

BIHAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9, Bailey Road, Patna
File No. BHRC/Comp 800/16

(Suo Motu Cognizance)

Subject: Sixty SC/ST students from Bihar forced to leave REC, Bhubneswar due to non-payment of stipend under State Govt's Dalit Stipend Scheme.

Case of : Motihari & Bettiah Districts.

BHRC takes suo motu cognizance of news report published in Times of India, Patna edition today (02.02.2016) captioned "60 Dalit students from Bihar threaten suicide: Students Forced to Leave Bhubneswar College".

2. According to the report, 60 SC/ST students from Bihar (18 from East Champaran and 42 from West Champaran) were forced to leave **Rajdhani Engineering College (REC), Bhubneswar** after the Bihar Government failed to pay their stipend despite repeated request by the college administration. Reportedly, these students had secured admission in the college in 2014 under **State Government's "Dalit Stipend Scheme"** and since 1 ½ years, stipend has not been sent to the college. It is reported that the proposal sent by the District Welfare Officer, East Champaran is pending with the SC/ST Welfare Department, Government of Bihar since June 2015.

3. Issue notices to the (i) **Principal Secretary, SC/ST Welfare Department, Government of Bihar** (ii) **District Welfare Officer, East Champaran**, & (iii) **District Welfare Officer, West Champaran** to file their reports to the Commission by **18th February 2016**. A copy of the newspaper clipping be also sent along with a copy of this order.

4. **The case be listed on 22nd February, 2016.**

Date: 02.02.2016

Registrar/Asstt. Registrar

Sd/....

(Neelmani)
Member

दैनिक अखबार Times of India में दिनांक 2.2.16 की
प्रकाशित खबर 60 दलित छात्रों द्वारा आत्महत्या
खपकी का खतरा सेवान
सेवान

TIMES CITY | REGION

60 dalit students from Bihar threaten suicide

Students Forced To Leave Bhubaneswar College

Chandra Bhushan Pandey

Motihari: Sixty dalit students from Bihar studying at Rajdhani Engineering College (REC), Bhubaneswar, were forced to leave the college and their respective hotels on January 8 after the Bihar government allegedly failed to pay their stipend despite repeated requests by the college administration.

These second year students have threatened to commit suicide if the government failed to come to their rescue.

The 60 dalit students - 18 from East Champaran and 42 from West Champaran - secured admission in the college in 2014 under the state government's Dalit Stipend scheme. They alleged that the Bihar government had last paid the stipend to the college one-and-a-half year ago.

"We have decided to commit suicide because our future is at stake due to negligence of SC/ST welfare department of the Bihar government," said one of the students, adding that the college principal has asked them to re-

Principal secretary of SC/ST welfare department SM Raju said the government usually makes no delay in sending the stipend of dalit students to their respective colleges in other states

turn only when all their dues are cleared. According to a joint press release signed by four students of REC - Loknath Kumar, Gajendra Kumar, Mukesh Kumar and Ujjawal Kumar - the college that falls under under Biju Patnaik Technical University provided them free education, boarding and lodging for more than a year. "In 2015, Bihar government did not send stipend to the college," said the joint press release.

"We even met Ashok Kumar Nagbansi, the district welfare officer of East Champaran, and urged him to send the stipend to the college, but to no avail," they said.

Nagbansi, on his part, said he

had sent the list of 18 dalit students of East Champaran who are studying at REC, Bhubaneswar, to the SC/ST welfare department on June 6, 2015, urging it to transfer the stipend to the college. He said the SC/ST welfare department is authorized to send the stipend of dalit students to their respective colleges. "The district welfare department only examines the college records and documents of the students," Nagbansi added.

Principal secretary of SC/ST welfare department SM Raju said the government usually makes no delay in sending the stipend of dalit students to their respective colleges in other states. "If REC, Bhubaneswar, has forced the students to leave college, we will look into the matter," he added.

Basudeo Ram, father of Loknath Kumar, met Raju in Patna on January 11 with the help of Manju Devi, chairperson of East Champaran Zila Parishad, and requested him to send the stipend. "The principal secretary has assured us that the money would be sent soon," a visibly concerned Ram said.