



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

PRESS NOTE

New Delhi, September 8, 2022: The National Commission for Women had taken cognizance of the matter wherein a woman was set on fire in Jharkhand's Dumka after she had rejected the accused's proposal. The Commission had constituted a two member Fact Finding Team to inquire into the alleged incident. The findings and recommendations of the team are as follows:

- 1) The age of the girl was calculated and it was found to be 15 years 8 months 28 days (26/11/2006-23/08/2022) as per the 10th mark sheet and as per the Aadhar Card her age was calculated as 13 years 9 months 11 days (26/11/2008- 23/08/2022). On perusal of both documents, the girl was found to be minor.
- 2) The allegation against Police as reported in the media regarding a discrepancy in the age to protect the accused was found to be false. The confusion regarding the age of the girl was created due to miscommunication at the time of recording of the dying declaration.
- 3) The team had observed that there was a discrepancy in the documentation and further, it is submitted that the date of birth mentioned in the Secondary School Examination shall be deemed to be valid.
- 4) The confusion regarding the degree of burn as alleged in the media reports were clarified after discussion with different authorities. Phulo Jhano Medical College, Dumka had stated the burns to be less than 90% while the doctors of Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranchi has informed that the burns were 60-65%.
Further, the doctors informed that the chances of survival in cases with more than 50% burns are very less.
- 5) Phulo Jhano Medical College, Dumka and Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranchi lacked basic infrastructure for treatment of patients with severe burns. The State Government may be recommended to improve the hospitals' infrastructure to provide the best treatment in such exigency.
- 6) The District Authorities and the Police may be recommended to work in synergy in such exigencies to aid any aggrieved woman and her family.
- 7) The State Government may take steps to create awareness to take legal recourse and approach Police in matters which are less grievous to avoid unfortunate incidents in the future.
- 8) The Police were requested by the team to take action as per the Cyber Law to protect the dignity of the deceased as several morphed photos of the deceased and accused were being circulated on social media. The media personnel present at the house of the deceased were requested by the team to avoid using morphed photos in their media reports.