

New Delhi,  
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**COMPLAINTS START COMING VIA POCSO E-BOX: NCPCR ACTS PROMPTLY**

Recently launched by Women & Child Development Minister Smt. Maneka Gandhi, the POCSO e-box is attracting good response from children, their parents and relatives. Complaints of sexual abuse/harassment received through the e-box at the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) are being acted upon promptly.

NCPCR received a complaint on POCSO e-box on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 from the father of a sexually abused minor girl from Hissar, Haryana. The Commission immediately constituted a Fact Finding Team which visited and enquired in to the matter. The team found that the complainant's daughter, studying at a residential school in Haryana, was sexually abused by the two female cooks employed in the school hostel since the last two months. The team also got to know that several other girls were also abused by the two cooks. Though the matter was reported by the parents of the victims to the school in-charge, no action was taken.

During the probe, the team, while interacting with the warden, came to know that she was well aware of such incidences and had duly reported the incidents to the higher authorities in the school, but she was threatened and false complaints were made against her.

The school started functioning from 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and initially 85 girl students took admission out of which 62 are now continuing. The residential school is authorised to run classes from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Standard and is meant for needy girls where they are given free education besides free accommodation and food.

After interacting with the students, the team found that there was no uniform for the girls though it is prescribed. Complaints of frequent power cuts, lack of drinking water, sanitation and proper quality of food were made by the inmates.

The team later visited victim's home where the parents handed over a written complaint to the NCPCR, witnessed and signed by two neighbours. Subsequently, the team submitted a letter to the city Magistrate informing him the findings along with a copy by the complainant and requested for action under POSCO Act, 2012.

On intervention by the NCPCR team, an FIR was lodged by the Police on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016. The same day, mother of the victim called the Commission informing that her daughter was taken away by the police from school without her prior information. Immediately, City Magistrate, Narnaud was contacted by the officials of the Commission to send back the victim to her parents' safety. Later the mother confirmed that the victim was returned to the family.

The Fact Finding Team of the NCPCR included: Sh. Rakesh Bhartiya, Advisor | Dr. Dhani Ram, Senior Consultant | Dr. Shubhra Kumar, Consultant | Ms. Payal Sharma, Consultant | Ms. Himani, Jr Technical Expert.