



भारत सरकार

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

SPEED POST

File No. Tour Report (Member)/WB/1/2021-RU-III

6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Loknayak Bhawan,  
Khan Market, New Delhi-03,  
Dated: 07.07.2021

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| <p>1. The Chief Secretary,<br/>Government of West Bengal,<br/>(13th Floor) 325, Sarat Chatterjee<br/>Road, Howrah (W.B.)-711102</p> | <p>2. The Director General of Police,<br/>Government of West Bengal,<br/>West Bengal Police,<br/>Navanna 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Howrah<br/>(W.B.)-711102</p> |
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**Sub:** Tour Report of Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon'ble Member, NCST to the State of West Bengal from 13.06.2021 to 16.06.2021.

Sir,

I am directed to forward a copy of Tour report of Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes to the State of West Bengal from 13.06.2021 to 16.06.2021 on the subject cited above.

It is requested that necessary action may be taken on the points raised in the Tour report and furnish the action taken report to the Commission at the earliest.

As : Enclosed

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समय  
जारी किया  
ISSUED

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**TOUR REPORT OF SHRI ANANTA NAYAK, HON'BLE MEMBER, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES TO THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL FROM 13.06.2021 TO 16.06.2021**

Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), New Delhi visited the state of West Bengal from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of June, 2021. Shri Lalit Latta, Director, NCST Headquarter, Shri V. Ashok Vardhan, Assistant Director of Regional Office of the NCST, Bhubaneswar and Shri P.K. Parida, Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Member accompanied the Hon'ble Member during the tour.

The team of NCST visited five districts of West Bengal which are mostly affected by the post poll violence, viz., West Midinidpur, Jhargram, Hoogly, East Bardhaman and North 24 Paraganas.

**Visit to West Midnapur District:**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 NCST visited districts of Paschim Midinipur and Jhargram. During its visit to Radhanagar under Kharagpur P.S. it was observed that about fifty (50) Scheduled Tribes families belonging to Munda Tribe were attacked by the violent mob and subsequently were forcibly confine to their homes and they were not allowed to go markets to sell their agricultural products like fruits and flowers, which put them to financial losses during this pandemic situation. During the post-poll violence, there were acts of physical assault and caste discrimination on them. The luggage / passenger trucks run by them are seized and not allowed to ply on roads by the local police. The ST women of this area expressed in fear that their husbands are going to market secretly to get daily bread and butter. The ST women who have been engaged as maids were boycotted by the certain section of society. This act of social boycott on them made very difficult to run their families.

The tribal people with which the Commission has interacted residing in this area are Smt. Niyoti Singh (Woman) – 8145074735; Sri. Kalicharan Singh (Male) – 96790 59735 and Sri. Bhimsen (Male) – 9932322267. One of them has alleged that due to political differences there were no basic facilities in these areas.

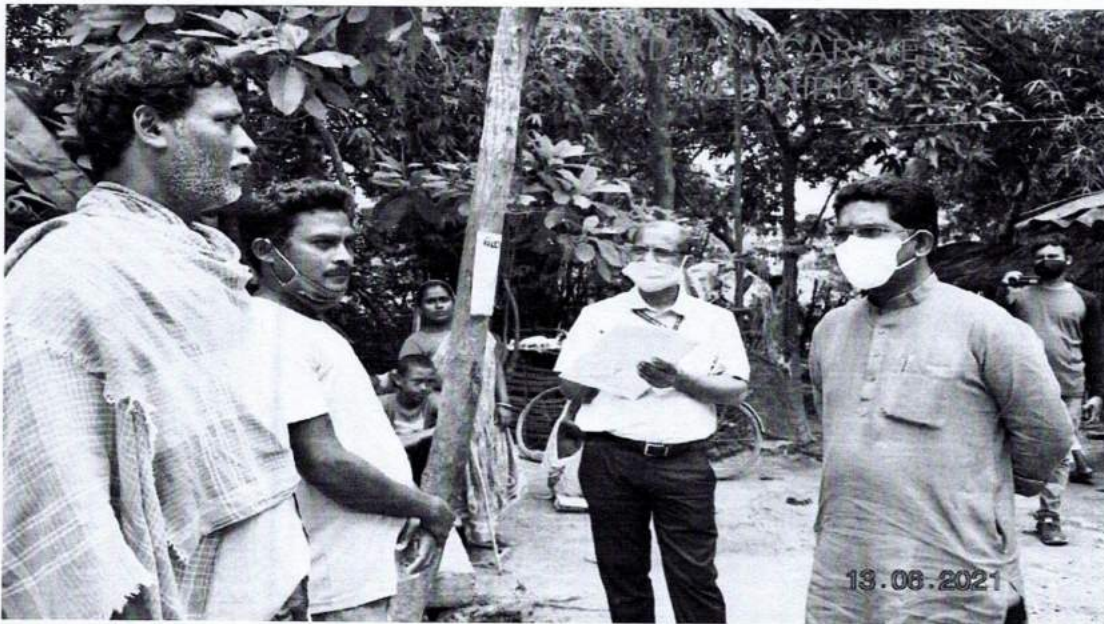
At Narayangarh, there were post-poll attacks on tribal people, after "Yass Cyclone," the local police has threatened to book them under Section 164 IPC. One of the respondents by name Shri Chitangha Hansdah (8653273705) was physically assaulted by political goons resulted in fracturing his leg. In this regard he has complained to the police but so far no action has been taken by the police.







