

BIHAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9, Bailey Road, Patna

Case No. BHRC/Comp.247/14

(Suo Motu Cognizance)

**Subject: Electrocutation deaths of six children in Jamui district dt.
30.01.2014**

BHRC had taken **suo motu** cognizance of newspapers reports published in various dailies regarding administrative negligence leading to **electrocutation deaths (due to high tension line)** of six children (8-10 yrs.) in village Chandra of Charkapatthar, PS. Sono Block, district Jamui on 30.01.2014. Commission directed DM & SP, Jamui to submit joint report in the matter. They were assisted by officers of the Electricity Department.

2. The joint report mentioned two important **technical failures:-**

(a) Non-functioning of vacuum circuit breaker at grid sub-station, Malayapur (Jamuai) at the time of occurrence.

(b) Low quality of high tension wire erected under Rajeev Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme by the power grid Corporation.

3. M.D, Bihar Power Transmission Company Limited (BSPTCL) was directed by the Commission on (19th May, 2014) to examine the technical aspect of the matter and submit report to the Commission. D.G.M.(HR & Admin) BSPTCL, has submitted report to the commission enclosing detailed inspection note of General Manager-cum-Chief Engineer, Transmission Zone, Patna. The report, apparently finds no fault. **The report is quite evasive** and mentions:-

- (a) Suptd. Engg., Transmission Circle, Bihar Sharif and Ex. Engg., Transmission, Hathidah or Assistant Engineer, Grid sub-station, Jamui were not associated by DM & SP, Jamui in their inquiry.
- (b) Executive Engineer, Supply Division, Jamui who was in the joint inspection, is not competent to comment on the fault at the grid sub-station.
- (c) Report does not say a word about the quality of transmission lines,
- (d) The report fails to identify which protective device failed in the present episode.

4. **Six precious lives have been lost in the present episode. Only granting compensation cannot meet the ends of justice and cannot compensate for failures/negligence. Accountability has to be fixed and officers responsible for Omission/commission will have to be taken to task and face the consequences.**

5. **Commission, therefore, directs C.M.D, Bihar State Power(Holding) Company to immediately constitute a high level team of officials of electricity supply and transmission wings and fix up the responsibility for :-**

- (a) Failure of the preventive system.**
- (b) Low quality of transmission lines.**

6. Commission will be expecting a report from C.M.D, Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd. by 30th September, 2014 when the matter is listed next. A copy the joint report of DM &SP Jamui and the report submitted by DGM(HR/Admin) BSPTCL be enclosed with the order.

Date: 06.08.2014

D.S.

Sd/-
(Neelmani)
Member