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WEST BENGAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Ref. No. 1616/WBHRCSMC/86/17

Date: 17.01.18

Recommendation No 04/17-18/WBHRCSMC/2017

From: Shri Laima Chozah IAS,
Secretary & CEO.

To: The Chief Secretary
Government of West Bengal
NABANNA
325, Sarat Chatterjee Road
Mandirtala, P.O.- Shibpur,
Howrah-711102

Sir,

I am directed to send herewith an authenticated copy of the Recommendations dated 09.06.2017 alongwith enclosures in connection with a News-item dated 28.02.2017 published in the BARTAMAN made by the West Bengal Human Rights Commission 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 as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary & CEO.

NOTE SHEET

File No. 86/WBHRC/SMC/2017

Date: 09. 06. 2017

Discussed

The Commission took suo motu cognizance on 28.02.2017 of a complaint appearing in the Bartaman news paper that the waiting period to have an MRI done at Bangur Neurological Hospital was one year. The Commission called for a report from the Bangur Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata. A reply dated 23.03.2017 was received a copy whereof is enclosed herewith, stating inter alia as follows:

"The MRI machine at SSKM Hospital is the only Govt owned MR unit in West Bengal which offers absolute free services including free contrast. Due to the vast number of requisitions all the patients cannot be accommodated within a short period. MRI is a time consuming investigation so approx. only 40 to 45 examinations are possible per day including special investigations (approx 5 to 10 per day). These studies take longer time (approx 1 to 2 hr) than the routine cases of brain and spine which take relatively short time (20-30 min). Every day 70 to 100 requisitions for booking are received. Dates for approx 40 to 45 examinations (IPD 5 to 10 patients, OPD 20 to 25 patients, Research and thesis cases 3 to 5 patients) are accommodated. Number of examinations exceeds the number of enrolled patients as some patients require examination of more than one part like whole spine of a patient require 3 examination in three parts mandating change of software programs.

If some patient does not turn up on the day of examination the gaps are filled up by patients present on that day or indoor patient based on the merit of severity & urgency of the disease.

In addition to the main MR unit in SSKM Hospital another MR Unit with PPP is running in BIN campus which mostly does MR brain and spine and accommodates 60 to 65 examinations per day".

The Hospital Authority has admitted in its reply that they are unable to provide MRI facility to the patients before six months from the date of application due to lack of necessary infrastructure. A copy of the letter dated 23rd March, 2017 was also forwarded for information to the Director of Medical Education.

Considering the hardship faced by the patients, the Commission considers it to be appropriate to request the State Government to give a serious thought to the matter so that an additional equipment can be installed or as an alternative tie up is made with a dependable private organization to afford the tests to the needy patients either free of costs or at a subsidized rate.

Girish 9/6/17
(Justice Girish Chandra Gupta)
Chairperson

Authenticated
N. C. Sarkar
N. C. Sarkar
Assistant Secretary
W.B. Human Rights Commission

Naparajit
(Naparajit Mukherjee)
Member
M. S. Dwivedy
(M. S. Dwivedy)
Member

SDB