

Dr. Kirit Somaiya – Ex M.P.
Chartered Accountant, Ph.D.
National Secretary



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Bharatiya Janata Party

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FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION

Blast Victims Petitioned to Human Right Commission

Kirit Somaiya request Commission to Monitor the Relief & Rehab Work

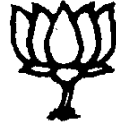
Mumbai Blast Victims today approached Human Right Commission Maharashtra at Mumbai. Dr Kirit Somaiya BJP National Secretary today filed Petition along with JANAK SANGHVI, Local Corporator - Zaveri Bazaar & ALLWIN D'CUNHA, Victim of 11th July 2006 bomb blasts in local trains. Petitioners prayed for Order against the lack luster relief & rehabilitation measures and executing the commitments made/ announced for the victims of bomb blast/terror attacks in Mumbai

Petitioners stated that the relief & rehabilitation work is full of chaos. Govt. of Maharashtra has not learned from past. The Human Rights Commission had passed instructions/directives for monitoring the relief and rehabilitation measures during the hearing of petitions of 2006 and 2008 blasts/terror victims. Dr Kirit Somaiya had approached the Commission in 2006 and 2008. In its final order the Human Right Commission had observed that

“The Commission hopes and trusts that in future occurrence of such tragedies the State Government as well as other authorities shall take immediate and prompt steps by providing all assistance to the victims in the best possible manner.”

The petitioners stated that in spite of repeated requests the 2006 & 2008 victims have not received the committed relief from the authorities. It may be noted that, till today the State Government has not released medical expenses. The latest intimation Shri Allwin D'Cunha

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received on the 5th anniversary of the serial train blasts, i.e.11th July 2011, from the District Collector, Thane, states that his representation has been sent to the Revenue Ministry, Mantralaya.

26th November 2008 terror attack victim Sabira Khan, who suffered grievous injury, is moving door to door for medical treatment/compensation.

Another example of Government apathy is Shaheed Police official Shashank Shinde. His daughter has stated that much publicized petrol pump to the Shaheed family has not been allotted till today. The Government has demanded Rs.75 lacs from the Shaheed Shinde's family for such petrol pump.

On the eve of the 5th anniversary of the 11th July 2006 bomb blasts in local trains, we had a meeting with the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, His Excellency Shri Shankarnarayanan. Hon'ble Governor had a one-hour interaction with all the victims in the delegation. 35 victims expressed their grievances, pathetic situation in the relief and rehabilitation measures

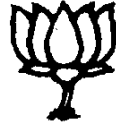
Petitioners approached the Commission to see that

'Victims of 13th July 2011 bomb blasts are not humiliated and have to suffer for the relief and rehabilitation as it happened in the case of victims of 11th July 2006 bomb blasts and 26th November 2008 terror attack.

PRAYER :

- I Fulfilling the Relief and Rehabilitation Policy/Announcements.
- II Relief and Rehabilitation work under the monitoring of the Hon'ble Commission.

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- III Appointment of a Committee consisting of the retired Judicial Officer, Relief & Rehabilitation Secretary and the Petitioner to monitor the relief and rehabilitation work to help the Commission.
- IV Single window system – appointment of senior officials to coordinate, guide and help the victims to get all relief and rehabilitation.
- V Permanent Relief and Rehabilitation Policy for terror victims.
- VI Complete execution of the remaining relief and rehabilitation work of 11th July 2006 bomb blast and 26th November 2008 terror attack.
- VII To provide jobs to affected persons according to the qualifications and education
- VIII Full Medical Treatments including successive surgeries, long lasting treatments including private hospitals
- IX Arrangements for hearing aid & artificial limbs to the victims
- X Special arrangement for treatment for psychological rehabilitation of affected families.

Petition demanded implementation of order and instructions of the Commission.

In the concluding remarks of his order of the MSHRC no. 2279, dated 4.11.09, Hon. Chairperson Justice Kshitij R Vyas had said as under:

“We do find that delays occurred to complete to provide financial assistance to many victims, in fact resulted into denial of financial assistance to them, as they have not received the same at the right time. It has practically lost its importance and urgency because of the lapse

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of time. The situation could have been avoided if there was a laid policy, specified policy of Relief and Rehabilitation with time bound framework for implementation of this policy.”

Therefore, as per past experience, delay in compensating the victims is our first fear.

Secondly, we would like to point out here that in such incidents, the trauma of the victim is twofold: i) need for immediate help and relief, and ii) need for continued help for extended treatment.

The Government only extends immediate help and relief but there are many victims who have to undergo a series of operations and rehabilitation over an extended period of time.

The Government does not provide any help to such people. Some cases in point are:

- In such blasts, the hearing capacity of a victim is seriously impaired and it is a life long problem. Should the Government not aid such a victim?
- Government is not providing artificial limbs. The maintenance costs of the artificial limb are exorbitant for the victim to bear.

PRESS SECRETARY