RADHANAGAR, PASCHIM MEDINIPUR



RADHANAGAR, PASCHIM MEDINIPUR

  
**अर्जुन नारदकानान्ता नायाक**  
 सदस्य/Member  
 राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जातों की आयोग  
 NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES  
 नया दिल्ली/Govt. of India  
 नई दिल्ली/New Delhi





NARAYANGAR, PASCHIM MEDINIPUR

**Visit to Jhargram District:**

The Commission visited Binapore, under Jamboni PS, where one youth named Shri Kishore Mandi(27), belongs to Santal Tribe, was brutally murdered on the 05.05.2021 while going to railway station to pick up his father in motor cycle. The body was identified by the public on same day on road side which is about 3km away from his residence. Ironically, the police did not register FIR until 07.05.2021, but treated the incident as a road accident. During the enquiry, the police who were present at victim's house, they deliberately informed to the Commission that it was an accident. But on the other hand, the local villagers have opined that there was no such kind of road accident happened in the last five (05) years where the dead body of Sri. Kishore Mandi was found. The parents of deceased are alleging that his son's death was a political murder and the local police who are not serious about the death of their son and left the suspects freely. Sri. Fagal Mandi the brother of deceased have informed to the team of NCST that the prime suspects in the murder case are **Deben Shore(ST), Binoy Mahato (OBC) and Bikule Mahato(OBC)** of nearby village, Koima.

During the inquiry it was observed that the local police have not submitted any document such as FIR, and post-mortem report to the Commission until demanded for the same. Brother of deceased also stated that the post-mortem took place in Paschim Medinipur district HQ hospital instead of Jhargram district HQ hospital. It appeared that they want to close the case as road accident. But the NCST team found in the post-mortem report that the deceased was hit by stones and other material on both sides of head. Although the case has been registered but so far proper and thorough investigation of the case is not done, taking advantage of that the culprits involved in the case are moving freely.





The family of the deceased constitutes of Sri. Bijoy Kumar Mandi (Father), Smt. Panmoni Mandi (Mother), Sri. Faghal Mandi (Brother), Smt. Malati Mandi (Wife) with son about aged 1<sup>1/2</sup> year old. So far, the deceased family has not received any compensation from the state government. His wife Smt. Malati Mandi (23) is postgraduate in Bengali literature. The Hon'ble Member of the Commission advised the Project Officer and other revenue officials of Jhargram District to provide job to her taking into her qualification. He has also given an assurance that, the commission also recommend for the government job based on her qualification.

#### Visit to Hoogly District:

The NCST visited the Malickpur of Pirtola GP under Dhaniakahli Police Station on 15.06.2021 as there are reports of Post Poll Violence in that area. In this area there are about 25 Santal Tribal families residing and all of them have been attacked physically as per the preliminary reports. When the NCST team had interacted with the local tribes, it was revealed that the authorities have not allowed them carry their day to day economic activities. Some of them are reported that they are not permitted to go outside to buy something for the family needs. Even the tribal women are attacked mercilessly. It is understood that the people are living with fear of arrest on fake grounds.

