



WEST BENGAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Ref. No. 477/WBHRC/COM/522/15-16

Date: 3.9.15

From: Shri Nirmal Chandra Sarkar
Assistant Secretary

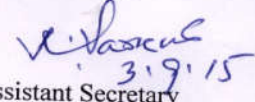
To: The Addl. Chief Secretary
Health & Family Welfare Department
Government of West Bengal
Swasthya Bhaban
GN-29, Sector - V, Salt Lake,
Kolkata -700091

Sir,

I am directed to send herewith a copy of the report of the Superintendent of Police, West Bengal Human Rights Commission on visit to Gouripur Leprosy Hospital, Bankura on 30.06.2015 for taking necessary action in the matter.


Enclosure: As stated above.

Yours faithfully


3.9.15
Assistant Secretary

No. 477(1)/WBHRC/COM/522/15-16 Dated 3.9.15

Copy with the copy of the report to Dr. S.K. Jhariat, Deputy Director of Health Service (Leprosy), W.B., 2nd Floor, A- Wing, Swasthya Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700091


3.9.15
Assistant Secretary



VISIT NOTE ON GOURIPUR LEPROSY HOSPITAL, BANKURA ON
30.06.15 BY SP, WBHRC

1. Introduction:

Gouripur Leprosy Hospital (GLH), situated 10 Km. West of Bankura under Chhatna PS, is a State-Govt-run Hospital for the Leprosy affected patients. It is juxtaposed by Regional Leprosy Training & Research Institute (RLTRI), which is an Institute run by Central Government. There is a striking contrariety between these two establishments in appearance and resources. Though the bulk of the work is entrusted with state-run G.L.H., it is ^{cut short} ~~outshone~~ by RLTRI in terms of glitter ~~of~~ ✕ resources. This note is for G.L.H. only.

2. Infrastructure:

Sprawled over 275 Acres of land, GLH is having following support:

- a. One Superintendent, four (4) Sr. M.O., one M.O.
- b. 2 D.N.S. and 14 Staff Nurse (Grade-II).
- c. 11 Group B, 2 Group C, 28 Group D, 7 Sweepers and 51 Nursing Aide (Gr. D).
- d. 550 Beds.
- e. 7 male wards, 3 female wards, 3 collages (@ 2 rooms each).
- f. One Ambulance. Medicines supplied by DRS (free of cost).
- g. Four kitchens (3 for male wards and 1 for female wards).
- h. Service rendered by recovered patients.
- i. O.T. is under renovation for re-constructive surgery.
- j. Outdoor facility is there.

3. Present Patient Number Staying There:

36 Male and 157 Female, Total: 521 patients are staying there (against total capacity of 550).

4. Diet:

Diet contractor is selected by CMOH, Bankura. Average Monthly Expenditure on diet is Rs. 7,30,000/- for those admitted in all wards.

5. Lab Facility and Pathology Deptt.:

Not functioning for want of manpower and resources. RLTRI provides necessary help for pathological tests.

6. Overall Condition of the Wards and Offices:

Really in a bad shape (particularly male wards). Poor sanitation and hygiene.

7. Other Issues:

- a. No generator set.
- b. Awareness programmes seldom take place.
- c. O.T. needs to be modernized.
- d. This hospital is seldom inspected.
- e. No boundary wall. One train line passes through the hospital land. Offices and wards are either side of this train track. One Station (Aanchuri) is inside the premise of the hospital.
- f. Encroachment of land for want of boundary wall is a real threat.
- g. Programmes for social and familial re-integration of healed patients are seldom organized.
- h. No special health camp by Guest Doctors.
- i. No vocational courses for the patients for societal re-integration. No follow-ups for released patients.
- j. No recreation facility/Library/Sports, Games etc. for the admitted patients.

8. **Types of Leprosy Victims/Success Steris:**

- a. Type: Grade-I, II and III.
- b. Deformities: 45% of the patients, on an average, are suffered by deformities for late treatment.
- c. Curability: 100%. There will be no deformity if treated early.
- d. Follow-ups by patients: Most of the patients do not follow-up after taking MDT/release.
- e. Average time for full recovery: 3 to 5 years after detection and treatment.

9. **Why healed patients are still there for years together ?:**

Victims of leprosy are sequestered by their families as burden and source of further/continuing discrimination. The stigma associated with this "100% curable" disease still plays havoc in enforcing alienation. Victims are not welcome in their 'own' families. Thus this malaise of stigmatization continues and Gouripur Leprosy Hospital has turned into a sanctuary of "healed" leprosy victims. This availability of **free** asylum actually promotes continuation of social alienation. Families just forget their "nears and dears" when they are afflicted by Leprosy.

10. **Recommendation:**

- a. Programmes for **re-integration** of all 521 leprosy victims presently staying in different wards of GLH should be organized in phases..
- b. O.T. should be modernized for **re-constructive surgery**.
- c. Two **Generator sets** (40 KVA and 80 KVA) may be procured and installed.
- d. Boundary wall should be erected to prevent encroachment.
- e. Renovation of all wards, OPD and Offices be done on priority basis.

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- f. Rigorous Awareness Programmes be organized by concerned CMOH of Bankura and nearby districts.
- g. Better illumination be made.
- h. DNA-fingerprinting of affected persons may be done to make a breakthrough about "cause of disease".
- i. More frequency in visit/inspection by Health Directorate, WB is required.
- j. Vocational Courses may be introduced so that disfigured but healed patients can be successfully re-integrated & rehabilitated.
- k. Recreational aspects for patients may be thought of.
- l. Sanitation and hygiene should be improved.

Encls:

- a) Photo Feature.
- b) Report of Superintendent, G.L.H.
- c) Note on Legal Discrimination.

Submitted

07/07/15
(Dipankar Bhattacharyya, IPS)
Superintendent of Police
W.B. Human Rights Commission

Enclosure: As stated above.

No. *4370/WBHRRC/COM/522/15-16* Dated *3.9.15*

Copy with the copy of the report to Dr. S.K. Jharia, Deputy Director of Health Service (Leprosy), W.B., 2nd Floor, A-Wing, Swasthya Bhawan, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700091

[Signature]
Assistant Secretary