

Date: 05. 12. 2016

Enclosed is the news clipping of 'Times of India' an English daily and others Bengali daily dated 04.12.2016, the news item is captioned "**Behala man dies in ATM queue**".

We may call for a report from (1) the General Manager, State Bank of India, Kolkata and (2) the Superintendent of Police, Hooghly by 30. 12.2016.

Sd/-
(M. S. Dwivedy)
Member

sd/-
(Naparajit Mukherjee)
Acting Chairman

Encl: News Item Dt. 04. 12.16

Ld. Registrar to keep NHRC posted about cognizance taken on the subject by WBHRC.

Assistant Secretary, WBHRC, may please take necessary action in this regard.

Behala man dies in ATM queue

None Quit Line Even As Govt Employee Lay Writhing In Pain For 30 Mins

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: A 53-year-old state government employee collapsed after a heart attack and died in an ATM queue at Bandel on Saturday morning even as the rest waiting in the line refused to quit the line and shift the dying man to a hospital, choosing instead to stay put without abandoning their quest for cash.



Kallol Ray Chowdhuri — an employee of the land revenue office at Chandrabhaga in Cooch Behar — lay writhing in pain for about 30 minutes even as the queue moved ahead. By the time he was taken to Chinsura Imambara Hospital, Ray Chowdhuri had passed away. His family in Behala alleged negligence on the part of those present in the queue and said he would probably have survived had Ray Chowdhuri received immediate medical attention.

Faced with a severe cash crunch, Ray Chowdhuri, who was on his way back home for



Subhojyoti Kanjilal

Kallol Ray Chowdhuri's wife Seema and 10-year-old son Subhadip break down at their Behala home after getting the news

the weekend, chose to queue up at the ATM near the Bandel station where he had disembarked to change trains. He was accompanied by a friend. Since he had managed to withdraw just Rs 1000 since demonetisation happened last month, he was desperate for some cash. But soon after joining the queue at 7am, he fell ill. He held his chest and collapsed on the ground.

Even as he squatted near the queue, his friend sought help from others. Some shop owners helped him lie down

on the ground, but none took the initiative to either call a doctor or shift him to a hospital. At 7.30 am, some arranged an ambulance and moved him to the hospital. But he was declared brought dead.

At 8am, his elder brother Sailen Ray Chowdhuri received a call from Chinsura informing him about the incident. "A local had called me even as Kallol was still lying there on the ground. I requested him to move him to a hospital and told him someone from the family

I wish he was moved to a hospital faster. He would definitely have survived

Seema Ray Chowdhuri | wife

would reach soon. But I suspect he was not taken to a hospital for at least 20 more minutes. It was cruel," he said. He soon called Ray Chowdhuri's wife Seema. Minutes later he received another call which said Kallol had died at the hospital. "I called his wife Seema and passed on the news," he said.

It left the homemaker shocked for she had spoken to her husband twice the previous night soon after he had boarded the train from Chandrabhaga. "He sounded perfectly healthy, even though he has been anxious for money since last month. He had managed to withdraw very little from a branch in Chandrabhaga where he worked and has been telling me that

he will try and withdraw some more in Kolkata. I wish he was moved to a hospital faster. He would definitely have survived," said Seema. Ray Chowdhuri's 10-year-old son Subhadip is a Class IV student of Nava Nalanda School.

While the tragedy has left the family numb, it is the indifference of those in the ATM queue that has shocked them. Brother Swapan Ray Chowdhuri, who rushed to Chinsura to receive the body, claimed the death could have been averted had some chosen to leave the queue and call an ambulance. "But it is evident that the desperation for money was such that none bothered to take the initiative. My brother was allowed to writhe in pain and die," he said. The tragedy reflects a unique desperation for money among the relatively affluent people which is severe enough to turn them indifferent to others' sufferings, said sociologist Prasanta Ray.

Seema said she wanted to talk to CM Mamata Banerjee. "I hope she stands by us in this time of crisis," she said.

Lens on Jan Yet to be...