In this regard, either BDO or PO of this area intentionally is ignoring the facts. Even after the post-poll violence, no one from the department has visited the Mallickpur village to interact with the tribal people and enquired about their welfare and safety. Even the local police who accompanied the Commission has not taken cognizance about post-poll violence. The police have informed to the Hon'ble Member of the Commission that no one from the tribal community have complained with them regarding physical assaults and other kind of sufferings during the post-poll violence. But police has not taken any action against the culprit.



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MALIPUR, PIRTOLA, HOOGLY DISTRICT

### Visit to East Bardhaman District

That on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 the NCST visited Sodapur, Adibasipara and Tubgram villages under Devandigh Police Station and it was found that, the situation was extremely worse these places interms tribal safety and welfare.

There was an incident of death in Tubgram village, the deceased by name Sri. Chandmoni Hansda (27), S/o Som Hansda of Munda tribe, was found dead in mysterious circumstances. The death took place at plain area of Kharjuli village on 20.05.2021. Local people found the body of Late Chandmoni Hansda hanged on a tree and they pulled down his body to ground and noticed that there were cut marks on his body around neck and at lower abdomen. The Commission has come to know that though he died on 20.05.2021, but the post-mortem was conducted on 21.05.2021. While having a discussion with the locals it is learnt by the Commission that, the deceased sold his cattle few days back and he had gone to collect money in connection with that transaction. But later on he was found hanged from the tree. The villagers alleged that it was a murder and not suicide. The Hon'ble member interacted with the wife of deceased Smt. Dasi Soren (22) and assured that justice will be done. The Hon'ble Member of the Commission asked the local police regarding the progress of the investigation. But the police informed that they have not arrested anyone so far due to absence of the strong evidence. The Hon'ble member further instructed the local police to conduct a thorough investigation into the murder of Late Chandmoni Hansda and take appropriate action under various sections of IPC against the accused.

Further during the visit, about 50 people have approached the Hon'ble Member and complained that in their village there are no basic amenities like water, housing under PMY schemes and road facilities etc. The Hon'ble Member of the Commission instructed district SDM and BDO of the concerned area to give immediate attention to these aspects.

On the same day on 15.06.2021, the team of NCST also visited **Kakora village** under Aushgram PS, where about 20 families (Santal Tribe) are residing. The tribals are in poor



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 conditions where the houses are burnt to ashes. The incidents like attacking the tribesmen, molestation and rapes on women are very much reported at this place. It was informed by one of the young tribal women from Kakora Village that when they are alone at home the local Muslims who reside about 1.5 km away is used to attack on them. One by name **Md. Anarul** is identified as main accused in molestation and rape of tribal women, but so far he has not been taken into the custody. And it was also disclosed by the victims that he used to carry a **Pistol** while visiting the tribal residential area. So far the police have not arrested a single person involved in alleged molestation and rape cases were taken into custody for trial. This narrates the seriousness of Law & Order prevailing at present in that area.

One of the Victims by name Sri. Sunil Baski (30) of Kakora Village has informed to Sri V Ashok Vardhan, Assistant Director that on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2021, a group of people who involved in the anti-social attack are as follows:

1. Shiek Riyazul M/o. Naima Beebi Shiek
2. Anarul Shiek S/o. Ziyarur Rahaman Shiek
3. Azizul Shiek S/o. Shajahan Shiek
4. Ameer Hussain Mondel S/o. Siddque Hussain Mondel
5. Hyder Ali Mondel S/o Muqtar Mondel
6. Dheer Ali Molla S/o Turar Ali Molla
7. Hasibul Molla S/o Niyamat Molla
8. Shiek Faizul S/o Shiek Nazrul
9. Badai Molla S/o. Rashid Molla

Sri. Sunil Baski further informed that during the attack his two cows were burnt to death which costs about Rs. 17000 in the market. Besides, they have destroyed LCD TV and dish antenna, water pipe line and burnt the plastic Water Tank which (altogether) costs about another Rs. 15000. The others such as Sri. Laxman Hansda's Two Wheeler which costs about Rs. 35000 and his General Stores which has Rs. 20,000 valuable materials Sri. Dhumu Soren's two bicycles which costs about Rs. 5000 were destroyed by burning them. Moreover, the houses of tribal people were ransacked and their household as well as agricultural utilities were destroyed.

