

Activist wants HC to take Pollachi sex scandal case as suo motu

Demands action against Coimbatore (rural) SP Pandiarajan for revealing victim's identity

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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HUMAN Rights Activist and founder of People's Watch Henri Tiphagne here on Wednesday appealed the Madras High Court to take up the Pollachi sex abuse scandal case as suo motu for a fair and better inquiry.

Addressing the media persons, he said that the people or victims would not gain faith if the investigation is done by CB-CID or CBI, but that the same would be possible if HC takes up the case as suo motu and forms a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe into the case.

The case should be heard by a bench comprising women judges and the SIT has to up-

date about the case on a day-to-day or weekly basis, he urged. He further said the People's Watch formed a high-level women committee comprising retired IPS, IAS officers, advocates, social activists, and many more personalities. "The committee members will meet the media personnel on March 19 in Chennai. The victims and people can reveal the details about the Pollachi sex scandal case to the committee," he said.

Coming down heavily on Co-



One Stop Centres (for women) should be formed in all the districts. Similarly, witness deposition complexes should be created across the State

Henri Tiphagne

imbatore (rural) Superintendent of Police R Pandiarajan for revealing the name of the victim, Henri said, "even as the investigation is under process, the SP said that there were no more accused in the case. Though the SP's role is purely confined to the investigation, he said that there was no political pressure."

Commenting on the attack on the family members of the victim, Henri said that the act was totally intolerable. It is the responsibility of the police to give protection to the victim's side. The police department has to suspend the SP and also transfer him as he defied the court order, he demanded.

Henri also said that SP Pandiarajan had manhandled women during an anti-TAS-

MAC protest when he was an Additional Superintendent of Police. Another investigation officer DSP R Jeyaraman had "inappropriately touched" a woman police during a protest against NEET. How could one expect a fair investigation from them?" he asked.

After the case against Pandiarajan (on manhandling women protesters) was forwarded to the State Human Rights Commission, there is no progress, Henri alleged. Had if action was taken on time, Pandiarajan would not have promoted as an SP, he added.

Around 560 crore has been allocated to the State under Nirbhaya Fund, however only 45 crore was utilised towards the installation of CCTVs, he alleged.

