

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

(भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय) (A Constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

File No.- NCST/ATY-167/KA/1/2021-APCR

Date: 08/11/2023

To,

- 1 **Dr. Malathi Priya M**Chief Conservator of Forests
 Government of Karnataka,
 Aranya Bhavan,
 Ashok puram,
 Mysore -570008 (Karnataka)
 Email: ccfmysore@gmail.com
- 3 Smt. Seema Latkar,
 Superintendent of Police
 District Mysore,
 Kittur Rani Chennamma Circle,
 Jalapuri
 Mysore -570019 (Karnataka)
 Email: mysurudistrictpolice@gmail.com

Dr. Rajendra .K V, Deputy Commissioner and DM District - Mysuru DC office, Mysuru District - 570019, Karnataka. E.mail: cmysuru@gmail.com

Sub: News Item published in the Indian Express dated 03.12.2021 captioned "Tribal man shot at by Forest Staff" in Mysuru District (Karnataka).

Sir/Madam.

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30.10.2023 under the Chairmanship of Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes on the above mentioned subject for necessary action. It is requested that compliance report may be submitted to this Commission within 30 days positively for placing the same before the Hon'ble Commission.

Encl: as above

MIC

Yours faithfully

(एच.आर. मीना / H.R. Meena) अनुसंधान अधिकारी/ Research Officer

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES

Case File No. NCST/ATY-167/KA/1/2021-APCR

Minutes of Meeting held on 30.10.2023 Chaired By Shri Ananta Nayak, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) in the case of News Item published in the Indian Express dated 03.12.2021 captioned "Tribal man shot at by Forest Staff" in Mysuru District (Karnataka).

Date of Meeting: 30.10.2023 List of Participants: Annexed.

The Commission had come across the News items published in English daily, the Indian Express, the Hindu and leading Kannada News Papers on 03.12.2021 regarding incident of opening fire on Tribals by Forest Staff resulting in serious injury to a tribal namely Shri Basava resident of Ranigate village, a Jenu Kuruba Hemlet in Periyapatna Taluk of Mysuru District (Karnataka).

- 2. The Commission took up this matter with the District Collector and SP, Mysore and the Chief Conservator of Forest, Mysore on 14.12.202.
- 3. In response to the Commission's notice, reply dated 31.12.2021 was received from O/o the Deputy Conservator of Forest and Director, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Hunsur. The reply was perused and examined by the Commission.
- 4. On perusal/examination of reply of Deputy Conservator of Forest and Director, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Hunsur, the Commission has fixed a Meeting with the Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Karnataka, Deputy Commissioner and DM, Distt. Mysore and Superintendent of Police, Distt. Mysore on 30.10.2023.
- 5. On behalf of concerned authorities, the DCF & Director, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Hunsur, Assistant Commissioner, Hunsur Sub Division, Mysuru and DYSP, Hunsur Sub Division, Mysuru appeared before the Commission.
- The matter was discussed in detail. The Deputy Conservator of Forest and Director, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Hunsur submitted that on 01.12.2021 at around 11 AM, the beat in-charge Forest Guard Manjunath H K received a message that some people are illegally stocking sandalwood and dressing the stocked materials in the encroached forest land. When the beat in-charge Forest Guard Manjunath H K and Anti-poaching staff reached the spot, they noticed that 03 men were dressing the stocked Sandalwood billets with machete. The forest staff tried to apprehend the men but they tried to escape from the spot. Forest staff chased and tried to get hold of the accused. One of the accused threw Sandalwood pieces towards the staff and one of the accused named Basava s/o Sannappa aged about 37 yrs, resident of Ranigate village tried to attack the forest staff with billhook. Reacting on which, the Forest Guard Manjunath H K fires one round in self defence. The accused Basava again tried to attack the Forest Guard upon which he fired again which injured the accused Basava near left buttock and left palm. Meanwhile, the other two offenders absconded from the spot. Immediately after the incident, the injured accused was admitted to the Govt Hospital in Kushalanagar by Forest Guard himself and first aid was given. The injured accused was then transferred to the K R Hospital, Mysuru. In the said incident, the Forest Guard was also injured on his face and other parts of the body. He was also admitted in the Hospital. As per the Govt. order no. AHEFF 30 FSW 88, Bangalore dated 20.09.1991, the incident was reported to Higher officials of the Forest Department by Deputy Conservator