**List of persons whose houses were either damaged or burnt are given below:**

01. Sri. Som Baski,
02. Sri. Suraj Baski,
03. Sri. Somi Baski,
04. Sri. Babukara Baski,
05. Sri Laxman Hansda,
06. Sri. Sunil Baski
07. Sri. Bode Baski
08. Sri. Buri Besra
09. Sri. Ludu Mushru
10. Sri. Dhumu Soren
11. Sri. Swapan Baski
12. Sri. Sukol Baski



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14. Sri. Sunil Hansda

15. Sri. Sudodi Baski

It has also come to the notice of the Commission that, some of the tribesmen (male) of Kakora are out of their home in fear due to illegal cases registered on them. It is informed that the cases like attempt to murder and theft are registered on their name. The people who are staying outside are 1). Sri Sunil Baski, 2). Sri Somesh Baski, 3). Sri. Ramdulal Besra and 4). Sri. Bimol Mridha are away from their family right now.

The Commission also came to know about that the worship places of tribals are also destroyed which is scared to them and holds high sentimental value in their life. It was an unruly act by the anti-social elements. The entire scenario at this village is nothing but planned attacked to destroy the socio-cultural and economic conditions of the tribes living in Kakora village.



SODAPUR, EAST BARDHAMAN

#### **Visit to North 24 Praganas:**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> June, the NCST team visited villages Chuchura in Boyermari-2, Mothabari in Boyemari-1 and Rajbari in Sarberia Agarhati in the district. The Commission came to know by the preliminary enquiry that the other villages such as Buniya, Daudpur, Sukhdoani, Durgamandap, Gabberia, Daudpur, Manipur, Dhuchnikhali, Korakati and Monipur are also affected by the post-poll violence in the 24 North Praganas District. The tribal communities living in these areas are Mahato, Munda, Bedia and Oraon.

During the visit, the commission was able to interact with few tribal victims i.e, Sri. Nepal Sardar, Sri. Bulbul Sardar, Sri. Nepal Sardar, Sri. Bulbul Sardar of Chuchura village ; Smt. Anita Sardar, Sri. Kalipada Sardar, Sri. Dilip Singh, Sri. Budda Singh, and Tapas Sardar. It is learnt that the incidents like looting valuables, household items, TV sets, paddy husk, theft of gold chains, cycles, destruction of kitchen and damaging of asbestos sheets have taken place. The local police did not give any protection to those people rather threatened them to arrest if anyone of them lodges any complaint.



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SANDESKALI 24 NORTH PARGANAS

At Chuchura local tribal people were threatened not to meet the visiting NCST team. It is learnt that 67 (sixty seven) houses of tribal people were attacked and looted, out of fear tribal people fled from their houses. At Sundarikhali of Surbaria GP, under Nazat Police Station tribal people were threatened to meet the NCST, as a result nobody was there to whom the Commission could have interacted. But it was learnt that, as many as 103 (one hundred three) houses of tribal people were ransacked and looted during the Post Poll Violence, but so far, no enquiry have been conducted by the local police, with the plea that there was no complaint. Similarly, at Kharihat, Bayarmari-2, as many as 15 (fifteen) houses of tribal people were burnt, forcing everyone to leave their house. Allegation came to the Commission that, the head of local Pradhan of GP demands money from the affected people, rather than helping them for their rehabilitation.

On 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 by evening at 5.00 p.m. onwards, a press conference was organized by inviting the local journalists and TV channels. The Hon'ble Member briefed about the main intention to visit West Bengal, and also informed to the press that the tribal people living in the visited districts are in miserable condition. He has answered to all the queries asked by the media.

That it is pertinent to mention here that, NCST received 27(Twenty seven) representations / petitions during its visit to the state of West Bengal, most of which relates to the Post Poll Violence in the state and some of those relate to lack of basic amenities.

#### **The Observations during the Commission's visit in Post-Poll affected areas:**

1. The Team of the Commission has taken a serious view and Hon'ble Member also expressed its deep anguish and displeasure. The tribal communities are living with fear after post-poll elections. They are not able to lodge any complaint with police or revenue officials due to this fear. The tribal women and young people are most affected groups in this post-poll violence. The daily labor working in agriculture fields, the petty vegetable and fruit vendors unable to go to market to sell their goods due to restrictions imposed by local police and fear of physical assaults. The economic



192214/2021/RU-III. Conditions of the tribal people has been impacted and found difficult lead their daily life. The acts such as physical attacks, molestation and rape on women, destruction of household items etc, left them hopeless and in the state of pensive mood. In some of the areas the tribal people are warned not to meet the NCST team, for example the 24 North Paragons and Purvey Bradman the tribal people are warned and even their mobile phones are forcibly switched off.

