



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)

Dated:- 08.07.2025

File No. NCST/DEV-2298/DL/18/2023-ESDW

(1) **The Secretary,**
Ministry of health & Family Welfare,
Govt. of India,
Nirman Bhawan,
New Delhi- 110001
Email: secyhfw@nic.in

(2) **The Chief Secretary,**
Govt. of Odisha
General Administration Department
Odisha Secretariat,
Bhubneshwar, Odisha- 751001
Email: csori@nic.in


Sub: Representation dated 26.09.2023 received from Shri Radhakanta Tripathy, Advocate & Rights Activist, 27, Old Lawyers Chambers, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi-110001 regarding request to protect the ST Leprosy Patients.

महोदय/महोदया,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the minutes of the sitting held on 06.06.2025 at 11:40 AM under the Chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at New Delhi on the above mentioned subject.

It is requested that the action taken/to be taken in the matter may be intimated to NCST within stipulated time from receipt of the letter for placing it before the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. P. Kalyan Reddy)

Director

Tel: 011-24615012

Copy for information:-

1. Smt. Shanti Singh, C/o Mata Munda, Fisaribandha, Randia, Randiahaat, Bhadrak-756135, Odisha
2. Smt. Jambi Munda, w/o Mantu Singh, Fisaribandha, Randia, Randiahaat, Bhadrak-756135, Odisha
3. PS to Hon'ble Member (JH), NCST
- ✓ 4. NIC, NCST for uploading on the website of the Commission.

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

Minutes of the Sitting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes at Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi in the case of Shri Radhakanta Tripathy, Advocate & Rights Activist, New Delhi regarding rights violations faced by ST leprosy patients residing in colonies at Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha

(NCST/DEV-2298/DL/18/2023-ESDW)

Date of the Sitting: 06/06/2025, 11:40 AM

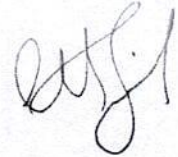
Participants in the Sitting: As per Annexure

Shri Radhakanta Tripathy, Advocate & Rights Activist, New Delhi vide his petition dated 26.09.2023 has highlighted the grave human rights violations faced by ST leprosy patients residing in colonies at Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha, citing issues such as lack of land rights, housing, electricity, toilets and medical treatment. In Bhadrak District, Dagamunda Leprosy Colony and Fishary Bandha, Randia under Randia Gram Panchayat, Leprosy patients namely Jambi Munda and Mantu Singh remain untreated and unrecognized by health authorities. Despite living near Government Institutions, these residents are denied social welfare benefits, ST certificates and have no basic infrastructure. The petitioner reports similar neglect in four colonies in Mayurbhanj District, where 250+ families lack legal land status, face poor sanitation and are ineligible for PMAY due to inadequate plot sizes. In the meantime in the year 2017, Odisha Land Rights Act, 2017 which came into being, which came into force in 2018, offers some relief, but implementation is delayed. The petitioner also exposes systemic negligence and corruption in Odisha's leprosy elimination programme, noting that thousands of new cases were concealed post-2006, with staff numbers drastically reduced. A call is made for urgent Commission intervention, including notices to state officials, field visits, comprehensive health surveys, and amendments to discriminatory laws like the Indian Railways Act, Hindu Marriage Act, and others that continue to stigmatize leprosy patients.

2. NCST vide notice dated 13.10.2023 sought facts and comments from the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha and Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi within 15 days from receipt of the Notice.

3. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi vide letter no. T.11022/23/2023-CCD dated 14.05.2024 has furnished the report / comments the Central Leprosy Division, Directorate General of Health Services and the concerned districts. The Ministry clarified that the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) under the National Health Mission, offers free diagnosis, treatment, Medical rehabilitation and welfare allowances to all leprosy patients including Scheduled Tribes. Specific district-level data and actions were shared for Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj Districts in Odisha, where regular medical services, health check-ups, supply of footwear, ulcer kits and reconstructive surgeries have been undertaken. The Ministry also highlighted various awareness and surveillance initiatives like LCDC, FLC and ABSULS for early detection and prevention. Further, it addressed issues of outdated discriminatory laws by noting that communication had been sent to the Ministry of Law and Justice regarding their repeal. There was no response from Govt. of Odisha, hence, NCST decided to discuss the issue with the authorities and the petitioner on 06.06.2025. Accordingly, a Sitting Notice was sent on 28.05.2025 to petitioner and authorities. There was no response from Govt. of Odisha.

4. In the sitting, DDG M/o Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi and petitioner were present. The petitioner reiterated his earlier submission and pointed out the name of colonies of Leprosy patients in Bhadrak District should be replaced in the name of Tribal Heroes or State Heroes. The houses should be allotted to Leprosy patients under State Govt. and Central Govt. schemes on priority basis. The Rules and Laws framed by Govt. of India for prevention of Leprosy may be implemented in latter and spirit. The officer of M/o Health and Family Welfare pointed out the information submitted by M/o Health and Family Welfare in May, 2024. He also pointed out the various programmes being implemented for welfare and protection of Leprosy patients.



जाटोतु हुसेन / Jatothu Hussain
सदस्य / Member
भारत सरकार / Government of India
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

5. After discussion with the officer of M/o Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi and petitioner, the following recommendations / suggestions were made and action taken report there on may be submitted to NCST within 30 days from receipt of the minutes.

- The M/o Health and Family Welfare may initiate necessary steps on priority basis for repealing the discriminatory laws pertaining to Leprosy in the country.
- The M/o Health and Family Welfare may insure for implementation of existing rules and regulations for protection of Leprosy patients in country specifically in the Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj Districts of Odisha.
- The Govt. of Odisha may initiate necessary action for replacing the name of Leprosy Colony (Kushtha) in the name Tribal Heroes or State Heroes in the Districts of Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj of Odisha State.



(Jatothu Hussain)
जाटोतु हुसैन / Jatothu Hussain
सदस्य / Member
भारत सरकार / Government of India
राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग
National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
नई दिल्ली / New Delhi

List of participants of the sitting held on 6.6.2025 at 11:40 under the chairmanship of Shri Jatothu Hussain, Hon'ble Member, NCST

Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
I	<u>National Commission for Scheduled Tribes</u>		
1.	Dr. P.K Reddy Director		(X)
2.	NCST Officials		
II	<u>Govt. of Odisha</u>		
Sr. No.	Name and Designation	Address & Phone No.	Signature
III	<u>M/o Health & Family Welfare</u>		
	Dr. Sanil Vilasrao GMC	PPG, 94076 2424	Dr. Sanil
IV	<u>Petitioner</u>		
1	Radhakanta Tripathy	27 dd laryes Chambers Supreme Court New Delhi	Dr. [Signature] 9205287636