

WEST BENGAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

File No.85/WBHRC/COM/2013-14

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

Justice N.C. Sil, Member of the West Bengal Human Rights Commission had visited Contai State Welfare Home, Purba Medinipur on 7th March, 2013. The inspection report is placed before the Commission for discussion. The Commission after discussion decides to forward a copy of the inspection report of Justice N.C. Sil to the State Government and makes the following recommendations :-

- i. Provision for recreation and extra curricular activities and vocational training on regular basis should be immediately introduced.
- ii. The Government may take appropriate steps as regards posting of proper Night Guard in the Home.
- iii. The inmates of the Home should be provided proper accommodation in the Hall.

- iv. The dining Hall is required to be properly equipped as there is no provision for sitting arrangement.
 - v. The kitchen should be renovated with the provision for gas for the purpose of cooking.
 - vi. There must be provision for posting of a permanent doctor or at least regular visit of a doctor in the said Home.
 - vii. The broken boundary wall should be repaired immediately in order to prevent the apprehension of escape from the Home.
2. 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

INSPECTION REPORT OF HON'BLE JUSTICE N.C. SIL HELD ON
07.03.13 AT CONTAI STATE WELFARE HOME, PURBA MEDINIPORE.

I have visited Contai State Welfare Home on 07.03.13. This Home is under the Directorate of Mass Education Extension, West Bengal fully financed by the Govt. of West Bengal. Smt. Tandra Goswami is the Superintendent of the Home.

The Superintendent has produced some govt. letters/notification issued from the office of the District Magistrate and Controller, Purba Medinipore and department of Mass Education Extension and Services which deal with the persons who are entitled to be admitted in such welfare Home. It is stated by the Superintendent that the girls upto the age of 18 years are entitled to stay in that Home and there is provision for schooling upto the class Vi inside the campus and thereafter the girls are sent to Brambho Girls School, Contai for further education. The Superintendent also supplied the list containing diet of the inmates and it was added by her that there are some changes in the said diet list and fish is being provided for three days in a week.

There appears no provision for recreation of the inmates nor is there any provision for extra curricular activities and the provision for vocational training is also not regular. One Ajit Kr. Paul has been working there as Night guard since 05.11.09.

During my inspection I found three class rooms where the girls were attending the classes. During my inspection I also found in a room 13 chowkis (cots) about 3' width and two girls are being accommodated

in each of the chowkis. On my query the Superintendent of the Home confessed that no letter was written to the authority to change that condition. During my inspection I was taken in a room which is said to be used as dining Hall. But nothing was visible there to justify that the said Hall is being used as dining Hall.

No midday meal is provided to the students who are attending their classes inside the campus and no step appeared to have been taken by the Superintendent of the Home in this regard.

I had also inspected the kitchen where I did not find any provision for gas and the Superintendent did not taken any step in this regard.

I had also inspected another room where I found 27 of such chowkis (cots). Each of such Chowkis is three feet in width. Each of such Chowkis is being used by two girls for sleeping. The Chowkis have been set in the said room in such a manner that there is hardly any gap from each other. The room is terribly congested and dilapidated. There are 5 fans and 6 tube lights which also appeared to be insufficient for 54 girls.

The campus is sufficiently big and there is enough sheds. In one of the big shed is being used for keeping the broken furniture, although the girls are kept in congested shed.

During my inspection it is reported to me by the Superintendent that one Doctor, Smt. Ananya Pal attends the Home once in a month and the post of a permanent doctor is lying vacant since 2005.

The Superintendent of the Home had written a letter to the authority in this regard only in last February, 2013. There is no provision for Ambulance and as such in case of sudden illness of the inmates there is no provision for medical attendance.

During my inspection I found one portion of the boundary wall broken. It has been fenced. The Superintendent had taken up the matter with the authority in this regard.

The Superintendent could not produce the necessary other documents and she claimed that during that short period she could not prepare herself although the matter of inspection was informed to the District Magistrate much earlier. The Superintendent appeared to be very casual in this regard.

Nobody was present from Mass Education department at the time of inspection.

Superintendent did not appear to have any commitment to her job as while I was inspecting the Home she appeared to be very indifferent to the conditions of the inmates in the Home.

In view of my above observations during inspection it is recommended that :

- i. Provision for recreation and extra curricular activities and vocational training on regular basis should be immediately introduced.

- ii. The Govt. may take appropriate steps as regards posting of proper Night guard in the Home
- iii. The inmates of the Home should be provided proper accommodation in the Hall.
- iv. The dining Hall is required to be properly equipped as there is no provision for sitting arrangement.
- v. The kitchen should be renovated with the provision for gas for the purpose of cooking
- vi. There must be provision for posting of a permanent doctor or at least regular visit of a doctor in the said Home.
- vii. The broken boundary wall should be repaired immediately in order to prevent the apprehension of escape from the Home.

Sd/-
(Justice N.C. Sil)
Member

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

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