

NHRC, India takes *suomotu* cognizance of the reported incidents of severe chemical burn injuries to workers engaged in 'Bleaching Units' without being provided any protective gear in Panipat district of Haryana

Reportedly, the units are functioning without a valid NOC from the Pollution Control Board

The Commission issues a notice to the Panipat District Magistrate, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks

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The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has taken *suomotu* cognizance of a media report that a large number of 'Bleaching Units' are operating in Panipat district of Haryana without a valid No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Pollution Control Board. Reportedly, the workers in these units are not being provided boots, gloves or any other safety equipment, due to which they are directly exposed to the hazardous chemical, causing severe damage to their hands and feet apart from skin allergies.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the news report, if true, raise serious issues of violation of human rights. Accordingly, it has issued a notice to the Panipat District Magistrate, calling for a detailed report on the matter within two weeks.

According to the media report, carried on 30th September 2026, due to the use of chemicals like Hydrochloric Acid and Sodium Hypochlorite in these bleaching units, at least 10-12 workers from these units approach the Civil Hospital daily for medical treatment with severely injured hands and feet. Reportedly, no arrangements have been made to dispose the chemical-laden wastewater in these units, which is being directly discharged into pits.

NSK

