

BIHAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9, Bailey Road, Patna

File No. BHRC/Comp 800/16

(Suo Motu Cognizance)

BHRC had taken suo motu cognizance on 02nd Feb,2016 of news report regarding SC/ST students of Bihar being forced to leave Rajdhani Engineer College,(REC) Bhubneshwar due to failure of Bihar government to pay their stipend . Commission had issued notice to the Principal Secretary, SC/ST Welfare Department , Govt. of Bihar for a response.

2. The Secretary to the department has informed that the department has so far received approx one lakh petitions for such scholarship of which scholarships to the tune of Rs. **70.90 crores** had been sanctioned for **43047** students belonging to 4348 Engineering Colleges situated in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, TimilNadu, Karnataka, Keral, Delhi, Punjab, Hariyana, Himachal Pradesh, U.P, M.P, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and W. B and manual verification in respect of remaining 50,000 students will be completed in a month and stipend transferred through R.T.G.S to the college/Institutions concerned.

3. Report also mentions that five such engineering colleges had been found to be fake and in order to fill-up vacant seats in many engineering colleges, undeserving students are also shown to be admitted. This necessitated verifications which is being done manually through the district Welfare Officers. **Report also mentions that the administration of REC, Bhubneshwar has informed, on phone, that none of the students had been expelled as reported in the media.**

4. Commission appreciates the initiative of the State Government. It would like to recommend following actions in the matter:-

(a) Pending verifications to be completed within a month .

(b) Processes of verification can be expedited using various technological tools.

(c) Agency /institutions trying to siphon off Bihar Government funds by fraudulent means must be exposed and taken to task.

5. Commission will be expecting a report from the Principal Secretary, SC/ST Welfare Department Govt. of Bihar by 25th April, 2016 when the matter is listed next.

6. Copy of the order be sent to the Principal Secretary, SC/ST Welfare Department, Government of Bihar for necessary action .

Date: 23.02.2016

Registrar/Asstt. Registrar

Sd/...

(Neelmani)
Member