

Date: 02. 08.2017

Enclosed is the news item appearing in 'The Statesman', an English daily dated 02. 08. 2017, captioned "Family denied ration for over three months for defecating in the open"

Superintendent of Police, Burdwan East is directed to enquire into the matter and to furnish a detailed report by 9th October, 2017.

[Handwritten signature] 2/8/17

(Justice Girish Chandra Gupta)
Chairperson

[Handwritten signature] 2/8/17
(Naparajit Mukherjee)
Member

[Handwritten signature] 2/8/17
(M.S. Dwivedy)
Member

Encl: News Item Dt 02.08. 17

Ld. Registrar to keep NHRC posted about cognizance taken on the subject by WBHRC and uploaded in the website.

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SDB

Family denied ration for over three months for defecating in the open

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BURDWAN, 1 AUGUST

A family at a village in Burdwan (East) has been denied government ration for over three months after a family member was caught defecating in the open during a campaign by the local panchayat authorities.

The family, failing to get remedy over the months, has submitted a written undertaking to the BDO, Raina-II block yesterday. The victim family complained that they are facing threat from the panchayat members as they have moved the matter to the higher officials. In their petition, Sunil Mondal and his wife Sumitra, stated: "Our son Hemanta certainly was an offender as he was caught defecating in the open, but was

it logical to stop our ration against his offence. We are a marginal family and face hardship due to our poor status as we meet our livelihood as wage labourers."

Hemanta Mondal, a youth of Masjidpur village that falls within the Kaiti panchayat area in Madhabdihi block of Burdwan (East), was caught red-handed when the panchayat members were campaigning against open defecation in the village in last April. "Gouranga Das, the husband of our panchayat member Chhobi Das, had even slapped me for my offence," Hemanta alleged.

He added: "I had quit the place immediately after they warned but I opposed as they were using abusive language while giving a warning."

Gouranga also had lodged

a complaint against Hemanta at the local police station bringing charges of open defecation.

The next day, Hemanta was granted bail on condition that he would have to record attendance at the police station twice a week. Pradhan, Kaiti panchayat, Tapati Dalui, said: "At a time when we all are dedicated to ensure this village becomes Open Defecation Free under Mission Nirmal Bangla, Hemanta's gesture hurt the morale of the enthusiast locals."

The block administration meanwhile has taken a serious note. BDO, Raina-II, Dipyomoy Majumdar, said: "We have received their petition and I already have instructed the Kaiti panchayat to ensure resuming their ration from the local dealer's point."

Villagers...