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**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
Faridkot House, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi – 110 001

**SCHEME FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS**

**Introduction**

1. Keeping in view the increasing work load of the National Human Rights Commission, necessity was felt that services of some eminent persons who have knowledge or practical experience in dealing with the Human Rights issues may be utilized to assist the Commission in discharging its statutory responsibilities. Accordingly, this scheme for engagement of such persons as Special Rapporteurs has been formulated. The engagement of Special Rapporteur will be governed by the following general conditions:-

**Nature of Engagement**

2. The engagement of Special Rapporteurs is not a regular appointment. It is a contractual arrangement under which an honorarium is paid for the services rendered by the Special Rapporteurs.

**Eligibility Criteria for Special Rapporteurs**

3. A person who has held high posts in Government of India or State Government or is an academician of repute or an eminent person who has knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to Human Rights, shall be eligible for appointments as Special Rapporteur.

**No. of Special Rapporteurs**

4. The Commission may engage as many Special Rapporteurs as it may deemed fit. Special Rapporteurs may be engaged either to cover a specified geographical area or specified subjects. The engagement of Special Rapporteur on area basis will normally be one for each of the following zones:-

<b>Zones</b>	<b>States covered</b>
North-1	J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, & Chandigarh
North -2	Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana & Delhi
Central West	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
Central Zone	Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh
East-1	West Bengal, Orissa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands
East-2	Bihar, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh
South-1	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala & Lakshadweep
South - 2	Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka
North East	Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura

4.1. This area distribution is, however, subject to change at the discretion of the Commission.

4.2 The engagement of Special Rapporteur for specific subjects will be on need basis.

4.3. Notwithstanding the above assignment a Special Rapporteur may be assigned additional work including work in a different region or related to any subject, by the Chairperson/Commission.

#### **Mode of Selection**

5. Mode of selection would be by application or invitation. The curriculum vitae could be obtained by the Secretary General for consideration and after consultation with the Members; the recommendation will be placed before the Chairperson for approval.

#### **Duration of Engagement**

6. The Special Rapporteur shall initially be engaged for a period of three years extendable upto a maximum period of 06 years or upto the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

## Functions of Rapporteurs

7. A Special Rapporteur may be entrusted with all or any of the functions listed below:-

- a) Investigation/inquiry into specific complaints as assigned by the Commission.
- b) Visit jails, police lock ups and other place of detention, namely, juvenile homes, beggars' homes, preventive homes, after-care homes, Nari Niketans, probation homes, or any other place as and when required in connection with discharge of his duties.
- c) Projects/programmes taken up in the States/UTs at the instance of the Commission or which have bearing upon human rights issue.
- d) Liaise with non-governmental organization(s) and other human rights institutions specifically identified by the Commission on such matters as the Commission may direct.
- e) Matters remitted to the NHRC by Supreme Court.
- f) Monitoring of Action Taken Reports by the concerned States/Organizations/etc., on the specific recommendations given by the Commission.
- g) Participation in Seminars/Conferences etc., organized by NHRC.
- h) The Special Rapporteur may be assigned additional work including work in different region or relating to any subject by the Commission/Chairperson/Member.

## Headquarters of Special Rapporteur

8. The Special Rapporteur for a region is preferably expected to have his headquarter at a place within the region. **Zonal Special Rapporteurs may be located within their allocated Zones. Thematic Special Rapporteurs may be located within the premises of NHRC. They shall be provided with office accommodation by the Commission and they may attend office on working days with flexible timings.** Headquarter declared once will normally not be changed. Any change in headquarter shall be with the consent of the Commission.

### **Authority to whom Special Rapporteurs to report**

9. The Special Rapporteurs shall submit the quarterly work programme to the Commission through the Secretary General of NHRC.

### **Honorarium**

10. Depending on the work assigned, the Commission may pay the Special Rapporteur an honorarium payable in the reasonable number of installments. The remuneration may, however, not exceed a monthly payment of **Rs.30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand only)**

10.1 Whenever a Special Rapporteur would not be available to the Commission for at least 03 working weeks in a month due to personal reasons, he would be paid honorarium on pro rata basis for the days of his availability.

### **Reimbursement of other expenses pertaining to Office and other logistic support**

11. An amount upto **Rs.20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only) per month** may be paid to Special Rapporteurs towards reimbursement for secretarial or other expenses for facilitation of his work. The items covered under such reimbursement will inter-alia include office expenses, office accommodation, staff, recurring expenses on running the office, transport, telephone and electricity bills, internet, etc. charges, expenditure on stationery, postal charges and other related expenditure.

11.1. While visiting NHRC Headquarter, they may be provided some temporary space to work and if required some secretarial assistance, subject to availability.

### **Tours**

12. A Special Rapporteur may undertake tours as per his work programme informed in advance to the Commission. While on tour he shall be entitle to TA/DA as admissible to Group 'A' officers of the Government of India and reimbursement of local conveyance (for Taxi etc.) on production of receipt.

### General Conditions

13. a) *Special Rapporteurs will maintain confidentiality of the assigned work and communicate their views/report etc. only to the Commission.*
- b) *They may decline State Guest facilities in visits to State/Union Territories wherever they consider that it might be seen to affect their image of impartiality.*
- c) *The Commission expects that the services of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission are available for at least 3 working weeks in a month.*
- d) *The Special Rapporteurs may take up other assignments only if there is no conflict of interest and it does not have implication on their function as Special Rapporteur. The nature of assignments may be :*
- (i) Part-time consultancies or part-time teaching assignments.*
  - (ii) Deliver lectures or participate in seminars/workshops;*
  - (iii) Be member of social/charitable institutions including positions on board*
  - (iv) Owner/Director of family owned companies..*
- e) *In case they accept any other full time employment or any part time employment which infringes upon their functioning as Special Rapporteur, they will not be considered or will be disqualified*

### Termination

14. The engagement of Special Rapporteur can be terminated by either party by giving one month's notice or the monthly sum paid as honorarium.

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