



MAHARASHTRA STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, MUMBAI

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Case No. 221/17/2005-06 / 2059
(Division Bench)

dt. 20/06/2009

Name of the complainant : Shri Nitin Gadkari
President, Bhartiya Janata Party
C. D. O. Barrack No.1, Vasantrya Bhagawat Chowk
Opp. Yogakshem, Nariman Point
Mumbai-400 020.
✓
V/s
The Chief Secretary
Government of Maharashtra
Mantralaya, Mumbai-400 032.

Date : June 18, 2009.

Coram : Justice Kshitij R. Vyas (Former Chief Justice), Chairperson
Shri Subhash Lalla (Retd. IAS) Member.

PROCEEDINGS

(Per Chairperson)

Neither the complainant nor the respondent is present at the time of hearing. On the last date of hearing i.e. on 25.2.2009, on the request of the complainant on 25.2.2009, the complainant has prayed for adjournment and requested for long date in the matter, we have granted the said application and kept the hearing today.

As the case is very old and since we have disposed off so many other cases having similar facts, no purpose will be served to keep this case pending any further. We have, therefore, decided to dispose off the same.

The complainant states that farmers of this State who committed suicide due to failure of the crops and non payment of loans due to them from the financial institutions as well as private money lenders. The complainant alleges that approximately 1200 farmers committed suicide in the State. According to the complainant due to wrong policy of Government, the victims took extreme steps. The complainant alleges that the government Officer prepared false Panchanamas about suicides of farmers and thereby kept away the families of the victims from the help of the Government. The complainant has prayed that action may be taken against the wrong doer Government Officers and the families of the victim farmers be provided help from the Government for Rs. 1.00 lac.

From the proceedings of the case, it appears that the Commission in its order dated 8.2.2006 asked the State Government to inform the Commission about factual position and the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

The Government has submitted detailed report vide its letter dated 29.4.2006, inter alia pointing out that Government has appointed Eminent Research Organization to conduct the study of the matter, based on the recommendations of the study, the Government immediately prepared a comprehensive package of measure for mitigating the conditions which cause the farmers to take this extreme step. The Government has decided to take review of all the cases of suicide cases. It has also decided to constitute a district-level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Collector to decide the payment of assistance in case of farmers' suicide is reported. The Government authorities also submitted criteria regarding the help for the families of the victims.

It appears that thereafter State Government has formed a High Power Committee headed by Vice Chancellor of Pune University Dr. Narendra Jadhav to examine the shortcomings in the farmers' packages under implementation and to suggest remedial measures to stop farmers' suicides.

In the report submitted by Dr. Jadhav he has mentioned the various steps taken by the State Government regarding loan waiver and the impact of packages. From the report it appears that the Maharashtra Government waived loan to the extent of Rs. 6208/- crores. Similarly the Central Government has waived loan to the extent of Rs. 71000/- crores for the entire country. The Hon'ble Prime Minister offered relief package to the extent of Rs. 3750/- crores to the affected areas of the Vidarbha Region. Likewise, Hon'ble Chief Minister provided Rs. 1075/- crores relief package to the victims.

A similar complaint having the same issue filed by Shri Kishor Tiwari, President, Vidarbha Jan Andolan Samiti, Pandharkawada, and Shri Tukaram Raoji Meshram Elected Member to Zilla Parishad Yavatmal being case No. 173/17/2005 came up for hearing before us, wherein on February 25, 2009 we have shown concerned about non-implementation of the recommendations of the Dr. Jadhav's report failure to implement the various recommendations suggested in the report especially when the Government has accepted the report of Dr. Jadhav. We, therefore, observed that since Dr. Jadhav's Committee has gone deep in to the problems of the farmers and have come out with effective remedial measures to over come the problems. There is no reason to over look the suggestions contained in the report especially when the report is accepted by the State Government.

We accordingly recommended the State Government (through Chief Secretary, Mantralaya, Mumbai) to implement the report of Dr. Jadhav in the letter and spirit as expeditiously as possible.

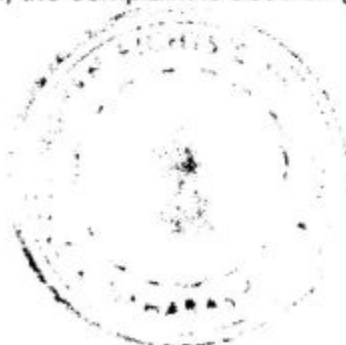
As stated above, since the facts in the present complaint as well as the earlier complaints are same having same issue involved and that too of farmers' suicide of the Vidarbha Region of the State, the present complaint can be disposed off on the same recommendation, recommended in our order dated 25.2.2009.


We accordingly recommend the State Government (through Chief Secretary, Mantralaya, Mumbai) to implement the report of Dr. Jadhav in the letter and spirit as expeditiously as possible.

With this recommendation, the complaint is accordingly disposed off.


(Subhash Lalla)
Member

Mumbai; June 18, 2009.




(Justice Kshitij R. Vyas)
Chairperson