

File No.907/13

17.07.2014

Petitioner (Sunita Devi) is present. SDPO Rosera, Mr. G.M. Kumar is present. Sr. Deputy Collector, Samastipur Mr. Gofran Ahmad is also present.

The death of the petitioner's husband took place on 16.2.2013. The police has not so far completed the investigation and the SDPO present submits that he will look into the case and try to complete the investigation within four weeks.

The incident has occurred in tragic circumstances where the husband of the petitioner was killed and because of his death the lady is suffering financially as well. The Sr. Deputy Collector submits that there is a scheme under which widows who are BPL card holders are provided pension of Rs.300 per month. This could have been provided to the petitioner also but she has not approached the BDO. This Commission has found that in this state there are some welfare schemes for very poor people but those poor people are not able to take those benefits as they are not aware of such schemes. There is also not a mechanism in place whereby the authorities would on their own be able to sanction benefits to deserving people.

I am told by the Sr. Deputy Collector that every Panchayat has a sewak who is the lowest officer in the development side of the government and works in the village. The Commission directs the Chief Secretary of the State to issue a circular for whole of Bihar that whenever a woman becomes a widow by death of her husband who belongs to BPL group the sewak should inform the BDO immediately. The Block Development Officer should ensure that the lady if desirous moves an application to the BDO through the Panchayat Sewak. It shall be the duty of the Panchayat Sewak even otherwise to inform the BDO about the presence of a lady in the village entitled to such benefits. A survey for this purpose in all villages be also conducted.

The Deputy Collector present shall ensure that the lady in this case applies and her pension is sanctioned within next four weeks.

Put up on 19.8.2014.

(Justice Bilal Nazki)
Chairperson