



Speed Post

Government of India  
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes  
(A Constitutional Commission set up under Art. 338A  
of the Constitution of India)

File No. PDB/1/2016/STGTN/ATPHHR/RU-IV

Dated: 17/11/2016

To,

1. The Chief Secretary,  
Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai.
2. The Principal Secretary,  
Forest Department,  
Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Chennai.
3. The Director General,  
Forest Department,  
Government of Tamil Nadu,  
Chennai.
4. The District Collector,  
Theni District,  
Tamil Nadu.
5. The Superintendent of Police/SSP,  
Theni District,  
Tamil Nadu.

**Sub: Proceedings of the sitting taken by the Vice-Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) on 31.08.2016 at 2.00 P.M. in the matter of Shri P. Delli Babu, President, TN Tribals Association, West Thambaram, Chennai regarding sexual harassment on tribal people in Theni District by Forest Officials.**

Sir,

I am directed to enclose a copy of the Proceedings of the Sitting held in the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes on 31.08.2016 on the above mentioned subject for necessary action. Action taken report in the matter may be intimated to the Commission, at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

  
(V.P. Shahi)  
Assistant Director

7999 8003  
21/11/16  
जारी  
ISSUED

Copy to:-

Shri P. Delli Babu,  
President,  
Tamil Nadu Tribals Association,  
46A, VOC Street, Kasturibai Nagar,  
West Thambaram,  
Chennai - 600 045 (TN).

o/c

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES**

**File No. PDB/1/2016/STGTN/ATPHHR/RU-IV**

**Proceedings of the Sitting taken by the Vice-Chairperson, NCST on 31.08.2016 in the matter of Shri P. Delli Babu, President, TN Tribals Association, West Thambaram, Chennai regarding sexual harassment on tribal people in Theni District by Forest officials.**


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Date of sitting: 31.08.2016

List of the officers present: (Annex I)

Representation received from Shri P. Delli Babu, President, Tamil Nadu Tribals Association, West Thambaram, Chennai regarding atrocity committed on tribal people by forest officials in Theni district of Tamil Nadu. He alleged that on 16/07/2016, seven (7) tribal women and 5 tribal men were assaulted. They were dishonoured and humiliated in the middle of the road. Even a minor girl, 13 years old, was not spared. The crime was committed by the forest officials.

- 2) A notice dated 5/8/16 was sent to the DGP of Tamil Nadu calling for action taken report within 20 days.
- 3) Noting the seriousness of the case, the Hon'ble Vice Chairperson of the Commission, Shri Ravi Thakur decided to hold a sitting in the case with the Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, the Principal Secretary of Forest Department, The Director General, Forest Department, the District Collector, Theni district, and the Superintendent of Police, Theni district along with the petitioner.
- 4) The sitting was fixed on 31/08/2016 at 2.00 pm in the Office of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes in New Delhi.
- 5) Vide letter dated 29/08/2016 the Commission was informed that the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Principal Secretary, Environment and Forests Department would not be able to attend the meeting as they had to be present in the Headquarters as the Legislative Assembly session

  
रवि ठाकुर/RAVI THAKUR  
उपाध्यक्ष/Vice Chairperson  
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग  
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes  
भारत सरकार/Govt. of India  
नई दिल्ली/New Delhi

was going on. So they sought exemption from appearance and it was granted by the Commission.

6) The petitioner Shri Delli Babu said that he had been working for the welfare of the tribals for nearly 30 years and it was the first time he had taken up a case with the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and he thanked the Hon'ble Vice chairperson for his grace to listen to the issue.

7) The petitioner explained that there is no owner of land in Paliyar and people have been living for decades on forest produce. On this the Hon'ble VC interrupted and questioned the officials whether the Forest rights Act, 2006 was implemented or not. To this the respondents replied that the implementation of the Forest rights Act was going on and land would be allotted shortly.

8) The respondent added that The Forest Department have been having good relations with the tribals.

9) The petitioner alleged that forest officials stopped the share auto of the tribals. And one or two of the officials were drunk. Their names were Prince Selvakumar and Duraidinga. The petitioner alleged that one forest guard asked one of the ladies to open her saree with blouse and the sari was thrown away. The gents were left with only their underwears.

10) The petitioner questioned that if they had done something illegal, why didnt the authorities opt for the police. One of the ladies had a few kilos of rice and that was also not spared.

11) The Superintendent of Police explained that in the evening of 17/7/2016, he received a complaint from Prince Selvakumar, the forester that a few tribal people shouted at Subash, a forest watcher in the Forest Ranger office. So Subash and also a few other forest officials ran away. So in this case an FIR was registered 6 tribals ( Pandeewaran and 5 others ) on the complaint of Subash.

12) Subsequently , the SP explained, on 23/07/21016 a complaint was received by post at Royappanpatty Police Station in which it was stated that on 16/07/2016 there was an assault on the tribals by the forest officials on their way back from

  
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