. Malimath and Justice Shri G.P. Mathur, NHRC Secretary General, Shri Rajesh Kishore, JS (T&R), Shri J.S. Kochher, JS (P&A),

Dr. Ranjit Singh and other senior officers, representatives from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, State Home Secretaries, Director General/ Inspector General (Prisons) of States/UTs, State Human Rights Commissions, Bureau of Police Research & Development, members of civil society working in the prison related field and other stakeholders participated in the discussions.

Camp Sitting in Odisha

The National Human Rights Commission organised a 'Camp Sitting', chaired by its Member, Shri S.C. Sinha at Bhubaneswar, Odisha from the 10th-12th November, 2014. Total 53 cases were taken up from different Districts of the State. These were related to various issues including, among others, issues of liquor shops, sexual assault on children in hostels and schools, siphoning-off scholarship money by government officials, engagement of only higher caste cooks for preparing Mid-Day Meal by Self-Help Groups, issuance of BPL/AAY card to leprosy patients and allotting land to them, non-rehabilitation of released bonded labourers, shortage of lady officers for investigating cases related to women, not applying provisions of POCSOA & SC/ST



NHRC Member, Shri S.C. Sinha chairing the Camp Sitting

(POA) Act even in grave crimes such as rape of SC/ST women, non-payment of compensation and rehabilitation package to people displaced by development of riverbed, shortage and absenteeism of doctors and para-medical staff in the Primary, Community and District Health Centres etc.

The Commission recommended ₹ 5,30,000/- as monetary relief to the victims in three cases, issued Show-Cause Notices in eight cases, enhanced monetary relief in two cases.

The Commission also held a meeting with the representatives of NGOs and civil society on the 12th November, 2014. Later, it met with the Chief Secretary, DGP and Secretaries of different departments of the State Government and discussed various issues of human rights.

Suo motu cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 11 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during November, 2014 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of some of these cases are as follows:

Suicide by 76 farmers (Case No. 49/36/6/2014)

Reportedly, 76 farmers committed suicide in Telengana State since its formation. Thousands of them were in debt, which they could not repay to moneylenders due to low yield or crop failure.

The State Government had announced a loan waiver scheme for farmers but an order issued by it on the 13th August, 2014 stated that the scheme covers only institutional loans and not loans from non-institutional sources, i.e. traditional money lenders. The Commission has issued a notice to the Chief Secretary, Government of Telengana calling for a report in the matter.

Death of newborns in a hospital (Case No. 1521/19/10/2014)

Five newborns died at Mother & Child Hospital in Field Ganj, Ludhiana allegedly due to lack of facilities on the 23rd November, 2014. Just two days before the incident, the hospital was inaugurated. It was set up as a special wing for expecting mothers in the premises of Lord Mahaveer Civil Hospital. The Commission has issued a notice to the Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Government of Punjab calling for a report.

Children's death in Government Hospitals [Case No. 1835/22/6/2014]

In a period of one week, a large number of infants/babies died at Dharamapuri Government Hospital and Mohan Kumar Mangalam Medical College Hospital, Salem in Tamil Nadu. Reportedly, the reason behind these deaths was malnutrition and medical negligence. The Commission has issued notices to the Principal Secretary, Medical and Health Department, Government of Tamil Nadu and

District Magistrates of Salem and Dharmapuri calling for reports.

Diphtheria scare (Case No. 2691/20/2/2014)

In District Alwar, Rajasthan parents were reportedly planning to shift their children out of the villages lest they got infected with diphtheria which killed four children in Village Gothri. Twenty five children had been kept under observation for diphtheria infection at Alwar District Hospital. Allegedly, the contagious disease was spreading due to a major lapse in the implementation of the National Immunization Programme in the District. The Commission has issued a notice to the Principal Secretary, Health, Government of Rajasthan calling for a report.

Labourers cleaning manholes without protective gear (Case No. 1777/22/13/2014)

A group of labourers was spotted going down the manholes in Chennai, Tamil Nadu to clean them on the 25th October, 2014 despite legislation that prohibited the employment of manual scavengers. Reportedly, the abhorrent practice continued unchecked in many parts of the city.

