

Summary Record of Discussion in the Workshop on 28 District Programme on Human Right Awareness & Facilitating Assessment of Enforcement Of Human Rights held at South Goa District of Goa on 27th February 2009.

As a part of the 28 Districts programme on Human Right Awareness & Facilitating Assessment of Enforcement of Human Rights, the National Human Rights Commission had organized a workshop on 27th February 2009 at South Goa District of Goa. The Honorable Member, NHRC, Justice Shri B.C Patel, chaired the workshop. Apart from the State and District officials and representatives, the other NHRC representatives at the workshop were Secretary General, Shri Akhil Kumar Jain, Special Rapporteur, Shri. R.K Bhargava, Director (Administration), Dr Sanjay Dubey and PS (Dy Registrar) to Member, Shri Srivasan Kamath.

The District Collector welcomed the NHRC team and the other participants to the workshop. He said that the approach of the NHRC team in the programme is very co-operative. The team in its two days field visit has helped the administration in appreciating the issue from human rights perspective. He said that the recommendations given by the team are very helpful for protecting the interest of any section of the society and preventing any human rights violation.

Member, NHRC, Justice Shri B.C Patel said that in India there is diversity of religion, culture, language etc. Despite all the differences all Indians are united. Our forefathers have taught us this unity among diversity. He said that only the Constitution can't solve the problem. To ensure a better society, rights of all individuals are to be ensured. He said that the Constitution guarantees right to justice, liberty, equality and dignity and entrusts a role on State to achieve social equality in the society. The Central and State Governments must frame policies and make laws to achieve it and implement them in right earnest. The benefits must reach the common man. Only then democracy in real sense can be achieved. After independence large-scale changes in the socio and economic condition have taken place. A series of welfare schemes have started and it is

the duty of the Central and State Governments to implement them. All must respect each other and understand their obligation. The rights of people must be protected for ensuring that people really enjoy their life. He said that the various social welfare legislations must be enforced and exploitation in any form must be stopped and prevented. It is a duty casted upon every citizen and professional body to protect and promote human rights. The representatives of the State must train people, protect people and look after the needs of people. He hoped that the deliberations in the workshop will focus on responsibility, accountability, participation, understanding the basic needs of people, development and principles of good governance. He said that participation is the most important for protecting the rights and voice must be raised if basic needs of the people are not fulfilled. Referring to the complaints received in NHRC, he said that even if only 950 complaints have been received so far from the State, the authorities must be careful to ensure that no violations of human rights particularly custodial deaths, starvation deaths etc take place. He said that people were suffering because at grass root level the authorities were not responsive to their problems. Though some NGOs do take up their cause if still there are breaches of human rights. The authorities must communicate with people and be responsive to their problem. While poverty, corruption, violence etc are prevalent in the society, in the absence of proper legislation or policy framework it will not possible to protect and promote rights of citizen. Mere survival is not enough. The growth and development must empower people and bring dignity to them. For that schemes must be implemented in reality and not on papers only. He quoted P.N Bhagabati J. regarding right to life with human dignity and the bare necessities of life and also stated about the decisions in the landmark cases like D.K Basu, Sheela Varse etc while talking about custodial justice. He said that delay in trial is not only in the courts but also on the part of the investigative agencies. It is the duty of the police officer to ensure that the witnesses are available to the court for examining them. It is also the duty of the prosecution to ensure that right to speedy trial is ensured.

Member, Justice B.C Patel said that ecological balance is essential for the realization of right to life or a good health. Right to clean environment is a very important human right. He said that people must demand for the enforcement of their right. It should be the responsibility of the government to ensure payment of compensation to the victim of violations of human rights.

Speaking about the State of Goa in general and South Goa in particular, he said that the figure show that by enlarge people in the State are educated in comparison to other states and the development in the State is the result of that education. It is the duty of the state to provide education, which is compulsory and free up to the age of 16 year, and in some states it is free for girls both in school and college. He said that education develops a sense of dignity and responsibility. The Constitution enshrines provisions about right to education, health, hygiene, custodial justice, protection of SC & ST, culture, community assets, responsibility of government and panchayat etc. He said that looking at the development in the State there is no question of any unemployment here. There is no report of custodial death as such and all these are because of education. It must be ensured that mentally ill prisoners are not confined with other prisoners. For the protection of our culture people must educate their children and other citizen to preserve and protect our culture even if it is different in different parts of the country.

