



NHRC NOTICE TO UP GOVERNMENT

NEW DELHI: Taking suo motu cognizance of reports that an alleged victim of sexual assault committed suicide in Bareilly as the police allegedly delayed proceedings on her complaint, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) said sent a notice to Uttar Pradesh government and called for a detailed report in the matter within four weeks. Reportedly, the senior superintendent of Police Bareilly has placed the sub-inspector concerned under suspension and one Munshi, who had dismissed the application submitted by the victim, has also been attached.



Police barbarism

The growing incidence of torture, sexual abuse – and even death – in police custody in the State has emerged as a serious concern. On several instances in the recent past, we witnessed interventions by the Assam Human Rights Commission as well as the National Human Rights Commission on such matters, exposing unprovoked brutality on the part of the police and security forces. In the latest such horrific case, three sisters including a pregnant woman were brutally abused by a police officer and a woman constable inside a police station in Darrang district. The pregnant woman also lost her baby due to the brutalities inflicted on her. The incident drew widespread media coverage – something that compelled the authorities to suspend the accused police personnel and institute an inquiry. An impartial probe by an independent authority is needed for such cases. Disturbingly, the fact that the police and security forces have repeatedly been pulled up by the NHRC and the courts over such heinous crimes in the past has failed to curb this worrying trend. Every accused, and even convicted criminals, are entitled to their human rights – something that needs to be protected jealously if we were to maintain the rule of law in society. Custodial torture and death imply gross violation of human rights, and are a blot on governance and the principles of justice and equality. When members of the security forces are increasingly found to be indulging in such aberrations that negate the existence of both human rights and the rule of law, the faith of the people in law-enforcing agencies is bound to erode. The spurt in custodial death along with custodial sexual abuse testifies to the growing dehumanization of the police forces. Lack of sensitization to human rights apart, the absence of an effective deterrent mechanism which ensures that the violators of human rights seldom get punished is largely attributable to the prevailing scenario.

To stop the men in uniform from riding roughshod over human rights, the administration and the judiciary need to display greater vigilance. Civil society groups, too, have a role in this respect. But most importantly, the police itself have to set its house in order for redeeming its eroding image. Sensitizing the police to human rights is an imperative need to check its dehumanization. There is an urgent need to inculcate in the members of the force a sense of respect for human rights and dignity. To check unbridled abuse of power by the law-enforcing agencies, the NHRC and the State commissions need to be given more teeth. It should put in place a mechanism that can ensure compliance of its recommendations. Flouting of guidelines concerning arrests – as was witnessed in the latest incident — is a common practice, which often leads to violation of human rights. To be more efficient and pro-active, both the NHRC and the State commissions need an extension in their ambits. Rather than the State Governments, it is the commission which should be entrusted with the authority of monitoring the implementation of its guidelines.



यूपी के मुख्य सचिव को नोटिस

लखनऊ (भाषा) । राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने उत्तर प्रदेश के बरेली जिले में कथित बलात्कार की पीड़िता द्वारा आत्महत्या किए जाने के संबंध में मीडिया में आई खबरों पर स्वतः संज्ञान लेते हुए राज्य के मुख्य सचिव एवं पुलिस महानिदेशक को नोटिस जारी किया है। ऐसी सूचना है कि बरेली के वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक ने पीड़िता की शिकायत को नामंजूर करने वाले सब इंस्पेक्टर को निलंबित कर दिया है और मुंशी को लाइन हाजिर किया है। अब इस प्रकरण में प्राथमिकी दर्ज हो गयी है और जांच के आदेश जारी हो चुके हैं। आयोग की विज्ञप्ति में गुरुवार को बताया गया कि आयोग ने पाया कि इस संबंध में खबरें, अगर सही हैं तो यह मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन का 'गंभीर मामला' है। आयोग ने मुख्य सचिव और डीजीपी से इस सिलसिले में विस्तृत रिपोर्ट चार सप्ताह में तलब की है। आयोग ने कहा कि वह मामले की जांच की मौजूदा स्थिति को जानना चाहेगा और यह भी जानकारी चाहेगा कि मृतका के परिजनों को राहत प्रदान की गयी है या नहीं। यह दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है कि सरकारी सेवक ने पीड़िता की शिकायत पर समय से कार्रवाई करने की बजाय इसमें विलंब किया।



AHRC notice to DM for probe

'Torture' of 3 sisters in custody

GUWAHATI: The Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of newspaper reports of the alleged stripping, assault and torture of three sisters inside a police outpost in Darrang by its in-charge and issued notice to the district magistrate on Thursday to conduct an inquiry into the incident.

An AHRC single bench of NK Bora issued the notice and directed that the report, along with all documents and medical report should be submitted to it within one month of receipt of the notice, according to a Commission release.

The newspapers, reporting on the brutality on the three women said they were allegedly picked up by Darrang police from Guwahati, taken to Burha police outpost in the district where they were stripped and tortured by the inspector-in-charge Mahendra Sarma and a lady constable Binita Boro, it said. Both Sarma and Boro have been placed under suspension.

The NHRC and the National Commission for Women (NCW) too had taken suo moto cognizance of the media reports and had directed the state chief secre-

tary and DGP to conduct an inquiry and submit their reports within four weeks. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has ordered an inquiry into the incident by Central Western Range DIG Brojenjit Singh.

The women were picked up from their home in Guwahati in connection with a kidnapping case filed against their brother and brought to Burha police outpost of the district on September 9, Darrang Superintendent of Police Amrit Bhuyan said. The three women were later released after the brother and the woman he had allegedly kidnapped surrendered at the police outpost.

The women, however, later alleged in a complaint to the Superintendent of Police, that they were stripped, assaulted and tortured by Sarma.

They also claimed before the media that the eldest of the sisters, who was two-month pregnant, had miscarried following the assault. The women were initially taken to the Helengpara PHC from where they were referred to Guwahati Medical College Hospital for examination. The police said that the medical report is awaited. (PTI)