The Commission has issued a notice to the Government of Tamil Nadu, through its Chief Secretary,

calling for a report on the steps taken to implement the provisions of the Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

Deaths after sterilization (Case No. 943/33/2/2014)

About 12 women died and more than 70 others were in a serious condition following sterilization on the 8th November, 2014 at a Government organised camp in District Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. Reportedly, more than 83 women were operated within a span of six hours using infected surgical tools. The Commission has issued a notice to the Government of Chhattisgarh, through its Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare calling for a report.

Killing of two youths in Army firing (Case No. 314/9/2/2014)

Four youths were traveling in a car in Chattergam area of District Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir on the 3rd November, 2014. Allegedly, they did not pay heed to signals to stop at the barriers set up by the security forces and hence, as claimed by Army, they were fired upon resulting in killing of two of them and injuries to two others. The Commission has issued notices to the Secretary, Union Ministry of Defence and Superintendent of Police, District Budgam 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.	548/4/39/2012	Failure in taking lawful action in a case of sexual assault in Patna, Bihar	3 rd - 7 th November, 2014
2.	1576/19/1/2013-BL	Bonded labour at a brick kiln in Amritsar, Punjab	10 th - 13 th November, 2014
3.	2981/7/6/2013	Attempt to suicide due to police torture in Hissar, Haryana	17 th - 21 st November, 2014
4.	36210/24/31/2013	Police inaction in a complaint alleging demolition of shops on the complainant's ancestral land in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	24 th - 27 th November, 2014
5.	41075/24/31/2013	False implication by police in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	24 th - 27 th November, 2014

Important Intervention

₹ 23 lakh as relief to 46 victims of botched up eye surgery

In a case of botched up eye surgery in Balod, District Durg, the persistence of the National Human Rights Commission resulted in payment of additional relief of ₹ 50 thousand each to the 46 victims by the Government of

Chhattisgarh. The Commission had held that ₹ 50 thousand each paid to the victims earlier by the State Government was insufficient. The State Government also informed that three eye surgeons and staff were suspended and

departmental action had been taken against them for their negligence. The eye camp was organised by the Indian Medical Association from the 21st – 31st September, 2011.

The Commission had taken cognizance of the issue in

2011 on the basis of a media report. During the course of enquiry, it found that 46 patients were infected after the operation and 44 of them lost eyesight.

NHRC seeks train reservation documents of KVS students and teachers

The National Human Rights Commission has expressed its displeasure on being informed by a complainant that the Principals of some Central Schools contacted parents to identify as to who made a complaint to the Commission about the children traveling like cattle in unreserved railway coaches to participate in a sports meet in Ahmedabad. Scared of punitive action against his ward, the complainant requested the Commission to close the case. He also expressed his gratitude to the Commission for its prompt action due to which his ward got a reserved ticket for his journey back home. The Commission had taken cognizance of the issue on the 15th October, 2014 on his complaint.

On receiving such a rejoinder from the complainant, the Commission made it categorically clear that it would be viewed very seriously if punitive action was taken against any student or escorting teacher in the matter. It has asked the Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Union Ministry of Human Resource Development and

Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to cause an enquiry in the matter and submit an action taken report.

The Commission has also expressed its shock that in the reports, received from the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, no information had been given about the alleged death of one of the escorting teachers and a student. It said that KVS authorities, including its Regional Commissioners, their subordinate staff & officers needed to be sensitized about human rights. It also observed some contradictions in the reports of the KVS and the HRD Ministry on the number of travelers without confirmed tickets.

The Commission has asked for the copies of the relevant documents about the railway tickets, arrangement for food, Inquest Report, Magisterial Enquiry Report, Post-Mortem Report and report of Medical Board in case of the death of a student and an escorting teacher.

₹ 15 lakh a relief to the families of five dead miners

Setting aside the contention of the Government of Rajasthan, the National Human Rights Commission has recommended that it pay ₹ 3 lakh each to the next of kin of five labourers who were buried alive under the debris of an illegal mine in the Village Chootharpur, District Alwar, Rajasthan in the year 2012. The Government of Rajasthan had contended that these persons died during illegal mining, therefore, no ex-gratia/monetary assistance was given to them. The Commission held that illegal mining

could not be possible without the connivance and negligence of some State Government officials for which the State should be liable. It has asked the State Government, through its Chief Secretary, to submit a compliance report along with the proof of payment.