of Forest and Director, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Hunsur in prescribed format. Forest Guard Manjunath H K also lodged a complaint at Bylakuppe Police Station against the three accused to take immediate action on the accused who tried to attack and kill the Forest Staff who were on duty and were also involved in illicit stocking and dressing of Sandalwood. Police Offence case no. 0123/2021 on 01.12.2021 was registered under sections 379, 506, 353, 332, 307, 34 and U/S 86 and 87 of Karnataka Forest Act 1963. Weapons were seized and handed over to the Police officials for custody.

The Assistant Commissioner, Hunsur submitted that the injured accused belonged to the Jain Kuruba (ST) community. The family comprises of his wife Mrs. Pushpa, son Mr. Lohit and two kids of Mr. Basava's sister namely Ganesh and Tara who are currently studying in Ashram School, Ranigate, Bylekuppe, Priyaptna. The school ensures basic facilities to the kids which is inclusive of both books and free meals. Both Mrs. Pushpa and Mr. Lohit work as manual labourers in nearby coffee plantation fields from which they earn Rs.11,000 -15,000 approximately per month. Mrs. Pushpa has all the basic documents registered in her name like voter ID, caste certificate, ration card, Aadhar Card, birth certificate and so on. Moreover, the house she resides in is built by the Land Army and she has rights over the same land. She is also a recipient of the Widow Pension Scheme and gets Rs. 800/- per month in her active bank account. Recently, we are also registering her in the newly launched schemes like Gruha Lakshmi and Gruha Jyoti Yojana wherein she will receive Rs. 2000/- per month and subsidy on her electricity bill usage respectively.

The Dy.SP, Hunsur submitted that on the compliant of Mr. Basava (petitioner) on 14.01.2022, FIR has been registered at Bylakuppe Police Station vide CR No. 04/2022 under relevant section of IPC and SCs & STs (PoA) Act, 1989. As per the investigation, the complaint filed was found to be false and there was no evidence supporting the complaint. On 21st March 2022 B Report was submitted to the 6th ADJ Court Mysore, which was challenged by Injured Mr. Basava. As the case was in trial, Mr. Basava was diagnosed with cancer and he was admitted to Kidwai Hospital, Bangalore. However, he could not recover and passed away on 19th December, 2022. Following this on 4th August, 2023, the case was closed.

- 7. After hearing, the Commission observed that necessary action for financial help to Mr. Basava's family has been extended by the District Administration , therefore the Commission recommends that :
 - Education facility to children of late Mr. Basava has to be continued.
 - Widow pension to W/o late Mr. Basava to be continued along with other welfare schemes of the State.
 - Benefit under Jyoti Yojna to family of late Mr. Basava may be continued.
 - Other benefits under STs Welfare Schemes to late Mr. Basava family as per eligibility may be provided.
 - Livelihood resources may be provided to late Mr. Basava's family.

Action taken report may be submitted to the Commission within 30 days.

(ANANTA NAYAK) MEMBER

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

अनंत नायकाANANTA NAYAK

सदस्य/Member राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति शायोग NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES भारत सरकार/Govt. of India सई दिल्ली/New Delhi

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES Case File No.- NCST/ATY-167/KA/1/2021-APCR

List of participants

Officers from District Mysore (Karnataka)

- Shri Harsha Kumar. C DCF & Director, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Hunsur
- 2. Ms. Ruchi Bindar, Assistant Commissioner, Hunsur Sub-Division, Mysuru
- 3. Shri Gopala Krishna, DySP, Hunsur Sub-Division, Mysuru.