



WEST BENGAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PURTA BHAWAN, (2ND FLOOR), BLOCK -DF, SECTOR - I,
SALT LAKE, KOL- 700 091.

Email: wbhrc8@bsnl.in

Website: www.wbhrc.nic.in

Memo. No. 11 /WBHRC/ADG/Misc./2020

Date: 09/04/2020.

From: Shri Shashikant Pujari, IPS
ADG, WBHRC and Holding
Addl. Charge of Secretary & CEO
WBHRC.

To: The Chief Secretary
Govt. of West Bengal
NABANNA
325, Sarat Chatterjee Road,
Mandirtala, P.O: Shibpore,
Howrah.

Sir,

I am directed to send herewith an authenticated copy of the recommendations dated: 09/04/2020 made by the West Bengal human Rights Commission along with enclosures for taking necessary action. The recommendations are self-explanatory.

Action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on the recommendations may please be intimated to the Commission within 3(three) months.

Yours faithfully,

(Shashikant Pujari, IPS)
ADG & IGP, WBHRC

&

Holding the Addl. Charge
of Secretary & CEO
WBHRC

WEST BENGAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Present

Mr. Justice G.C. Gupta - Chairperson

Shri Naparajit Mukherjee- Member

A news item appeared in The Statesman news paper dated April 05, 2020 "WITH NO INCOME OR HOPE RIKSHWPULLER LEFT HIGH AND DRY". The news item stated that due pandemic COVID-19 the Rickshaw-puller were facing serious financial crisis. They have not witnessed such crisis earlier. They have no place to sleep and facing food and money shortage. The General Secretary of Rickshaw-puller Union Shri Muktar Ali has already informed the matter to State Authorities.

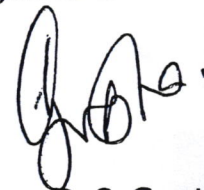
ii) In view of seriousness of the situation the W.B. Human Rights Commission took suo-moto cognizance of the matter and directed A.D.G. of its investigating wing to enquire into the matter and submit report forthwith to the commission.

iii) The ADG, IW of WBHRC has since submitted the report to commission. According to the report it is absolutely correct that the Rickshaw-pullers who have earning Rs.250/- - Rs.350/- on an average per day but following lockdown their income become nil. A number of Rickshaw-puller from Bihar and Jharkhand had gone back to their native places but a large number of them are still concentrated in city areas like Barabazar, Jorabagan, Manicktala, C.R. Avenue, Shyambazar, A. J. C. Bose Road / Alimuddin Street, Bhawanipur, Ekbalbur, Taltala and Entally. The Secretary of Rickshaw-pullers Union, Najib Khan further informed that there is acute shortage of food and ration article and have informed the State Government. Moreover, they had no place to sleep and using Rickshaw for such purpose.

iv) The WBHRC considered the entire matter as a human rights issue and in view of the possibilities that the lockdown may continuing for a prolonged

period due to the pandemic, makes following recommendation to the State Government.....

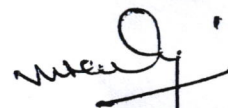
- a) The State Government should immediately make a census of such stranded Rickshaw-pullers, and such other indigent persons area wise, who are facing acute food and other related crisis regarding shelter etc.
- b) It is recommended that the Government should make arrangement for supply of food articles to such stranded Rickshaw-pullers including needy and indigent persons and also make arrangements for their stay in night shelters till the present lock down period is over.
- v) Secretary and CEO of WBHRC is directed to send a copy of this recommendation to Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal immediately. The Chief Secretary is directed to send an action taken report to commission within three months of receipt of recommendation. Ld Registrar is directed to upload a copy in the website.



(Justice G. C. Gupta)

Chairperson

09-04-2020



(N. Mukherjee)

Member

09-04-2020

Enclosures:

1. Copy of report of The Statesman April 05, 2020-04-09.
2. Enquiry report of ADG,IW, WBHRC.