The Commission had taken cognizance of the incident on the 18th May, 2012 on the basis of a newspaper report received along with a complaint from a human rights activist.

Recommendations for relief

A part from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 98 cases were considered during 05 sittings of the Full Commission and 04 sittings of Divisional Benches in November, 2014.

On 11 cases, listed in the table below, the

Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 15.55 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.	663/34/19/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Jharkhand
2.	464/34/18/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Jharkhand
3.	500/6/19/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Gujarat
4.	39710/24/1/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
5.	18/23/2/2011	Custodial Torture (Police)	Thirty thousand	Government of Tripura

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
6.	785/34/6/2013	False Implications (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Jharkhand
7.	5105/7/22/2013	False Implications (Police)	Two lakh	Government of Haryana
8.	936/18/28/2013	Abuse of Power (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Odisha
9.	3178/13/31/2012	Victimisation (SC/ST/OBC)	Twenty five thousand	Government of Maharashtra
10.	2756/30/1/2012	Inaction by the State Government	Six lakh	Government of NCT of Delhi
11.	1171/4/7/2012	Lack of Medical Facilities in Jail	Fifty thousand	Government of Bihar

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In November, 2014, the Commission received 09 compliance reports from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended,

totalling ₹ 13.80 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.	133/33/14/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
2.	4722/30/9/2012	Custodial Torture (Police)	Fifteen thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
3.	2941/30/5/2011	Unlawful Detention (Police)	Twenty five thousand	Government of NCT of Delhi
4.	2689/24/31/2012	Unlawful Detention (Police)	Twenty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
5.	35891/24/28/2011	False Implications (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
6.	43925/24/24/2012-WC	Abduction/Rape (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
7.	1738/12/5/2011-WC	Gang Rape	Two lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
8.	48811/24/28/2011	Irregularities in Jail	Two lakh thirty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
9.	454/33/14/2011	Death due to negligence (Children)	One lakh ninety thousand	Government of Chhattisgarh

International Conference on Regional Human Rights Mechanisms in South Asia

Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission, India attended an International Conference on 'Regional Human Rights Mechanisms in South Asia' organised by the National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh in Dhaka, from the 17th-18th November, 2014. He made several interventions during the course of discussions as one of the key speakers. The Conference discussed various issues of human rights in South Asian countries. These related mainly to the problems of migrant workers, trafficking in women, child right issues and climate change. The Conference emphasized that the Human Rights Institutions of South Asia Region would require to make concerted and collective efforts to address the human rights violations and stressed upon the SAARC Member nations to develop a strong regional human rights mechanism for the purpose. It also urged the SAARC



countries to ensure that all of them had a National Human Rights Institution in conformity with the Paris Principles.

Health Awareness Workshop for Elderly Persons

The National Human Rights Commission organised a 'Health Awareness Workshop and Health Camp for the Elderly Persons' in collaboration with Help Age India

at Siliguri, West Bengal on the 6th November, 2014. Addressing the gathering, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC said that the Commission is deeply

concerned about the protection and promotion of the rights of elderly and has taken various measures in this regard, including organising such awareness workshops.

Justice Balakrishnan said there is a need to promote policies and programmes to deal with the problems of elderly persons with a holistic approach and also build

awareness about them. The main objective of this camp, which was the third in the series organised by the Commission as a collaborative effort, was to provide some knowledge about the age-related ailments and their management. Earlier, two Camps were organised in Betul, Madhya Pradesh and in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

NHRC organises an interaction with Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi

It was an occasion for the Noble Peace Prize Laureate, Shri Kailash Satyarthi to go down the memory lane at an interaction organized by the National Human Rights Commission at the India International Centre, New Delhi on the 13th November, 2014.

Recalling his earlier days of extreme struggle while dealing with the bonded and child labour problem in the country, Shri Satyarthi said that the NHRC very strongly supported his efforts at a time when he was not receiving help from any other quarter. He expressed his gratitude towards the Commission and said that at least on two occasions its interventions saved his life from those who were opposed to his struggle against bonded and child labour.

