**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

**URGENT**

July 6th, 2010
JCE/889/Bih

Shri. Anup Mukherji,
Chief Secretary,
Government of Bihar
Patna

**Subject: Constitution of a Joint Commission of Enquiry (JCE) to look into the incidence of repeated deaths due to hunger in Bihar.**

Dear Shri. Mukherji,

Reference: Our letter dated February 24th 2010 reference no. JCE/787/Bihar and reminder dated April 9th, 2010 reference no. JCE.Reminder/843/Bihar, addressed on the aforementioned subject

We would like to go ahead with the JCE process, and are fixing 16th of July 2010 for the enquiry to commence.

Dr. Sajjad Hassan, National Advisor with the Office of the SC Commissioners is hereby nominated to the JCE. Mr. Rupesh, Bihar State Adviser to the SC Commissioners will also be part of the JCE team. Can we now request you to designate an official, of the rank of Secretary to the state government, to the JCE.

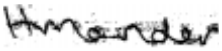
The ToR of the JCE remains the same as in our previous letters above. Just to summarise, the JCE will assess the cases of hunger deaths reported in the media and look into the status of implementation of food-related welfare schemes in various parts of the state, but particularly Gaya**,** Muzaffarpur and Araria districts.

May I request the state government to make accommodation and travel arrangements for JCE members in Patna and in the districts they will be visiting. Dr. Hassan can reach Patna on 15th of July 2010 (date to be confirmed).

Finally, Can I request kindly to nominate an official of the state government who this office can coordinate with to plan the visit.

In case the state government does not nominate officials to the JCE or they are not available for conducting the enquiry, then we will assume that the state government wishes to forego the chance to nominate its members to the enquiry. In that case the Commissioners' nominees will undertake the enquiry and submit the report to the Supreme Court independently.

Yours sincerely,



Harsh Mander

CC: Mr. Rupesh, State Advisor to the Commissioner to Supreme Court, Bihar

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