

'Abuse' by employers: Ask RWAs to collect & maintain data of domestic helps, NCST tells Gurugram officials

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NEW DELHI: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has asked the Gurugram administration to issue official orders directing registered resident welfare associations (RWAs) to set in motion the process to collect and maintain a database of all domestic helps and provide the same to the concerned officials, as a preventive measure against their abuse by employers.

The recommendation comes in the wake of a case reported in February about the alleged torture and sexual harassment of a teenaged girl from Jharkhand by her employers in Gurugram.

The NCST had taken cognisance of the matter and issued notices and summons to the authorities in the case. The commission now plans to formally write to the authorities sometime this week on the same and seek

an action taken report on the various issues discussed and recommendations made in the hearing in the case held on February 24 under the chairmanship of NCST member Ananta Nayak.

The commission had taken cognisance of a news item captioned as "Babysitter torture in Gurgaon..." published in the TOI on February 12 where it was reported that a joint team of concerned police officers and Sakhi, a One-Stop Crisis Center, rescued a minor tribal girl hired by a couple residing in Gurugram to care for their child. The couple allegedly tortured and sexually harassed the girl for months. When she was rescued, several injuries were found on her hands, feet and mouth.

The minor who hails from a poor tribal family came to Delhi in May last year with her maternal uncle. She was hired by the

couple as a babysitter through a Delhi-based placement agency around five months ago. The 15-year-old was rescued on February 7 and the accused were arrested.

Bringing into focus the serious problem of trafficking and the role of placement agencies, the police is learnt to have informed the NCST in their report that the owner of the placement agency has been notified as a proclaimed offender as he also has two more cases registered against him in his native place in Odisha.

Besides asking the authorities to ensure maximum compensation under the SC/ST (PoV) Act, the NCST has also sought insertion of the relevant provisions of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, and sections in law applicable to the offence of trafficking.



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