



Relief eludes women victims of atrocities

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Highlights

- **Payment of pension as additional relief to victims of rape, gang-rape or murder, provided for under the SC, ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, are rarely ever adhered to.**
- District Collectors have no clue about it, and letters to the government seeking clarity have evoked no response, say activists.
- In case of atrocities including murder, death, massacre, rape, gang-rape, permanent incapacitation and dacoity, the **Act entitles the victims or their kin to a basic pension amounting to Rs.5,000 a month**, with admissible dearness allowance and employment to one member of the deceased's family, provision of agricultural land and house.
- The **pension provision is never adhered to**, alleges **Dalit Sthree Sakthi**, an NGO providing legal aid to SC/ST victims.
- In many instances, inclusion of sections of **SC/ST Act itself becomes a challenge**.
 - A case in point is Renuka of Budige Jangala caste, who committed suicide in Ranga Reddy district reportedly due to harassment and humiliation by her teachers.
 - Though a case was filed in 2010 immediately after her suicide, the **police invoked SC/ST Act provisions only five years later**.
 - The police fell in line only after the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) took suo motu cognisance of the case**, learning about it through The Hindu newspaper.
 - In its camp sitting at Hyderabad in 2015, NHRC ordered for inclusion of the relevant sections.
 - **Renuka's case, for instance, has not come for trial until now.**
 - Eight years is a long fight endured by Hanumanthu, her father, who ekes a livelihood by begging.
- Another SC girl, a minor, was gang-raped and murdered in 2010.
- Eight years later, the accused are out on bail, while her two brothers, attacked by the rapists, are incapacitated for life.
- **No compensation has been paid to the brothers, though the Act entitles them to it.**