

**DR. N. C. SAXENA, COMMISSIONER AND
HARSH MANDER, SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF THE SUPREME COURT
IN THE CASE: PUCL v. UOI & Ors. WRIT PETITION (Civil) No. 196 of 2001**

July 13th, 2009.
Lalgarh /652/West Bengal.

Shri. A.M. Chakraborty,
Chief Secretary
Government of West Bengal
Writer's Building
Kolkata
West Bengal.

Sub: Regarding the access of people of Lalgarh to food and livelihood schemes.

Dear Shri. Chakraborty,

As you know we have been appointed by the Supreme Court to monitor food and employment schemes under PUCL vs. Union of India, CWP 196/2001. We have recently submitted the seventh report on the implementation of these schemes all across the country to the Supreme Court. We would like to bring to your notice some issues of concern in relation to the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) in West Bengal.

This is with reference to the displacement caused by the violent incidents in Lalgarh. Since all the schemes we are monitoring on behalf of the Supreme court like MDMS, ICDS, NREGA etc have understandably being completely disrupted by the recurring cycle of violence, which has caused large scale displacement of tribal people from the area, the only way to ensure food security is provision of gratuitous relief.

We are sure that the State government is taking all necessary steps to prevent starvation and restore normalcy of services at the earliest. In this regard, we would be grateful if could kindly appraise us about the following:

1. The government of West Bengal official estimate of the number of people who have been displaced from the villages and are now living in relief camps.
2. Number of people who are residing in the interior villages without access to food and employment schemes.
3. Details of the gratuitous relief that has been provided for each individual (men, women, boys and girls) in both those for people who are in the relief camps and those in the interior of villages.
4. Details of total disbursement so far by government as gratuitous relief for both people who are in the relief camps and those in the interior of villages.

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We would be grateful if you could please send us action taken report within two weeks of time.

With regards,

Dr. N.C. Saxena

Harsh Mander

CC: Ms. Anuradha Talwar, Advisor to the Commissioners to the Supreme Court, West Bengal.