

BIHAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

9, Bailey Road, Patna

File No. BHRC/Comp. 1248/15

(Suo Motu Cognizance)

Subject: Ring Jehangir for redress:(Cop takes leaf out of Mughal history to hear grievances)

9.7.2015

An order was passed by Commission on 26.3.2015 which is reproduced below.

“A calendar has been issued by the Police Department [CID (Weaker Sections)] for the year 2015. The calendar regarding month of December has an interesting note under caption, “Ring Jehangir for redress”

It appears that Inspector General of Police, Darbhanga Zone, Mr. Arvind Pandey has installed a bell outside his residence so that people can seek attention of IGP to put forth their grievances as they were seeking attention of the Mughal Emperor, Jehangir. It appears that Mr. Pandey has given an interview to press in which he has stated that:-

“I took a leaf out of history in putting in place the system of installing calling bells at police officers’ residences for the people in need. Mughal emperor Jehangir used to listen to the people’s grievances at his palace – people had to pull a chain outside the castle. I was very impressed with the system. We are calling the bells installed here ‘Jehangiri ghanti (bell)’ but these are just calling bells and not like the ones used in Jehangir’s time.”

I feel this is a reflection of the colonial mindset where the IGP, Darbhanga wants people to come to his residence with his ‘fariyad’.

A notice be issued to Inspector General of Police, Darbhanga Zone to file his response as to why this act of his should not be treated as violations of human rights of citizens of a civilized and democratic society. The world and India has changed in last 3 centuries.

Reply shall be given within three weeks.”

The then Inspector General of Police, Mr. Arvind Pandey who is now ADG is present and has filed his response. He submits that his intention was only to see that the people are helped whenever they need help. His intention was also to ensure that a police officer of higher level is available to a person in need 24x7, therefore, such an arrangement was made. He agrees that the way in which such arrangement was made was not proper in a democratic system.

He also regrets of having published a calendar with headlines which are not proper. He assures the Commission that though he will always endeavor to see that all police officers are available to citizens at all times yet those efforts shall appear to have been done by servants of the people and not by masters of the people.

In this view of the matter, the file is closed.

Copy of the order be sent to ADG CID, Weaker Sections, Mr. Arvind Pandey.

Sd/-
(Justice Bilal Nazki)
Chairperson