



MAHARASHTRA STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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SHRC/SRB/ /2014/

Date:

Suo Moto Case No. – 5/2014

Name of the Respondent : The Commissioner
Women & Child Welfare Department
3, Church Road,
Near Office of Police Commissioner
Opp Photo Zinkopress, Pune – 411 001.

The Secretary
Women and Child Welfare Department
Mantralaya, Mumbai – 32.

The Childrens Aid Society
C/o. Shri Navnath Shinde
83, T H Kataria Marg
Opp. Matunga Road Railway Station
Mumbai – 400 016.

Date : 15 July 2014

Coram : Justice S. R. Bannurmath, Chairperson

PROCEEDINGS

This is a suo moto case registered by the Commission based on a newspaper report in Maharashtra Times dated 04.04.2014 stating that in Mankhurd area there are five institutions looking after welfare of the children. These are Mentally Deficient Children Home, Chembur Children's Home, Bal Kalyan Nagari, Navin Balgruha and Addl Observation Homes. It was reported in the news item that nearly 800 children are housed in these

institutions but there is no proper health care taken as there is only one permanent Doctor to attend these children.

Taking care of 800 children by single Doctor was felt to be inadequate and to find the fact situation and solution, notice was ordered to the Commissioner – Women and Child Welfare Department, Pune and the Secretary – Women and Child Welfare Department, Mantralaya. In pursuance of the same Shri. Tanaji Pol – Probation Officer cum Superintendent – Chembur Children’s Home, Mankhurd and Smt. Kalpana Khambait – Probation Officer – District Women and Child Department, Mumbai Suburbs and Dr. Mhatre the sole Medical Officer were present on the last occasion and after hearing them the officers were directed to file a detailed report as to the exact number of children in these child care homes and the existing health facility available to them.

Accordingly, today a detailed report has been filed stating that in these five institutions the total sanctioned strength of children (both male and female) is about 1500, out of which 491 are boys and 224 girls in all 715 children are presently residing. It is stated that at the MDC Home there is one full time Medical Officer, three nurses, one compounder, a visiting dentist, visiting psychiatrist, visiting pathologist are available and except one institution in all other some beds have been provided in the clinic. It is stated that an ambulance is also available to take the sick children to nearby Hospital if necessary. It is stated that though clinics are established in each of these institutions, common staff as noted above is taking care as and when necessary especially taking into the consideration the fact they all are situated close by. It is stated that only in Chembur

Children Home there is no separate clinic but as it is also nearer to MDC Home the children are attended at the clinic of MDC Home.

After considering all the aspects, since the Commission feels that as health of these children is a paramount consideration and it is for the state to take proper care. No doubt the present working conditions and staff appear to be managing the health of these 715 children but the medical staff appears to be inadequate and this may be the facts in respect of such institution in the other districts also. As such the Commission feels it necessary to make the following recommendations:-

- A) The State Women and Child Welfare Department shall furnish detailed data in six weeks as to number of such child welfare institutions in each district of State of Maharashtra about the sanctioned strength, present strength (boys and girls separately) and the medical facilities available to them as on date;**
- B) The State shall provide independent and separate staff at least minimum of one medical officer, one resident nurse, one day care nurse and compounder to each of these clinics in the five institutions of Mankhurd mentioned above;**
- C) Apart from the medical staff it would be necessary to maintain the cleanliness and as such necessary cleaning staff for the clinics has to be provided;**
- D) The necessary equipments and furnitures like bed, refrigerator etc has to be provided to each of these clinics;**

E) The State shall make immediate arrangement of establishing a clinic with sufficient staff at Chembur Children Home, apart from the other requirements as indicated above.

The State Government and the concerned department is directed to implement these directions / recommendations and send the action taken report at the earliest but not beyond four months from the date of receipt of this order.

Before concluding the Commission places on record its appreciation for the concern shown by the "Maharashtra Times News Paper" shown for the health care of unfortunate 800 children. But for the newspaper report such anomaly would not have been brought to the notice of the Commission. The Commission also records its appreciation for the efforts made in this regard by Shri. Tanaji Pol – Probation officer cum Superintendent as well as Smt Kalpana Khumbait – Probation Officer to furnish data and problems highlighted during hearing.

In the light of these recommendations the Suo Moto Case No. 5/2014 is closed at present.

The Secretary to communicate this order to the parties concerned.

**(Justice S. R. Bannurmath)
Chairperson, SHRC**