The Secretary General, NHRC praised the participants for their interest and participation in the workshop. He briefly stated about the objectives of the programme and the format in which the programme is conducted. He said that the NHRC was constituted in 1993 for the better protection and promotion of human rights and the Commission has conducted a lot of similar kind of programmes. On the occasion of 60th anniversary of UDHR, the Commission decided to extend its scope to reach the cutting edge levels in administration because maximum numbers of complaint are received against the functionaries at grass root level and the message of human rights awareness has to reach the grass root level. He said that through this programme, for the first time the Commission has come to district level and in future it may extend to more

districts depending upon the experience. He gave a presentation on human rights and structure, role and functions of NHRC. He said that human rights are inherent, inalienable and indivisible rights which are essential for the development of individual. The essence of human rights is the value system and the society must ensure that a value system based human rights is preserved. He added by saying that no rights are absolute and human rights of individuals are at times regulated in a manner that it serves the larger interest of the society and people. The State, therefore, must ensure regulation of rights in larger interest, and not violate them. The definition of human rights has been provided in Section-2 (d) of the Protection of Human Rights Act. Furthermore in the absence of any domestic law on any issue, the international law or covenants are the guiding principle in so far as it is not against any domestic law. He mentioned that the Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of the State Policy and Fundamental duties enshrined in the Constitution constitute the framework of human rights in India. The society as a whole is responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights. Explaining about various rights, he stated that right to life means right to life with dignity. But the expectations and standards may change from people to people or place to place. So no target can be set for the protection and promotion of human rights. However, some basic standards as internationally accepted must be achieved. The same may be raised as per expectations of the people. It is a dynamic process. Protection and promotion of human rights is essentially empowering the people. In its district programme, the Commission decided to concentrate on seven key issues. Regarding food security, he said that right to food flows from right to life in Article 21 of the Constitution and it requires accessibility, availability, and affordability of food with certain level of nutrition. It should be ensured that the people have access to food meeting required nutrition standards for which right kind of awareness is needed. Government has come out with employment guarantee scheme to provide employment to people who can earn and those who cannot earn their livelihood they are also be covered under other schemes. To ensure that the benefit of these schemes flow to the needy is the primary responsibility of the government.

The district and panchayat level officials are main functionaries to ensure that these are implemented properly. Wherever there is any demand for food, that demand must be met through any of these schemes and it should be closely monitored. People should not be allowed to die of hunger. Starvation death is not correct indicator of hunger. Starvation should be monitored and not starvation death which requires that close watch should be kept on whether people are getting food to meet desired level of nutrition or not. Regarding Mid-day-meal scheme, he said that inspite of the fact that Goa is much developed than many states in India, mid-day meal scheme is available only up to class fourth, which should be extended at least up to class eighth. The cooking and distribution aspect of food is equally important. Regarding health and hygiene, he stated that right to health also flows from Article 21 and DPSP. Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not mere absence of disease and government must generate conditions in which everybody can stay healthy. He said that such condition requires availability of health care centers, healthy and safe environment, availability of food and nutrition etc. He said that right to health covers the entire range of issues e.g. environment, preventive health care and curative health measures and for this too accessibility, availability and affordability are again the basic questions. It must be ensured that quality health services are available to everybody, especially in government hospitals and there should not be any discrimination. A question of acceptability also arises regarding health services. Government intervention is required, when in a particular area a particular medicinal system is more acceptable to people. Sanitation is also important thing for a good health.

Regarding custodial justice he said that persons should be taken into custody only by following procedure established by law and arrest should be well justified. It is the responsibility of the government to provide the prisoner food and humane condition of living and to ensure that his life is protected.

Regarding right to education he said that Goa has a higher rate of literacy than many states in the country but ensuring right to education should not be confined to 6-14 years age group aspect. Right to education should cover the

children of 0-6 years age group as well and beyond 14 years. He said that the legislation envisage in the amendment of the Constitution is basically to ensure the compulsory part of it and for ensuring uniform minimum standards. But the fact is that in almost all the states free education is available up to some standards. So at least the quality part of it should be addressed without waiting for new legislation. He said that Sarva Sikshya Abhiyan is not the final answer to quality education. The Village Education Committees in Goa are not performing their duties properly and the committee meetings are not held regularly. In South Goa Mid-Day-Meal is supplied by contractors. It is therefore all the more essential that Village Education Committees and Panchayat functionaries must go and check it. He added that human rights are common for all but for some socially disadvantaged groups, who didn't have a level playing field, some positive interventions by the government like reservation etc are required. This must be ensured seriously. He concluded by saying that protection of culture and community assets is essential and is the responsibility of the society as a whole.

