

## NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

### NCW denied FIR copies by West Bengal Police

#### PRESS NOTE

**NEW DELHI – June 7, 2018** : A two-member Inquiry Committee, led by Chairperson (I/C) Smt. Rekha Sharma visited West Bengal on 6<sup>th</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 to inquire into the atrocities on women during the recently held panchayat elections.

During the inquiry, the team met over 45 victims who alleged molestation, rape, continuous threat to life, abduction and murder of family members. The Inquiry Committee also met a rape survivor, who was allegedly six months pregnant when gangraped last month during the poll-related violence in West Bengal.

In Nadia district, the Inquiry Committee visited Shantipur Thana to look into reports related to two cases of atrocities against women including one of ganagrape, but were met with hostile police officials who refused to cooperate with the team. The team were denied access to copies of FIRs and documents related to the two cases.

Giving details of the non-cooperation of police officials at the Shantipur Thana, Smt. Sharma said that the police had refused to cooperate and requests for copies of FIRs were declined by the Thana's Additional SP. She said that the police showed complete disregard even after the Inquiry Committee produced the National Commission for Women Act, to reason with them.

She stated that the Inquiry Committee's visit to the police station prompted one police official to declare that an inquiry of any form will not be entertained at the police station. She said the team waited for three hours at Shantipur Thana before the police finally furnished a copy the FIR requested. She said upon examination of FIR, it was noticed that charges were framed for rape, whereas the incident that occurred was of gangrape. She elucidated that NCW has taken note of the matter and will ensure that charges of gangrape will be included when the case goes to court.

She added that people living around the area complained to the team that the police was not working for the people.

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