'Cash for rape victims not enough'
Police, NGOs Root For Time-Bound Relief, Faster Justice
The national women's

panel proposal to provide
monetary assistance to
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New Delhi: The National
Commission for Women's pro-
posal to provide monetary as-
sistance to rape victims came
for severe criticism on Thurs-
day at a consultation held for
representatives from non-gov-
ernment organisations, lawy-
ers and police. Participants
said the scheme should be im-
plemented in a time-bound
manner for effectiveness and
expressed concern over the
slow process of justice.
The commission has, in a
draft scheme, suggested that
rape victims be provided with
financial help that will allow
access to legal and medical fa-
cilities. It has suggested an in-
terim relief of Rs 20,000-
Rs 50,000. It has also recom-
mended settingup of a board
to determine the amount of fi-

nancial assistance to be given.
Police officials present at
the meeting pointed out that
the process of pinning down
the accused was long drawn
and by the time the case
reached a closure, victims
turned hostile. Additional SP
(Noida) Akhilesh Kumar said

the solution was to ensure that
the victim deposed before a
magistrate immediately after
the case was registered. He
also suggested that a psycho-
logical test be conducted on
the victim.

Ayesha Sen Choudhary of
the Lawyers' Collective said

the scheme seemed like cre-
ating a parallel structure to
the judiciary Representatives
also said that since large sums
of money was involved, it
could be misused by people.
They were of the opinion that
if an Act was brought, it
should be made strong enough
to prevent this misuse.
NCW chairperson Girija
Vyas said these suggestions
would be taken into consider-
ation while finalizing the
scheme. Women and child de-
velopment minister Renuka
Chowdhury who was present
during the deliberations, said
anomalies were being exam-
ined. "We will ensure the sche-
me is implemented in a fixed
timeframe and great care is ta-
ken to ensure only the eligible
benefit," she said, TNN

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