

BIHAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9, Bailey Road, Patna

File No. BHRC/Comp. 553/2014

(Suo Motu Cognizance)

Subject: Slow pace in constitution of District Committee for senior Citizens mandated under Bihar Maintenance & Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Rules 2012.

BHRC takes **suo motu** cognizance of slow pace in the constitution of the **District Committee for senior citizens** mandated under Bihar Maintenance & Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizen Rules 2012 by the **District Authorities of fifteen districts in Bihar**. The rule provides for constitution of District Committee for senior citizens as follows:-

1.	District Magistrate	Chairperson
2.	Superintendent of Police	Member
3.	Civil Surgeon-cum-Chief Medical Officer	Member
4.	Two Social workers (one from the Old Age Home)	Member
5.	Representative of Pensioners Association	Member
6.	Two representatives of Voluntary Organizations nominated by District Magistrate	Member
7.	Assistant Director, Social Security	Member Secretary

These committees are supposed to meet every three months and review administration & management of old age homes, support programmes relating to rehabilitation of senior citizens, co-ordinate between different agencies working for senior citizens and review functioning of maintenance tribunals set up under the Act.

2. Commission was informed by Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Bihar in April 2013 that government had issued directions to the District Magistrates vide Social Welfare Department

letter no. 2225 dated 19.10.2012 (File No.सा0सु0-विधि-22/2009-स.क-) to constitute district committees for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act/Rules. **Despite repeated communications from the Social Security Directorate, district committees have been formed only in 23 districts of Bihar so far** as communicated to the Commission by the Director, Social Security, vide his letter no.366 dated 28.2.2014. **District Committee for senior citizens still remains to be constituted in fifteen districts of Bihar, namely, Muzaffarpur, West Champaran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Vaishali, Saran, Siwan, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Araria, Munger, Jamui, Khagaria, Kaimur & Nawada.** It shows lack of appreciation on the part of the concerned district magistrates and the Assistant Director, Social Security about the urgent need to put in place such committees. This also shows their apathy towards human right concerns of the elderly persons for whose welfare the rules have been framed by the State Government.

3. Commission, therefore, decides to take **suo motu** cognizance of the issue and **directs to issue notices u/s 17** of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 to the **District Magistrates and Assistant Director, Social Security** Muzaffarpur, West Champaran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Vaishali, Saran, Siwan, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Araria, Munger, Jamui, Khagaria, Kaimur & Nawada to inform the Commission why District Committees have not been formed so far. **The authorities should send reply to the Commission positively by 30th April, 2014 failing which Commission may be constrained to direct for their personal appearance.**

4. Copy of this order be sent to (i) District Magistrates & (ii) Assistant Director, Social Security of the districts mentioned above for compliance

5. Copy of the order be also sent to (i) Director, Social Security, Bihar, (ii) Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Government of Bihar for information.

Sd/-

(Neelmani)

Acting Chairperson

Date: 5.3.2014

**Secretary,
S.P./Dy. Sec.**