Shri Ravi Kamal Bhargav, Special Rapporteur, NHRC said that Goa is a state with good ecological and population balance. He requested the participants to focus on the matters, which are core issues in Goa, during the group discussion and raise any such issue, which had not been covered by any discussion or presentations.

Dr. Sanjay Dubey, Director (Admn), NHRC said that the biggest problem with administration and governance in India is big gap between what is told and what is being practiced. He said that it is not a matter of service but a matter of delivering the services. Human rights are the modern secular version of old natural rights. The Government of India came out with the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. In the last 16 years the Commission has received only 38 complaints from South Goa. But it does not mean that the human rights violations are not there. He stated that the objective of this sensitization programme is to transfer the mechanical administration into administration with human face. He praised various schemes run by the State government like cyber scheme, free distribution of cycles to girl students etc and said that people here enjoy a better

standard of living than people in many other parts of the country. However, even Goa is not free from problems and the same needs to be tackled, problems like pedophilia, lack of quality education and health system, migrant workers issues are widespread in the State. He added that the promotion of efficient and effective service delivery is required. The Mid-Day-Meal schemes are not operationalised properly and there is delay on the part of the State government to implement it upto class eighth. He mentioned about NHRC's initiative for one-year rural attachment of MBBS students, recommendation for opening nursing colleges and trauma centers in every district. Concluding his observation, he suggested that as per decided format of the programme, the participants could divide themselves in four groups to have detailed discussion on specific topics and make recommendations.

Four groups were formed accordingly to discuss the following issues:

- **Group-I:** Right to food and evaluation measures taken to ensure the same including the responsibility of Panchayat, food adulteration and Human Rights of SC & ST communities and other vulnerable section of the society.
- **Group-II:** Right to custodial justice and labour
- **Group- III:** Right to Education and evaluation of measures to ensure the same
- **Group- IV:** Right to Health, hygiene, sanitation, environmental issues including drug adulteration and evaluation of measures to ensure the same.

The presentations stating the problems and recommendations made by the four groups in the concluding session of the workshop are annexed. From the field visit reports, discussions and presentations at the workshop the following suggestions emerged:

A. Rights to food and evaluation of measures taken to ensure the same including the responsibility of Panchayat, food adulteration issues, human rights of SC/ST communities and other vulnerable sections of society.

- Supply of food grain by fair price shop is inadequate and the quality is poor. Implementation of PDS needs to be re-evaluated.
- Fair price shops seem to be non-functional due to non-viability of running them (transport charges and timely receipt of payments). The State Government should ensure timely allocation and delivery of food grains to FPS and payment of reasonable transport and other charges.
- A list of basic items and quantity to be made available to ration cardholder (grains, pulses, oil and sugar) should be presented and displayed.
- Panchayats should actively pursue programmes for development of agriculture, water harvesting, irrigation, dairy farming, horticulture, bio-gas, co-operatives, marketing outlets, self help groups, solar cooking
- Panchayat should promote the DSS "Freedom from Hunger" Scheme of Rs. 1000 to Senior Citizen, Single women and the disabled.
- BPL families should be identified by the Gram Sabha and included in the BPL category to get benefit from PDS system. A survey needs to be conducted of the BPL families
- Monitoring mechanism needs to be set up to stop supply of adulterated grains in the PDS system.
- The Food and Drug Administration should be strengthened in South Goa.
- A monitoring system by Food and Drug Administration needs to be in place to check adulteration of all food items including meat products.
- Awareness on various Rights (Acts, schemes, procedures) must be conducted and for this a nodal officer should be appointed exclusively for the SC/ST/other weaker section of society. The awareness program should include distribution of literature/ leaflets and visual displays especially for vulnerable groups.

B. Right to custodial justice and labour rights

1. When a minor child is taken into custody, at the time of inquiry the police should be without uniform and the NGO or relative should be present with the child in conformity with law.
2. All accused should get the breakfast and lunch on time and there should be some choice in food.
3. Chance should be given to prisoners for telling their grievances. A proper system for that be introduced for which video conferencing may be used.
4. No political interference should be allowed in investigation of cases or in prosecution.
5. There should be adequate number of lady constables at police stations.
6. All migrant labourers should be registered with the concerned Govt. authorities and they are required to be issued with ID card similar to health card.
7. The cleanness should to be maintained at the Police lock ups & Judicial lock ups.

