

WEST BENGAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

File No.2398/WBHRC/Com/2012-13

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 the villagers of Khanpur village, P.S.Mururai, Dist- Burbhum wherein allegations were made against one Mujibur Rahaman who was practicing as a quack in the village. It was further alleged that the said quack medical practitioner Mujibur Rahaman was also collecting medicines which had expired through agents from different sources including government hospitals. The Commission admitted the matter and directed District Magistrate, Birbhum to conduct an enquiry and submit report.

2. Addl. District Magistrate (General), Birbhum submitted a report. From the enquiry report, it revealed that the quack doctor, namely, Mujibur Rahaman has been practicing in the Khanpur without having any valid degree. It is also reported that he has also been dispensing medicines to his patients since last ten years. It was also found in the enquiry that like Mujibur Rahaman there are another 5-6 quack doctors in the Khanpur village. Considering the gravity of the situation, C.M.O.H., Birbhum was requested by A.D.M.(General) to take necessary action so that this type of illegal medical practice may be stopped.

3. The C.M.O.H. had reported that a warning letter has already been issued from his end to Mujibur Rahaman for stopping medical practice

with immediate effect. B.M.O.H., Murarai Rural Hospital has been instructed to lodge an F.I.R. against Mujibur Rahaman. Further health camps with Medical Officers and Health Supervisors were organized for awareness and sensitization amongst the people of the area regarding the menace of quack practice. The Commission considered the reports and decided to examine the A.D.M.(General), Birbhum and C.M.O.H., Birbhum.

4. The A.D.M. in his evidence before this Commission confirmed that F.I.R. has been lodged against Mujibur Rahaman who was allegedly practicing as a quack in the village. He further mentioned that in the village, there is a Primary Health Centre but the post of medical practitioner is vacant. He submitted that he had already written to the C.M.O.H. for filling up of the post of medical practitioner on an urgent basis.

5. The C.M.O.H., Birhum also confirmed that F.I.R. has been lodged on his instruction by B.M.O.H. against Sk. Mujibur Rahaman, a quack practitioner in Khanpur village. He further stated that in the Primary Health Centre, the post of Medical Officer is vacant. Only one Pharmacist, three GNM and one Group 'D' staff are there in the Health Centre. Apart from the P.H.C., the nearest health care facility is available at Murarai Rural Hospital, which is at a distance of 10 k.m. from Khanpur Village. He further submitted that there is an acute shortage of Medical Officers in the district of Birbhum. There are in fact, about 95 vacancies against sanctioned posts of Medical Officers. He further stated that he had already requested several times the Joint Secretary of Medical Administration for filling up of the said vacancies.

6. After a careful assessment of the evidence of the witnesses and materials on record, Commission is deeply concerned that in a district

like Birbhum there are about 95 vacancies in the posts of sanctioned Medical Officers. As a result of such huge shortage of Medical Officers in the district it is obviously not being possible for the district health set up to adequately cater to the needs of the suffering public who were thus, being forced to approach the quacks for getting medical aid and relief with disastrous consequences.

7. Accordingly, the Commission recommends that:

- i. Principal Secretary, Health Department should make an all out effort for filling up of the vacancies in the posts of Medical Officers in the district of Birbhum.
- ii. The Commission also recommends similar action to fill up all vacancies in the posts of doctors and para medical staff in the State should be initiated by the Health Departments on an emergent basis so that adequate medical aid and care can be made available to the suffering public without any difficulty.

8. 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 8th October, 2013

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

Sd/- (08/10/2013)
(J. Sundara Sekhar)
Secretary & CEO