



National Commission for Women  
राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग

**NCW to Conduct Inquiry on the Issue of Bonded Women Labourers in Karnataka  
Inquiry Committee to Visit Karnataka on January 4<sup>th</sup> – January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Press Note

**New Delhi, 03.01.2019:** Taking cognizance of recent media reports, the National Commission for Women has decided to constitute an Inquiry Committee to inquire into the plight and condition of the bonded women labourers recently rescued from a plantation in Savanthahalli Village, Karnataka.

The National Commission for Women has taken serious note of the horrifying accounts of abuse and atrocities that have recently come to light in Karnataka's Hassan District. According to various media reports, the now rescued bonded women labourers were forced into labour, beaten with wooden logs and were made to live in deprived and inhumane conditions with little sustenance.

The three-member Inquiry Committee, led by Smt. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women, will visit Karnataka on 04.01.2019- 05.01.2019 to inquire into the circumstances leading to the incident and the action taken by the concerned authorities. The Inquiry Committee will meet the concerned district officers including Hassan Superintendent of Police who led the rescue team, the victims, and other such persons as deemed proper to ascertain the facts and circumstances.

The Committee will investigate into the case in accordance with the procedure laid down in Section 10 (1) read with Section 10 (4) of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, and submit its recommendations to the Commission for taking such action as deemed fit against those involved in the case.

Smt. Sharma will also meet the State's Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, Labour Secretary, Women & Child Development Secretary and Director General of Police on 05.01.2019 in Bengaluru to discuss the matter.

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