C. Right to education and evaluation of measures to ensure the same

1. Quality of education needs to be improved.
2. Discrimination against students with disability should be stopped.
3. Counselors are required for giving emotional support to students from pre-primary to higher secondary and for their full development.
4. Angan Wadi Centre should be provided adequate accommodation with proper sanitation, ventilation, electricity, water supply, furniture, playground facilities etc, and also adequate staff.
5. Pre-Primary teachers need to be appointed
6. Mid day meals should be provided to the students up to class 8th.
7. Quality education is the need of the hour. Private pre-primary education should be regulated properly.
8. Schemes should be implemented in time bound manner.
9. Drop out rate need to be checked, especially of migrant workers' children.

10. Procedure for issue of caste certificates needs to be simplified.
11. Infrastructure should be created for widening the education spectrum with local talents and expertise to generate opportunities for diverse higher professional, technical, medical etc courses, Government should aid setting up of such infrastructure.
12. Medical education and Nursing courses to train more doctors and para medical staff needs to be enhanced.
13. Recruitment of trained manpower in ESI hospitals and some other health centers needs to be made.
14. Vocational education should be provided to students who are not interested in regular academic courses especially after class X.

D. Right to Health, Hygiene and Sanitation including Drug Adulteration, Environmental issues and evaluation of measures to ensure the same.

1. Proficiency of medical practitioners should be ensured. The procedure to get health care facilities needs to be simplified.
2. Awareness about rights of patients needs to be generated.
3. The State Drug Controller should notify substandard and spurious drugs.
4. Awareness about HIV infections and adolescent relations at school level through sex education at school and higher secondary level should be generated.
5. Pollution of drinking water and ground water is a major problem which needs serious intervention by the government.
6. The issues like improper sewerage treatment, absence of any garbage/ waste management system, improper drainage etc. needs to be addressed immediately by the concerned authorities.
7. There should be strict implementation of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
8. There should be proper monitoring of all activities related to hygiene and sanitation.

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9. There should be strict implementation of all the legislations related to right to health.
10. The pollution in mining areas needs to be reduced.
11. The vehicles (Trucks) are always seen overloaded, over-speeding etc. leading to accidents in which many people are dying on road. While on one side overloading and over speeding should be strictly checked, emergency medical service for road accident victims be improved.
12. New mining lease should be strictly monitored from environmental angle and concerned officials should be held responsible and answerable.
13. Lot of pollution is caused by trucks carrying ores. They are over loaded and not covered leading to pollution in roadside and adjoining areas. The provision of laws and rules in this regard must be strictly enforced especially 9 inches open space above ores and covering and tying up the same properly so as to minimize pollution. Surprise checks should be done and defaulters should be penalized including truck owners.
14. More power should be given to the Pollution Control Board. Politicians should not interfere.
15. Disposal of hazardous Industrial waste needs to be monitored and regulated.
16. Proper training should be given to all the personnel regarding emergency services at time of disasters.

Field Visit Report Of The "28 District Programme On Human Rights Awareness & Facilitating Assessment of Enforcement Of Human Rights" Held At South Goa, Goa From 25th to 27th February 2009

As part of the Programme on Human Rights Awareness & Facilitating Assessment of Enforcement of Human Rights related schemes", a team from National Human Rights Commission headed by Hon'ble Member Mr. Justice B.C. Patel and comprising of Secretary General, Shri Akhil Kumar Jain, Special Rapporteur Shri R.K. Bhargava, Director (Admin.), Dr. Sanjay Dubey and Deputy Registrar (Law) cum PS to Member, Shri Srinivas Kamath visited South Goa district of Goa from 25th February to 27th February 2009. During the two day field visit, the team visited the following places and came out with the following findings:

I. RIGHT TO EDUCATION

a. Angan Wadi Centre (AWC), Uttar Dougri, Chicalim

(Date of Visit: 25th February 2009)

Observations:

1. The number of children present at the time of visit was 17 against the total enrolment of 22.
2. The accommodation is insufficient and there is no open playground or space outside the AWC.
3. There is no local Committee to monitor the functioning of the AWC. The pregnant and lactating mothers are given Rs.8/- per day per person whereas Rs.5 per child per day is given.
4. The Children are given Laddu, Rawa, Moong khichdi, boil kabuli to eat. Pregnant and Lactating mother are supplied with 2-½ kg. Moong and 2.2 kg Raggie. It was reported that the quality of food supplied varies.

