

Rights panel moved on tribal's plight

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

BHUBANESWAR, February 5, 2013

A tribal man, who sustained grievous bullet injuries after being shot by CRPF men in Nuapada district, is left to fend for himself.

Hube Majhi, the 35-year-old tribal, received six bullet injuries when a CRPF team allegedly fired indiscriminately at him in Babeghati village under Komna Police Station on January 8. Hube was fishing along with a fellow villager Hari Majhi who also received three bullet injuries. The CRPF personnel, possibly realising their mistakes, facilitated his admission to the District Headquarters Hospital, Nuapada. He was immediately referred to VSS Medical College, Burla, on January 9.

But what happened after that is a disturbing tale. The VSS Medical College Hospital authorities treated Hube for 11 days and discharged him on January 20 when he was yet to recover fully. Hube, who lives on meagre resources, had no option, but to remain without any treatment in his village.

As his condition again deteriorated, his wife admitted him to District Headquarters Hospital, Nuapada on February 1. On Monday, doctors again asked the hapless tribal to go to VSS Medical College Hospital. As Hube's family could not arrange the required money to shift him to Burla, he was lying on a bed in the hospital.

"The incident showed insensitiveness of the government machinery. The tribal person, a father of four, was shot by security personnel by mistake. Now he seems to be of nobody's responsibility," said Ajit Panda, Khariar-based human rights activist who visited Hube at his village on January 25.

Mr. Panda said, "when Hube was in critical condition and his family members were seeking help from different quarters, the Nuapada police administration was in possession of his treatment history. Only after the police were pressurised to hand over the prescriptions to Nuapada District Headquarters Hospital doctors, Hube was examined."

At Bhubaneswar, the State Human Rights Commission asked Chief District Medical Officer of Nuapada to take care of two tribals after taking cognizance of the matter when human rights activist Biswapriya Kanungo lodged complaint on the issue.

Mr. Kanungo demanded that the SHRC carry out an independent inquiry and pay compensation to the two persons who were shot at for no fault of theirs. Hube will again be shifted VSS Medical College Hospital, Burla, which had discharged him prematurely.

No proper medical treatment has been given to the tribal after he was shot at by CRPF by mistake