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# 'Cash for rape victims not enough'

## Police, NGOs Root For Time-Bound Relief, Faster Justice

**New Delhi:** The National Commission for Women's proposal to provide monetary assistance to rape victims came for severe criticism on Thursday at a consultation held for representatives from non-government organisations, lawyers and police. Participants said the scheme should be implemented 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 facilities. It has suggested an interim relief of Rs 20,000-Rs 50,000. It has also recommended setting up 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 national women's panel proposal to provide monetary assistance to rape victims has come in for criticism, with cops saying the long-drawn case procedures often make the victims hostile. NGOs added that such 'parallel judicial structures' could be misused

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

Ayesha Sen Choudhary of the Lawyers' Collective said

the scheme seemed like creating 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 consideration while finalizing the scheme. Women and child development minister Renuka Chowdhury, who was present during the deliberations, said anomalies were being examined. "We will ensure the scheme is implemented in a fixed timeframe and great care is taken to ensure only the eligible benefit," she said. TNN