5. Though registers for maintaining records were there, the same were not updated. The inspecting officers only pay routine visits and hardly check things and work on remedial measures.

b. Government Primary School, Chikalim

(Date of Visit: 25th February 2009)

Observation:

1. The total strength was 24 but 21 were present at the time of visit. Out of them 15 were girls and 9 were boys.
2. There are two teachers in the school. Most of the children were of migrant parents.
3. The school has the facility to educate students from class 1st to 4th standard. Mid day meal is given and 100gm food grains and Rs.2.91 per day per child is given for this.
4. The Contractor delivers the food served under Mid-Day Meal scheme at 10.30 A.M everyday.
5. The Village Education Committee is not visiting and monitoring the school. It was reported that Books/uniforms/raincoats/notebooks are supplied to the students on time.
6. The teachers appeared to be quite motivated. The standard of upkeep in the school was also good.
7. The main problem reported was seasonal dropping out of children when their parents go home.

II. RIGHT TO CUSTODIAL JUSTICE

a. District Jail, Madgao

The Hon'ble Member Mr. Justice B.C. Patel inspected the District Jail situated at Madgao on 25th February 2009 to have a first hand experience of the

conditions prevailing there. The Deputy Collector of the district and Dr. Sanjay Dubey, Director (Admin.) also accompanied the member.

(Date of Visit: 25th February 2009)

Observations:

1. The team was told that there were 104 inmates out of which 28 are convicts in the Jail and the rest undertrials. The convicts and undertrials are kept together for better observation by the guards as there was some mischief played by the convicts in the past.
2. It was stated by the jail officials that those booked under NDPS Act are not kept in the jail. Around nine inmates were involved in murder, rape, cheque bouncing etc. Majority of the inmates are outsiders and not from Goa.
3. The team was informed that there is provision for games such as volleyball, carom, chess etc. The routine is to get up at 6 o' clock in the morning. Bread and milk is provided for breakfast whereas in the evening it is black tea. Chapattis are served in the Dinner.
4. There are ten cells in the jail where the inmates are kept. The member inspected all of them one by one. It was observed that T.V., Fan etc were provided in the cells. Some tube lights were not working. Sufficient numbers of exhaust fans were found working.
5. The toilets were clean. Contrary to jail manual, it was found that eatable items are allowed to be kept in the cell which was taken note of by the Member and disapproved by him. A system of jail canteen, which is unique to the jail, was appreciated.

6. It was stated that medical examination is done at the time of entry into the jail and periodical medical check ups are also being done. It is worth mentioning here that one inmate Sashi Sahu complained that he was not medically examined at the time of entry into the jail, which was disputed by the authorities and papers were shown to its support. He was having abdominal pain for the last 15-20 days though he did not make any complaint to any one. The Member instructed the jail officials to immediately take him to the hospital. Nobody else complained about lack of treatment when they were specifically asked. Another inmate Srikant complained that though he was being treated for the last eight days, there was no relief for his stomach pain. From the interaction with inmates it was clear that periodic medical check ups are inadequate. It was later informed that one doctor comes once in a week which is not sufficient. It was also informed that one private doctor has been hired for the last three months who comes every day.
7. It was brought to the notice that in the year 2003 there was a custodial death that too of a prisoner who died of sickness in the hospital.
8. The jail kitchen is managed by convicted inmates and undertrials together for which they were being paid for.
9. The lunch was being served at 12 noon. Fish Bhaji, rice etc was the menu for lunch. The food was of good quality.
10. The cleanliness was upto the mark through daily mopping of the kitchen area though washing was done only once a week. The open buckets full of garbage were noticed. It was directed that the same be emptied

immediately and also that the garbage bucket be kept covered. Light in the kitchen was generally inadequate.

