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WEST BENGAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

PURTA BHAVAN (2ND FLOOR)
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KOLKATA-700 091

PHONE: 2337-2655, FAX: 2337-9633

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Ref. No. 1382/WBHRC/SMC/93/17

Recommendation No 01/17-18/WBHRC/93/SMC/2017

Date: 17.11.17

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 15.11.2017 in connection with a News-item dated 03.03.2017 published in the Dainik Statesman made by the West Bengal Human Rights Commission alongwith the 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 three months.

Enclosures: As stated above.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary & CEC

WEST BENGAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Purta Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 091.

File No. 93/WBHRC/SMC/2017

Present

Justice Girish Chandra Gupta Chairperson
 Shri Naparajit Mukherjee Member
 Shri M. S. Dwivedy Member

Matter was discussed in the Full Bench of the Commission.

Suo Motu cognizance was taken on the basis of a news item under the caption ' কুড়ি বছর ধরে অন্ধকার ঘরে বন্দি বৃদ্ধাকে উদ্ধারের ঘটনায় শিলিঘুড়িতে চাঞ্চল্য' published by 'Dainik Statesman' a Bengali daily dated 3rd March, 2017. A report was called for from the Commissioner of Police, Siliguri.

From the report furnished by the Commissioner of Police, Siliguri, it appears that Smt. Banhisikha Ghatak was living in a room where she was eating and also urinating and defecating. There was no one to look after her though she has four sisters and three brothers. She is an unmarried woman aged about 60 years.

Considering all the aspects, the following recommendation was made by the Assistant Commissioner of Police which was endorsed by the Commissioner of Police, Siliguri by his letter dated 30th May, 2017. "As a last resort for an unmarried lady aged 60 years physically dependent and economically destitute person, is to shift to any Govt. Old Age Home. Smt. Banhisikha Ghatak is found to be mentally alert and denied to lodge any complaint against anybody."

The Commission by its order dated 7th August, 2017 directed the Investigation Wing of the Commission to carry out an enquiry as to whether Smt. Ghatak would like to be shifted to an old age home. Smt. Ghatak was Authenticated

N. C. Sarkaf Assistant Secretary W.B. Human Rights Commission interviewed telephonically by Shri Sumanta Santra, an Inspector of the Investigation Wing of the Commission when she refused to be shifted to an old-age home.

Considering all aspects of the matter the Commission is of the opinion that Smt. Banhisikha Ghatak should be given old-age pension according to the rules framed by the State Government within 2(Two) months by the District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri.

Principal Secretary, WBHRC is directed to communicate the recommendation to the Chief Secretary, Govt of West Bengal and he is requested to communicate an action taken report on the above recommendation to this Commission within a period of 3(three) months.

(Justice Girish Chandra Gupta)

Chairperson

Member

(Naparajit Mukherjee)

Dated, 15th November, 2017

Encl: 1. Report dated 23rd May, 2017

- 2. Report dated 30th May, 2017
- 3. Report dated 31st August, 2017
- 1. Ld. Registrar, WBHRC is directed to upload the recommendation in the website.

2. Copy of the recommendation be sent to the Petitioner/Victim.

SDB

Assistant Secretary W.B. Human Rights Commission

Authenticated