

NHRC approached over alleged police highhandedness

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: A complaint has been lodged with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) alleging police highhandedness in dealing with people picked up during the recent raids conducted in several parts of the city to trace "doubtful citizens."

A complaint filed by Pawan Sharma and Arindom Chakraborty alleged that Meghalaya Police illegally raided the houses of poor people of 4th Furlong, Pynthorbah and Madanriting and detained around 684 of them in Sadar Police Station for a whole night without providing them food besides depriving them of their daily wages for the day.

According to petition submitted to the NHRC chairman, the persons who were detained were genuine citizens and possessed valid documents.

The duo also urged NHRC to direct the State Government to compensate the affected people since they were "detained illegally".

Dance competition

Bogy's Sports and Cultural Club, Harijan Colony will organize a New Year Dance Competition at 4 pm on January 3.



NHRC Seeks Report on Medical Neglect of Tribal Students

By Express News Service

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BHUBANESWAR: Increasing incidents of medical neglect of ailing inmates of residential schools in tribal areas has drawn the attention of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

The Commission, which had asked the State Government to accord top priority to the health of inmates in tribal residential schools in November last year, has sought an action taken report on the matter.

The direction has been issued on the basis of a petition filed by rights activist Akhand alleging serious neglect towards health concerns of the inmates. Neither were they provided with prompt and adequate medical care during illnesses nor were the guidelines on health check-up of the inmates complied with on a regular basis.

The petitioner submitted that he had visited some residential schools in Rayagada district to find students and inmates living in utterly miserable conditions. The situation at Bankili High School under Konara block was the worst.

“At the time of the visit, we found around seven students lying on the floor due to illness. On enquiring, we found that though they were unwell since days, they had not been taken to a doctor or accorded with proper treatment. They were being given medicines by consulting a local medicine store,” Akhand complained.

He stated that the headmaster took the alibi of lack of fund provisioning by the Government for not taking the inmates to hospitals. Further, for a residential school that had around 600 boys and 110 girls, the infrastructure was pathetic. The kitchen was broken and food cooked in most unhygienic conditions leading to frequent health problems among the inmates. The authorities were totally indifferent to the health issues of the students.

The petitioner drew attention of the Commission’s observations during its three-day camp sitting in Bhubaneswar in November last year, where it had broached

on the very issue of health of the inmates. Commission member SC Sinha had called upon the Government to set up a unified structure involving different departments concerned as the School and Mass Education, ST and SC Development and Health to ensure proper coordination and effective redressal of education and health concerns.

The Commission had also directed the Government to ensure that the ANMs and health workers pay proper attention to the health issues of inmates through regular visits and check-ups. However, the directions have not been acted upon, Akhand alleged.

The NHRC has directed the ST and SC Development Department Secretary to submit action taken report within four weeks.