

Record of the proceedings of the Hearing taken by Hon'ble Chairman, NCST on 27/08/2012 on the representation of Shilpi Kendra–Nai Shuruwat in connection with rehabilitation and compensation for victims of silicosis in tribal dominated three districts of Jhabua, Alirajpur and Dhar of Madhya Pradesh.

List of persons who attended the Hearing is annexed.

2. Joint Secretary, NCST informed that due to commitments relating to State Cabinet, the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh was unable to attend the hearing and Shri Ajay Tirkey, Principal Secretary, Labour Deptt. Govt. of MP, who is fully aware of the issues and is involved in the development monitoring of the benefits extended to the affected persons, was deputed to attend the hearing.
3. Joint Secretary, NCST further informed that Govt. of Gujarat vide letter dated 22/08/2012, has informed that the regular Pr. Secy., of the Labour and Employment Deptt. was on leave and therefore, the comments of the State Govt. on the issue would be communicated after the regular Principal Secretary of the Deptt. resumes duty. The Govt. of Gujarat has sought extension of time of 2 weeks on this ground. Chairman, NCST desired that the Govt. of Gujarat should be asked to positively submit their comments by 14/09/2012 and thereafter meeting should be fixed with the State Govt. on the issue.
4. Joint Secretary, NCST informed that the Govt. of MP has from time to time taken effective measures in the Labour Deptt. and other concerned Deptts., to provide medical relief, livelihood and individual assistance under various Govt. schemes to the 304 individuals suffering from silicosis. Action Taken Report with regard to the assistance and rehabilitation measures taken by the State has been communicated vide Deptt. of Labour Govt. of MP. Letter No. 1260/166/2012 A-16 dated 23/08/2012. Principal Secretary, Labour Deptt. Govt. of MP, mentioned that the action with regard to compensation to families who died due to silicosis is related to the Govt. of Gujarat. He further informed that in pursuance of the directive issued by the National Human Rights Commission vide their letter dated 1/06/2012, the Govt. of MP has also formulated a draft policy for welfare of workers suffering from silicosis a copy of which has been forwarded vide Govt. of MP letter dated 23/08/2012 quoted above.
5. Joint Secretary, NCST mentioned that review of adequacy of the existing regulatory standards/mechanisms, steps required for their effective implementation/monitoring and identification of critical control points in the industrial process and their critical monitoring, should also constitute a part of the policy. Principal Secretary, Labour Deptt. Govt. of MP, agreed to review the draft policy in view of the observations made by the Commission.
6. The Commission observed that the NHRC has asked the Govt. of Gujarat for providing monetary relief of Rs.3 lakh to the next of kin of the families who died due to silicosis. An urgent action is required to be taken by the Govt. of Gujarat. as a responsible State Govt. Chairman, NCST desired that the Govt. of MP should also take up the issue regarding early provision of monetary relief to the next of kin of the families who died due to silicosis with the Govt. of Gujarat at the level of the Chief Minister at the earliest, under information to the Commission. The Commission further desired that before the meeting scheduled to be held with the Govt. of Gujarat, Govt. of MP may please arrange a presentation by the Shilpi Kendra – Nai Shuruwat on status of rehabilitation and compensation of silicosis affected families and its spread in three Tribal dominated districts of Madhya Pradesh and other related issues. Principal Secretary, Labour Deptt. Govt. of MP, assured that necessary arrangements can be made after ascertaining convenient date and time from the Commission.

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