11. The cleanliness in the storeroom where the food articles were kept, left much to be desired. Sugar bags were kept open which attracted ants and flies. Painting of the shelf and exhaust fans was overdue. Mosquito nets at the windows were damaged. The flooring and roof of the room needed repair. It was informed that PWD was not cooperating with the jail authorities in carrying out the general repair works.
12. Some inmates requested to increase the frequency of the telephone calls allowed to them for contacting their dear and near ones. Another complaint was to give them some varieties in fish provided in meal; and that they be paid fare for their travel to their homes when released from the jail.
13. One inmate Shamsad Ansari convicted for murder claimed that he was underage. But the authorities informed that he was medically examined and report has been sent to the court.
14. On the day of the visit, some inmates were away from the jail having been taken to Court. There is videoconferencing facility in jail for remand cases, which is well maintained and put to use efficiently.
15. It was also informed that District Judge does come to the jail once in three months. The last visit was on 2nd November 2008.
16. It was observed that dietary scale had not been displayed in the jail, which was later directed to be displayed. Over all the jail was found to be managed well and no major irregularities/shortcomings were noted.

III. RIGHT TO HEALTH

a. District hospital

(Date of Visit: 25th February 2009)

After visiting the jail and the FCI godown the team headed by Hon'ble Member, NHRC, Shri Justice B.C Patel, went to the district hospital, which is a very old hospital and reportedly the first medical school in Asia.

Observations:

1. A new building for the hospital is coming up in the compound itself. There are twenty medical officers and 45 consultants in the hospital which has 230 beds. Occupancy is not full. Every day, approximately 400 OPD patients and thirty to forty referred cases come to the hospital.
2. All major departments including Neuro surgery are functioning in the hospital with two consultants in each department. 108-ambulance service is available and there are five or six such ambulance in the hospital.
3. There are even Homeo and Ayurvedic divisions available in the hospital. CT Scan facility is available. It was stated that if a particular facility/treatment is not available in the hospital an amount upto Rs. 3 lakhs is being paid to the hospital where the said treatment is availed subject to the condition that this will be paid only to those whose annual income is below Rs. 1.5 lakhs.
4. The orthopedic ward was also visited where all the beds were not occupied. Surgery was underway in the operation theater. The maternity ward was almost occupied. It was stated that there is no complaint and the Government meets almost all requisitions/demands. One part of the maternity ward was under renovation. Roof of one part had collapsed

without causing any damage to human life. The hospital building is a very old (150 years old) heritage building.

5. The pediatric and female surgery wards were also visited. The female surgery ward was slightly congested but was very clean. In the dialysis room, one patient was undergoing dialysis and two were waiting for their turn.
6. There is a separate block of the hospital for OPD called Hospicio Hospital. The building is painted every three years. In the casualty on an average 100 patients are attended every day. CT scan facility is being availed by 10-15 patients daily, mostly for head injuries. 70-80 patients undergo X-ray while 40-50 patients undergo ultra sound examinations everyday. Echocardiogram facility is availed once a week by at least twenty patients.
7. In the blood bank, which caters to entire South Goa, a stock of 200 bottles is maintained. The blood collected was completely by donations.

IV. RIGHT TO FOOD

a. FAIR PRICE SHOP, MAJOUDA- SHOP NO-47

(Date of Visit: 25th February 2009)

Observations:

1. There are 3831 APL, 83 BPL, 16 Antodaya and 3 Annapurna cardholders.
2. Wheat and rice are supplied by the FPS. But sugar is not supplied, as only 16 beneficiaries to take sugar are there and they take it from other shops on card. For supply of sugar there are not enough cardholders and no rebate is given on sugar price.

- 3. There are 67219-303347 APL, 202 BPL, 180-736 AAY, and 41 Annapurna cardholders in the taluka. Sugar is being supplied in other talukas
- 4. Five ration cards were verified and all were APL cards.

b. FCI GODWN

(Date of Visit: 25th February 2009)

The team headed by the Hon'ble Member, NHRC, Shri Justice B.C Patel also visited the Food Corporation of India godown, the capacity of which is 15000 tones.

Observations:

- 1. It was informed that both rice and wheat is being stored here. Grains for mid-day meal scheme and also for public distribution were being supplied from here.
- 2. The grains were kept packed in sacks and the wire mesh at the entrance was damaged at many place as a result of which the menace of birds was increasingly seen.
- 3. The building was painted two years ago and the work is now going on.
- 4. There were forty casual labourers employed. Two lady workers appeared to be senior citizens about which the manager of the godown was asked to look into.
- 5. Three blocks of the building were empty and the Manager informed that some quantity of wheat is expected to come shortly.