

BIHAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9, Bailey Road, Patna

File No. BHRC/Comp.104/2014

(Suo Motu Cognizance)

Subject: Case of Suo motu cognizance on the slow pace of implementation of Section 20 of the Sr. Citizens Act.

BHRC had taken **suo motu** cognizance of slow pace of implementation of section 20 of the “**Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007**” relating to medical support for senior citizens on 16th January, 2014. **Executive Director, State Health Society, Bihar** was directed by the Commission to inform about **broad action plan** for implementation of the provisions of this act in rest of the districts of Bihar. It may be noted that under the **National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE)** only **six districts** of Bihar, namely, Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Rohtas, Kaimur, Motihari and West Champaran were covered under the programme.

2. Secretary, Health-cum-Executive Director, State Health Society has informed the Commission about present status of implementation of the Act salient points of which are:-

(a) **Ten-bedded geriatric** ward has started in Motihari and West Champaran districts. Renovation work is in progress in Rohtas and equipments have been purchased in remaining three districts. Physiotherapists, rehabilitation workers, sanitary attendants and hospital attendants have been selected in these pilot districts under NPHCE.

(b) **Government of India** has been requested to **include five new districts**, namely, **Goplaganj, Buxar, Purnea, Banka and Jamui** in **NPHCE** scheme the year 2013-14.

(c) **All Civil Surgeons in Bihar have been directed as under:-**

(i) **Reserve two beds** in all Sadar/Sub-divisional hospitals for elderly persons

(ii) **Separate OPD** to be started for elderly persons on every **Tuesday**.

(iii) Separate registers to be maintained to keep accounts of medicines made available to senior citizens and lab investigations carried out.

(iv) Separate queue for senior citizens.

(v) Senior citizens to be **screened** on the basis of their eye-tests, audibility test and chest, heart, blood pressure, haemoglobin, urinary and sugar level checks.

(vi) **ANM Health visitors** and **supervisors** to be trained to visit during their community visits in the area the disabled/incapable elderly persons who cannot come out of their houses.

(vii) Elderly persons to be made aware about dietary precautions against chronic ailments like chest, gout, diabetes, hypertension diseases etc. etc.

(viii) To ensure supply of medicines for treatment of elderly citizens.

3. **The Commission appreciates the initiatives taken by the State Health Society, Bihar. A close monitoring of implementation of various guidelines issued to the field formations will go a long way in creating the desired impact and ensure relief to the targeted section.**

4. Attention of **Ms. Sujaya Krishnan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health & FM), GOI, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi**, is being drawn to the proposal of Secretary, Health-cum-Executive Director, State Health Society, Bihar [Letter no. SHSB/G.A./NPHCE/682/2012/4022 dated 07.05.2013] for inclusion of five new districts under NPHCE. Action taken in the matter may also please be communicated to the Commission by **31st March, 2014**.

5. **Secretary, Health-cum-Executive Director**, State Health Society is directed to apprise the Commission with a **status note** on progress made in the implementation of its various directives to field formations and inclusion of new districts in NPHCE scheme by GOI by **30th April, 2014**.

6. Copy of the order be sent to **Sri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Secretary-cum-Executive Director, State Health Society**, (ii) **Ms. Sujaya Krishnan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** (Department of Health & FM) Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi – 110108 for necessary action and (iii) **Principal Secretary, Health Department** for information.

7. The file may be put up on **10th April, 2014** when the case is listed next.

Sd/-

(Neelmani)

Acting Chairperson

Date: 25.2.2014

S.P./D.S.