

KERALA STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Present: Justice Benjamin Koshy, Chairperson.

Dated 30-10-2014

HRMP 5042/2014

COMPLAINANT. Pallium India, represented by its Chairman Dr. M.R. Rajagopal, Santhi, PJRA-65, Pothujanam Lane, Kumarapuram, Trivandrum-695011

RESPONDENT. Government of Kerala, represented by its Health Secretary

ORDER.

Response received to the report of the Government. This application with regard to provision for Palliative care was presented by Dr. M.R. Rajagopal in his capacity as Chairman of Pallium India. There are instances of at least some patients under severe pain being led to suicide. In its report Government has reported that after declaration of palliative care policy, palliative care is being arranged at government level. The palliative care policy dated 3-2-1984 states as follows:

“.....Each district must have a tertiary level pain and palliative care service with a trained doctor and staff nurse housed either in a medical college or in a district hospital. They should have specialist and in-patient palliative care services.”

It is essential that palliative care centres are established in every District Hospital and Medical College hospital with involvement of expert doctors. It has to be established at places where it does not exist now. The solution can be found by transferring trained doctors or by giving training of at least 6 weeks to the Doctors and nurses. Services of NGOs also can be secured for this. The complainant-Pallium India is extending assistance to the Government of Kerala in the field of community medicine even now. There are very many private hospitals in the State. If training of at least 10 days can be provided to at least one doctor of each private hospital with more than 20 beds, at least one doctor can be directed to provide pain management. It has also to be ensured that palliative medicines like morphine are available. With these directions this complaint is closed.

Send copies of this order to the complainant and Respondent.

Sd/- Justice Benjamin Koshy, Chair person.

(True copy)

Sd/- Registrar.

SEAL