He specially narrated the story of a child, named Ashraf, who became victim of the atrocities of his employers, who were Government servants and how at that time, he had difficulty in persuading hospitals to provide him treatment and police to take criminal action against his tormentors.

His struggle eventually led him on a Sunday to the residence of the then NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri Ranganath Misra who immediately called the officers of the Commission. He recalled how the then NHRC Member, Justice Shri V.S. Malimath took up Ashraf's case to ensure that no child was engaged as a domestic help. Eventually, a major success came through when the Central Government amended the rules banning its employees from engaging children as domestic helps.



NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan flanked by Members welcoming Shri Kailash Satyarthi

He expressed his happiness that the concerted efforts have brought a paradigm shift in the mindsets of people from showing charity to working for the rights of children.

Earlier, the NHRC Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan congratulated Shri Satyarthi for his achievements and described how he left a coveted career of an engineer to work for the rights of children. He said that the complete abolition of bonded and child labour in the country was still a big challenge. Referring to Shri Satyarthi's association with the NHRC as a Member of its Core Group of NGOs, Justice Balakrishnan said that the Commission is proud of him for getting the Nobel Peace Prize 2014.

Several dignitaries, including the present and former NHRC Members, senior officers and those who worked with Shri Satyarthi, were present on the occasion.

Open Hearing and Camp SittingContd. from Page-1

November, 2014. Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson, NHRC inaugurated it.

95 complaints from Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh were taken up in the 'Open Hearing' on the 26th November, 2014 by three benches of Members, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Justice Shri D. Murugesan and Shri S.C. Sinha.

The issues raised in the complaints related to

rehabilitation of Scheduled Caste persons evicted from government land, indifference of police towards atrocities on Scheduled Castes, registration of construction workers under the 'Building, other Construction Workers (Registration of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996', encroachment on land allotted to Scheduled Castes and inaction of revenue authorities to restore possession, filling Scheduled Caste vacancies etc.

On the 27th November, 2014, pending cases were taken up in the Camp Sitting of Full Commission and Division Benches. The Full Commission took up 11 cases relating to various issues, while 17 cases of custodial deaths and police encounters were taken up by the Division Benches. Division Bench – I, comprised Members, Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph and Shri S.C. Sinha. Division Bench – II, comprised Chairperson, Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan and Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan.

The issues involved in the Full Commission were related to the functioning of Aanganwadi and stoppage of Special Nutrition Programme at some places, security of school and college going girls, bonded labour, lack of infrastructure in primary schools and social boycott of Scheduled Castes in Sangrur, Punjab. While dealing with cases of custodial deaths and police encounters in the Division Benches, the Commission stressed that the police force should abide by law and recommended monetary relief to the next of kin of the victims in some cases.

On the 28th November, 2014, the Commission had a meeting with the representatives of the NGOs. They raised several issues, which included, among others, exclusion of Scheduled Castes from benefits of natural resources, lack of basic facilities in Scheduled Caste habitats, segregation of Scheduled Caste students while serving the mid-day meal in schools, discrimination in allotment of land to persons displaced after acquisition of land for a dam, excesses committed by police, problems of human rights defenders, non-registration of FIRs by police, mental health, road safety, child beggars and drug addiction in Punjab.

The issues, which emanated from the 'Open Hearing' and interaction with the representatives of NGOs, were discussed with senior officers of the Governments of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and UT Administration of Chandigarh and they promised to take every possible step to improve the implementation of various social welfare schemes. Later, the Commission briefed the media about the outcome of its 'Open Hearing' and 'Camp Sitting'.

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
'17 th Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2014 of Alzheimer's Disease International' organised by ARDSI & AIIMS at New Delhi on the 7 th November, 2014	Justice Shri K.G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson
Lecture on 'Human Rights: A North-Eastern Perspective', at Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati on the 21 st November, 2014	Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member
Visit to Central Jail, Guwahati, Assam from 21 st - 22 nd November, 2014	Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member
Seminar on 'Release and Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour' organised by SOCO Trust and other NGOs at Chennai on the 22 nd November, 2014	Justice Shri D. Murugesan, Member

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

Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	8558
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	5881
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	45593

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 Jaimini Kumar Srivastava, I&PRO 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 : ionhrc@nic.in