

NHRC, India takes *suo motu* cognizance of the reported trafficking, selling and sexual assault of a tribal girl from Odisha in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

The victim along with three other girls were trafficked to Uttar Pradesh under the guise of a job offer

Reportedly, the victim managed to escape her perpetrators and recorded her statement before Jhansi police but no further action taken except being provided with a train ticket back to Odisha

The Commission issues notices to the DGPs of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh and Dhenkanal DM, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks

The report expected to include the status of investigation and steps taken to provide relief and rehabilitation to the victim

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The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has taken *suo motu* cognizance of a media report that a 17-year-old tribal girl from the Kankadahada area of Dhenkanal district, Odisha, was trafficked, sold and subjected to repeated sexual assaults for about two years in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. Reportedly, the victim and three other girls were trafficked to Uttar Pradesh on the pretext of providing jobs. The girl managed to escape with the help of a local advocate and approached the Jhansi police. Although her statement was recorded, no further action was allegedly taken by the police except for providing a train ticket to Odisha. Upon her return, the Odisha Police recorded her statement and an investigation is underway.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issues of violation of human rights. Therefore, it has issued notices to the Director General of Police, Odisha, Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh and the District Magistrate, Dhenkanal, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks. It is expected to include the status of investigation and steps taken to provide relief and rehabilitation to the victim.

According to the media report, carried on 29th May 2026, the victim was allegedly confined at a house for nearly three months and was repeatedly subjected to sexual assault there. It is further alleged that when the victim became pregnant, she was forced to undergo an abortion without her consent. Thereafter, she was

allegedly sold to another person for Rs 50,000 and repeatedly sexually assaulted by several others for nearly two years before managing to escape.

NSK

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