2. The revenue department officials visited districts i.e., SDM/ BDO/PO are attended during the enquiry. They have been asked by the NCST team regarding the issues happened, but none of them are not able to provide the authentic reports over the things happened after post-poll violence. Some of them have informed to the Commission that there are no such incidents happened in their districts.
3. The Local Police also attended during the enquiry. Almost in all the places no tribal person has belief in them. The tribal people are alleging that the local police are working against them and lodging cases on them without their mistakes. They further alleged that the police are working for the particular party.
4. In all the villages, there are lack of basic facilities such as drinking water, implementation of housing schemes, construction of toilets and lack of roads.

**Recommendations:**

- Since, the local Police has failed to maintain law and order and the Commission has received various complaints of Police inaction hence it is recommended that the responsibility of any incident occurring due to inaction must be fixed on the individual officers who was either on duty at the relevant time or was SHO/Officer-in-charge of concerned Police Station, District Superintendent of Police and Dy Inspector of Police/ Inspector General of Police of the concerned administrative localities.
- Immediate steps should be taken to improve the infrastructural facilities to provide basic amenities to tribal people so that they can live with dignity. Access to such infrastructural facilities and basic amenities is fundamental right of these tribal people like the other citizens.
- There should be the constitution of Special Investigation Team consisting concerned Police Station of members outside control of West Bengal Administration to inquire and investigate about the atrocities and crimes committed against tribal people during Post Poll violence.
- The Investigation of the complaints should be transferred to any independent Investigating Agency instead of the Local Police to aspire confidence of the violence affected tribal people in the Constitutional Machinery.
- The State should make serious endeavors to uplift the condition of tribal people, visit the violence affected areas and also punish the erring police officials who have failed to act on the complaints of the Tribal.



192214/2021/RU - Ib Police officials need to be sensitized and trained to provide equal protection of law to tribal people as envisaged in our Constitution irrespective of their Political inclination and affiliation.

- There should be increase in Women Police Officials sensitized and trained to handle incidents specifically involving female victims and children.
- To provide additional safety net to these tribal people, Para-military forces should also be deployed in affected areas/districts as there is trust deficit against the Police Officials.
- Rehabilitation of the tribal people who lost their home due to arson or other related destructive activities.
- To make sure that the compensation amount is awarded by the State and it should reach the beneficiary directly.

The Commission would like to conclude its report that these tribal people were targeted because they belong to a particular community and strata of society. The victims are helpless, weak and most vulnerable in the hierarchy of the society and the administration too, sees and treats them differently. As a result, the anti-social elements, in guise of unbridled power and in absence of fear of being punished, harass and torture them. The indifferent attitude of the administration towards them gives leverage to political goons to act according to their whims and wishes thus violating the fundamental rights of these tribal people. The report of the Commission highlights as to how the protectors of the weak and vulnerable have become their predators. There are glaring examples which shows as to how Political goons have committed heinous crimes against tribal people due to the failure of the State machinery in safeguarding the person and interest of tribal people. The concerned SHO/Officer-in-charge of these districts did not take any action against the perpetrators even upon receiving various complaints of the victims or their family members. The local Police discriminated against them due to Political affiliation of the victims thus failing to discharge their statutory duty of maintaining law and order in all the affected areas. The State as duty bound to treat all its citizens equally failed to provide them security from post poll violence which resultantly took lives of many people.

No civilized society would tolerate rape and molestation of women, whatever may be the reasons behind that. Similarly in democracy there is no room for violence, every citizen has the right to exercise his opinion in elections, because it is of the people, by the people and for the people. It is the high time all the responsible citizen of this country and people involved in electoral process must sit together think over it to find out a way, so that, in future these sorts of incidents do not reoccur in any parts of this country. The role of Executive is very crucial in Democracy it should maintain it neutrality in functioning and prompt in maintaining Law & Order Situation. Above all the violence in any form must be condemned by and sundry.

**END**