

Date: 04 09.2017

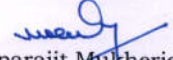
Enclosed is the news item appearing in the 'Statesman' an English daily dated 01.09.2017, captioned "**Minor dies unattended at health centre, kin block road in protest**"

Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of West Bengal is directed to furnish a report by 16th October, 2017.



(Justice Girish Chandra Gupta)

Chairperson



(Naparajit Mukherjee)
Member

(M.S. Dwivedy)
Member

Encl: News Item Dt. 01.09. 17

Ld. Registrar to keep NHRC posted about cognizance taken on the subject by WBHRC and to send a copy of the order to concerned news paper.

SDB

Minor dies unattended at health centre, kin block road in protest

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUSKARA, 31 AUGUST

Locals erupted in protest at the Guskara Block Primary Health Centre here today after a five-year-old boy bitten by a venomous snake died as there was no physician at the healthcare unit.

The nursing staff pleaded helplessness and couldn't refer the victim to the Burdwan Medical College and Hospital as there was no medical officer to issue recommendation for the purpose.

The aggrieved mob first ransacked the hospital's outdoor unit and then destroyed some furniture in the physician's chamber before assembling on the road. The angry crowd laid the dead body of the boy on the road at the School More crossing and then organised a road block,

paralysing traffic movement.

Two contingents of police from the Ausgram police station and Burdwan Reserve negotiated with the agitators. None of the senior health officials, however, felt it necessary to face the protesters.

Jhantu Bauri, a resident of Nabagram in neighbouring Mongalkote block, had come to his sister-in-law's place at Itchanda village in Guskara yesterday.

After taking food, they went to sleep. "In the wee hours, my son woke up with a scream and we saw a snake leaving the room," Jhantu said.

Jishu had been bitten by the venomous snake on his right leg. "We immediately rushed to the health centre with my son but they left him unattended for nearly half an hour. On inquiry, we came to know that there was no

physician and the two nursing staff pleaded that they could do nothing and neither were they empowered to refer my son to the BMCH," said Jhantu.

At 9 a.m., when Jishu complained of severe breathing trouble, the nursing staff tried to assist him but he died in a while. The moment the boy died, his father and the locals present there flared up.

Dr Debtanu Dutta, medical officer (in-charge) of the health centre, admitted that there was no physician on duty.

He tried to clarify saying: "We are just two physicians at the hospital now against the sanctioned strength of three. Yesterday my colleague Pulak Mondal was released for his Master's classes and I was on leave after serving for 48 hours without any break."