

# NCST notice to state, RPF DG on migrant losing palms

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Bhubaneswar: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has issued a notice to state chief secretary, DGP and the director general of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in connection with a Kandhamal-based man losing his palms while working as a migrant labourer in Maharashtra earlier this year.

The NCST took cognizance of the case filed by human rights activist and lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy on July 3. The petitioner said Angad Mallick (29) from Baliguda town, who went to Mumbai seeking work about two months back, was found by his family members at a rescue centre in Gujarat where he was undergoing treatment after losing his palms.

His family alleged that he was attacked by miscreants at Kalyan railway station (in Maharashtra) which resulted in him losing his palms, following which a police team from Baliguda went to Mumbai on July 3 to inquire into the matter.

Tripathy cited similar inhumane incidents faced by migrant workers from Odisha and other states in his petition. In 2013, the right palms of two migrant labourers were chopped off by a contractor and his accomplices in Kalahandi district of Odisha. "The sequence of events is barbaric and ghastly in nature and continues unabated due lack of adequate and timely government intervention," he claimed.

Tripathy has requested the NCST for legal action against the culprits, artificial limb replacement for the victim along with compensation and rehabilitation.

The NCST has decided to investigate the matter and has directed the officials to submit facts and information on action taken on the allegations made by Tripathy within 15 days. "In case, the commission does not receive a reply from you (the officials) within the stipulated time, it may exercise the powers of civil courts and issue summons for your appearance in person or by a representative before the commission," the NCST stated in its July 4 notice.



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