

## PRESS NOTE

21<sup>st</sup> August, 2012

In exercise of the powers conferred under Sections 8(1), read with Sections 10(1) and 10(4) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 with approval of the competent authority an Inquiry Committee was constituted to inquire into media report wherein a man allegedly put a lock on his wife's private parts in Indore; and the reported case of a 20 years old women ( a child bride) who was allegedly raped by five men and later sold, besides being allegedly abandoned by her in-laws for non-fulfillment of dowry demand, in Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) taking cognizance of the incident above constituted an Inquiry Committee with Dr. Charu WaliKhanna Member, NCW as Chairperson of Inquiry Committee.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

1. In the Indore case the matter has been registered under Section 498A IPC which has a maximum punishment of 3 years imprisonment. Such an inhuman barbaric crime underscores the need to amend penal laws and enhance punishment in cases of violence against women.
2. Serious concern is expressed in the **SAGAR** matter in the casual approach and inaction of the police.
3. **The SAGAR which is a classic case of deprivation of women rights- Child Marriage, Dowry, Rape and Trafficking.**
4. Marrying at a young age and lack of educational opportunities increases the dependence of a girl on her husband for her economic needs. This tends to push the young girl into poverty and trafficking as seen in the present case, where the victim, initially a child bride was later raped by several men and also trafficked in connivance with her husband.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **A. Victim oriented**

1. State Govt. to provide both the traumatized women professional counselling on an urgent basis.
2. State Govt. to ensure education facilities are provided to the children of the Indore victim. Arrangements may be made with consent of victim to send the children to Hostel. However, it is recommended that even the two small boys be sent to Hostel.

3. State Govt. to provide financial aid to Indore victim of an amount of Rs.50,000/- . Rs.20,000/- to be paid in cash and the balance Rs.30,000/- be put in Fixed Deposit and Rehabilitation Plan may be made.
4. To ensure security of women, specially in a remote areas, HELP LINE be started. State Govt. to make Scheme wherein on the event of such crimes against women being reported, immediate relief is provided to victim by a team of specialists.
5. 'Vigil Groups" to be formed in neighborhoods to prevent crime against women.

## **B. POLICE & ADMINISTRATION**

1. Efforts to be made by Police to ensure proper & adequate patrolling is carried out in remote areas and villages;
2. Investigation should be thorough and conducted properly.
3. The case should be strictly monitored till charge-sheet is submitted before the concerned Court.
4. In the SAGAR case Police protection be provided to victim and her family,
5. State govt. to constitute Fast Track Courts

## **C. SOCIAL & EDUCATIONAL**

1. The State Govt. to appoint Child Marriage Prohibition Officer and Dowry Prohibition Officers under the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 respectively. And the administration and police to ensure stern action is taking in prohibiting child marriages.
2. Mass awareness campaigns to be conducted on issues like valid age of marriage etc.
3. Open school centers/vocational training facilities be provided in areas where there is a lack of educational opportunities; so that youth are gainfully occupied and parents don't get tempted to marry off their daughters at young age.