

KARNATAKA STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

1-4th Floors, 5th Stage, M.S. Building, Bengaluru – 560001

H.R.C No: 4205/10/31/2019

Date: 09-11-2020

PRESENT

Justice D.H. Waghela
Chairperson

Shri K.B. Changappa
Member

Shri R.K. Dutta
Member

Informant:

Chief Superintendent,
Central Prison,
Bengaluru

ORDER

The complaint is registered on the basis of g-mail intimation dated 06-11-2019 of the Chief Superintendent of Central Prison, Bengaluru. It is reported that Manjunatha B.V., C.T.P No: 4999, S/o Venkatappa, aged about 30 years and R/o Banaswadi village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala taluk, Bengaluru Rural District was convicted in S.C No: 326/2010 u/s 376, 302, 201 I.P.C and sentenced to undergo life imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 55,000/- in default, 12 months of imprisonment by Fastrack Court, Bengaluru Rural District. It is further reported that on 06-11-2019, the prisoner tried to hang himself onto an iron gate and hence he was immediately rushed to Victoria Hospital, where he was declared 'brought dead' at 08.23 a.m.

The inquest was conducted by XXVII A.C.M.M. Court, Bengaluru. It is reported that the relatives of the deceased prisoner have not expressed any doubt regarding the cause of his death and there were no other external injuries on the body of the deceased.

The final opinion submitted by Department of Forensic Medicine, Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru; magisterial enquiry report in U.D.R No: 101/2019 u/s 176 (1-A) of Code of Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and final opinion of I/c I.G.P of the Commission state that the death of the prisoner was due to asphyxia as a result of hanging.

Further, the Commission ordered for a detailed investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of the prisoner. Pursuant to such order dated 23-09-2020, report dated 05-11-2020 is received from the Dy.S.P of the Commission. It is opined as under:

“In this HRC case, the investigation team has visited ParappanaAgrahara Central Prison which is the place of incident on 17-10-2020. The deceased Manjunath .B.V, CTP-4999 was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Honourable Fast Track Court, Bangalore Rural in S.C No: 326/2010 U/s 376, 302, 201 IPC and was in the Central Prison from 24-09-2011. He was given the duty of Kitchen incharge in the prison which was in the first floor cell No. 4. On 06-11-2019 morning when the cells were being unlocked and all the prisoners had gone for their morning tea,

the deceased Manjunath .B.V, CTP-4999 attempted suicide by hanging himself with the help of thick threads by knotting the same to the bars of the iron gate which led to the steps to room no.7, D barrack of prison tower-2. Sri.Hasandongri M.Bellagi, the warden who came over to open the lock noticed this and informed his senior officer immediately with the help of the co-prisoner of room no.7 Manjunath was brought down from his hanging position and taken to the jail hospital, who referred him for further treatment to Victoria hospital and accordingly he was taken to Victoria hospital by Ambulance and admitted but Manjunath did not respond to the treatment and died.

“The co-prisoners, eye witnesses and other prisoners who were present at the time of incident have in their statements said that on 06-11-2019 after the CTP Manjunath supervised tea being served to all prisoners and while returning he attempted suicide by hanging himself to the grills of the main gate of tower-2, D block ground floor. He was convicted for a rape case and none of his family people visited him while he was in the prison. He expected that he would be released on the grounds of good conduct but since it did not happened he was mentally depressed and had shared it with his co-prisoners. They were not sure what was the actual reason for him to attempt suicide.

“An incident spot map has been prepared based on what we have seen while visiting the place where the deceased Manjunath .B.V committed suicide in the

central prison. The spot map, photographs and the statements of the witnesses are enclosed herewith for further necessary action of the Honourable Commission.”

In view of the material placed on record, the Commission does not find indication of any suspicious circumstance to enquire further into the complaint. Accordingly, the case is disposed and proceeding is closed without any recommendation.

Sd/-
(Justice D.H. Waghela)
Chairperson

Sd/-
(Shri K.B. Changappa)
Member

Sd/-
(Shri R.K. Dutta)
Member

V.M.N