

BIHAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9, Bailey Road, Patna

File Nos. BHRC/Comp. 2749/14

Case of Iqbal Ahmad Saba: (Case of 64 huts gutted in fire: Compensation awarded)

07 .06.2016

Sri Ajay Kr. Gautam Advocate for the Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd. present.

The Commission passed the following order on 5.5.2016:-

“Petitioner not present. SDM, Araria, Sri Amod Kr. Sharan with OSD, Disaster Management Department present.

It is submitted by way of relief an additional amount of Rs.3000 was sanctioned in favour of each of 64 persons who had lost their houses because of short-circuit. Since the Disaster Management Department is not responsible for paying any compensation but only give relief which they have already given, therefore, no further directions are needed to be given to Disaster Management Department.

However, the Bihar State Power (Holding) Company’s liability is to be ascertained.

Issue notice to Chairman, Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd. for appearance on 1.06.2016.”

It is admitted that huts of these poor people got burnt because of sparking of high voltage electric lines but the learned advocate submits that if there is any loss of any property because of

high voltage electric lines compensation is being paid by the Disaster Management Department and Disaster Management Department has already paid an amount of Rs.3000 per person.

I do not think this argument holds good because sparking in a high voltage electric line is not a natural disaster for which nobody can be held responsible. The responsibility lies squarely with the Power Holding Company which was running the high voltage lines. Rs.3000 compensation which has been paid by the Disaster Management Department per head is too meager since the Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd. is directly responsible for the damage caused to the victims.

Victims have suffered huge losses in view of the report of the SDM, Araria. Therefore, I direct that further amount of Rs.3000 per head be paid by the Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd. to all the 64 victims.

Copy of the order be sent to (i) petitioner, (ii) Chairman, Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd, Patna and (iii) Principal Secretary, Disaster Management Department for information and necessary action as the case may be.

Compliance report be submitted within six weeks.

List on 25.7.2016.

(Justice Bilal Nazki)
Chairperson