

Submit report on neonatal deaths, says MPHRC

Rights body issues notice to health secy after protest by tribals

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BHOPAL: The Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission (MPHRC) has issued a show cause notice to the secretary of health and family planning in connection with the 300 deaths in three months in Barwani district.

Hundreds of tribals affiliated to the Jagrit Adivasi Dalit Sangathan on Tuesday had sat on dharna at the district hospital in Barwani to protest against repeated maternal and neo-natal deaths in the hospital. The secretary has been asked to submit report in two weeks.

The NGO, alleged in a press

release that these deaths belie the loud claims of the National Rural Health Mission and of both Central and state governments that they are effectively countering maternal and infant mortality.

As many as 18 women have died due to pregnancy-related complications in the districts' government hospitals, (15 in the district hospital itself) over the past three months, they claimed, adding there had been over 300 neonatal deaths in the same period. The figures for deaths outside the hospital are, of course, much higher.

This despite over Rs 150 crore being allocated every year to the district for reproductive and child health. The tribal pro-

testors were especially angry over the death of Vepari Bai of Ban village, who was admitted with pre-eclampsia symptoms, but was not given proper treatment, and finally succumbed after being neglected in the hospital for almost two days.

Interestingly, both Vepari Bai's mother and mother-in-law are ASHA workers, and even their pleas for help went unheeded. The tribals also protested that despite NRHM norms, no rural hospital was equipped to deal with pregnancy-related complications, because of which they were forced to travel up to 100 kilometers to Barwani when such complications occurred.

MPHRC takes cognisance of farmer suicides in MP

By Our Staff Reporter
Bhopal, Jan 12

The Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission (MPHRC) has taken cognisance of reports of farmer suicides in some districts of the state.

Following this, the MPHRC has sought reports on the suicides from Collectors and Superin-

tendents of Police of the concerned districts.

The Commission has asked the two to submit their reports within 15 days in case of any such incident.

The MPHRC in-charge Chairman, A K Saxena has also directed the members of its investigating teams to go to areas from where these suicides

have been reported.

Saxena has also asked investigators to find out the circumstances in which the suicides took place and present a report within 10 days.

Four to five farmer suicides have been reported from Damoh, Raisen and Sagar districts of Madhya Pradesh within a fortnight.

Tribal ends 24-day long stir against Forest Dept

FREE PRESS NEWS SERVICE
HOSHANGABAD

The 24-day long agitation against the Forest Department by a tribal Basant Uike came to end on Monday after the department accepted all his demands and the intervention of the MPHRC.

Taking cognisance of the news published by the Free Press Journal on January 22 in this regard, the MPHRC issued notice to the DFO in this regard.

Earlier, a case was registered against Uike for alleged-

ly killing a wild animal. To register their protest against the false implication of Uike, the victim and his wife resorted to dharna at the Jaystambh Chowk from January 1, which turned into a 'fast until death' from January 11 onwards.

He was admitted to the hospital by the police after his condition deteriorated.

Though he was persuaded to end his fast, Uike said he would end his fast only after his demands were met.

The Bhrashtachar Nirodhi Samiti was also supporting his cause and agitation and car-

ried out a 'yajna' in order to draw the attention of the Forest Minister.

The officers on Monday went to the Jaystambh Chowk and accepted all his demands, resulting in his ending the dharna and fast.

DFO G Krishnamurti, sub-divisional officer revenue Jagdish Gaume, city inspector Malkeet Singh, SDO SS Mehta went to the spot of dharna and assured him an unbiased investigation in a month after accepting all his demands.

The officers offered him milk to break the fast.