**Annexure – ‘A’**

**Response of NHRC, India on Effects of Terrorism on the enjoyment of all Human Rights**

Terrorism has been a threat not only to India’s democracy but countries worldwide affecting the enjoyment of rights of people. Terrorism has slammed and affected almost every sphere of human life, be it economic or political or social life. Broadly, terrorism is the antithesis of independence, development and human rights. The frontier regions of India, especially regions bordering Pakistan are the worst affected regions by terrorism.

Traditional thinking has been that it is the State that violates human rights but the violation of human rights by the terrorist is a reality, which poses a serious problem. Terrorism, in all its form, is the greatest violator of human rights. It is a clear and present danger to world today; it strikes a fatal blow to human rights of innocent citizens. The ruthless, barbaric, inhuman killing of innocent people is carried out by the terrorists with a view not only to challenge the authority of the Government, but also to put the security and sovereignty of the country in jeopardy and bring trauma and perpetual grief to the families who suffer from such killings. Their grief and trauma cannot be adequately expressed but only sensed. It is, to say in one word, terrible. The right to life, which ensures enjoyment of all other rights, is of crucial significance for every person, every group of people, every class and every nation and as a matter of fact, for all humanity. Terrorism is a frontal assault on the most basic human rights namely, right to life and liberty, by faceless murderers whose sole aim is to kill and maim human beings, whether they are innocent young children, elderly men or women. This very right to life of the innocent people is the target of terrorism.

Terrorism in India is characterized by communist, Islamists and separatist groups. Communist terrorist groups are by far the most frequent perpetrators and the main cause of terrorism deaths in India.

According to Global Terrorism Index, in 2015 deaths from terrorism in India decreased to the second lowest level since 2000. However, there were four per cent more attacks, totaling 800 and representing the highest number since 2000. According to a study published by Statista, the number of terrorist attack in India is 927 in 2016

The most immediate and measurable impact of terrorism is physical destruction. Terrorists destroy existing plants, machines, transportation systems and other economic resources. On smaller scales, acts of terrorism may blow up different public places, markets or religious places. The impact of terrorism is always negative for the economy, and physical destruction is a large reason why. Productive resources that might have generated valuable goods and services are destroyed, while other resources are almost invariably diverted from other productive uses to bolster the military and defense. None of these create wealth or adds to the standard of living. Government and citizens are far more inclined to give up economic and political freedoms in exchange for security with the rise of number of terrorist activities. This could result in higher taxes, higher government deficits and higher inflation which adversely affect enjoyment of the rights of citizens.

India has been consistently working towards fighting the menace of terrorism at both global and national front, thus adopting certain measures at policy level. At international level, India has **proposed Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)** at United Nations General Assembly which is under negotiation. Upon its adoption, the convention would provide legal basis for criminalizing all terrorist activities. India has also voted in favour of Resolution 34/8 of the Human Rights Council on ‘Effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights’. At national level, India has formulated and implemented many laws. Some of them are **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 etc.**

A Central Scheme titled Central Scheme for Assistance to Civilian Victims of Terrorist/ Communal/Left Wing Extremist (LWE), Cross Border Firing and Mine/IED blasts on Indian Territory has been formulated. The broad aim of the Scheme is to assist families of victims of Terrorist, Communal and Naxal violence. Recently the Government has increased the financial assistance from Rs.3 lakhs to Rs.5 lakhs.

In addition to the financial assistance, those permanent incapacitated and members of the family of the victims killed are entitled to a health card given by the District Health Society under the National Rural Health Mission. This would entitle the card holders to free medical treatment in respect of injuries and all other major illness caused due to violence.

Other initiatives include Welfare Scheme under which one seat each in the medical colleges is kept reserved for the kin of the victims from terrorism. The State initiates immediate action to transfer the injured persons to nearby hospitals to provide medical aid and borne all the costs of treatment. Some immediate relief in the form of cash compensation is provided by the Government to the victims to help the family to recover.

Recently in the State of Assam, an initiative called ‘Project Ashwas’ has been initiated. It provides financial assistance for the children of victims of terrorism to pursue their education in higher educational institute.

The best strategy to isolate and defeat terrorism is by respecting human rights, fostering social justice, enhancing democracy and upholding the primacy of the rule of law.

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