

WEST BENGAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

File No.1738/WBHRC/COM/2012-2013

Date: 15th May, 2013

P r e s e n t

1. Mr. Justice Asok Kumar Ganguly - Chairperson
2. Mr. Justice N.C. Sil - Member
3. Mr. S.N. Roy - Member

The Commission received a petition from Ranjit Kumar Dutta, Secretary, Barasat Unnayan Prostuti a N.G.O., working for preventing trafficking of women in ten blocks of North 24 Parganas district listing some cases of human trafficking. It was stated in the petition that they had been able to bring back 117 girls from Pune, Mumbai, Delhi and Goa. It was further stated that the financial conditions of most of the girls were miserable and poverty was largely responsible for trafficking of the girls.

2. The Commission took cognizance of the matter, called Ranjit Kumar Dutta and took his evidence on 08-1-2013. Ranjit Kumar Dutta in his evidence before the Commission stated that they have been working in the district of North 24 Parganas. They could identify the persons who were actually involved in the trafficking racket of women from North 24 Parganas. They prepared a list of such traffickers and sent them to S.P., North 24 Parganas a few months back. After the names were given, 2/3 culprits were arrested. But he complained that the anti-trafficking cell in North 24 Parganas was not as active as before.

3. The Commission considered the evidence of Ranjit Kumar Dutta and decided to call the following officials and also the petitioner Ranjit Kumar

Dutta :-

- i. Ms. Roshni Sen, IAS, Secretary, Deptt. of Women Development, Social Welfare and Child Development,
- ii. Sugata Sen, IPS, Supdt. of Police, North 24 Parganas and

4. Ms. Roshni Sen, IAS, Secretary, Department of Women Development, Social Welfare and Child Development stated that she received an incomplete list containing the names of women, who were trafficked victims. This list was furnished by the N.G.O. concerned. She further stated that the State Government has introduced schemes like Ujjwala Scheme, Sabala Scheme etc. where State Government can help by way of rehabilitation of the trafficked victim girls. She, however, submitted that there was a lot of scope for further action to augment the resources for combating the affected women and girls of our State. She also agreed that in rehabilitation of these trafficked women and girls, NGOs can play a vital role and also there is a need for coordination amongst various agencies like Panchayet and Rural Development, Health and Family Welfare, Labour, Police and her department. She further stated all the information relating to missing and trafficked children are being uploaded in the website : trackthemissingchiled.com.

5. Sugata Sen, IPS, Supdt. of Police, North 24 Parganas submitted a statement on human trafficking cases registered in North 24 Parganas

district in the year 2010-11 and 2012. He also further stated he personally reviews the case of trafficking in all the Police Station. All the Second Officer of each Police Station of the district has been designated as a local Nodal Officer and the Dy.S.P. (DEB) is the District Nodal Officer of the Anti Human Trafficking Unit. He also undertook to personally look into the functioning of the AHTU and see that a competent officer is placed in charge of the unit.

6. Ranjit Kr. Dutta was apprised of the evidence of the aforesaid two witnesses. He stated that he would shortly meet the Supdt. of Police, North 24 Parganas and take up with him the specific cases of trafficking of women where immediate police action is needed to rescue the trafficked victims. He was also advised to meet the Secretary, Deptt. of Women Development, Social Welfare and Child Development.

7. It is a matter of grave concern that there is a large number of instances of trafficking of girl victims from different parts of the State. In this respect, an all out effort has to be made to combat this menace of trafficking of women. On one hand, effective police action is required to nab the culprits to bust the network operating in trafficking of women, on the other, suitable rehabilitation measures are to be formulated for rehabilitation of the trafficked women victims.

8. Considering the utmost need to protect the trafficked girl victims within the State, the Commission recommends that

i. the State Government should formulate a specific scheme for rehabilitation of the trafficked women victims,

ii. the State Government should augment the financial resources of the existing schemes so that an effective impact could be made for taking care of rehabilitation of the rescued trafficked victims.

9. The Government should intimate the Commission about the action taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations within a period of two months from the date of communication.

sd/-

(S.N. Roy)
Member

sd/-

(Justice N.C. Sil)
Member

sd/-

(Asok Kumar Ganguly)
Chairperson

Date: Kolkata, the 15th May, 2013

Comments of the State Government will be uploaded as and when received.

Sd/- (15/05/2013)
(J. Sundara Sekhar)
Secretary & CEO