

Brief facts of Pipili Gang rape case:

A Dalit girl, native of Arjungoda village in Pipili under Puri District was found in a semi-nude and unconscious state near her house in Arjungoda village of Pipili, on November 29 2011.

While the family members had alleged gang rape and an attempt on her life, the police registered an FIR on January 9, 2012 after the State Human Rights Commission intervened. The local police hadn't registered a case, and the doctors allegedly went for faulty treatment and injected her with anti-venom serum, saying she was bitten by a poisonous snake.

The incident soon snowballed into a major controversy, and also accounted for a Cabinet Minister losing his job, an IPS officer being shunted, and a police inspector being dismissed from service. It was only after the High Court's intervention that the girl was given proper treatment at a government hospital, free of cost.

The arrest of the four accused was made a day after the CID-Crime Branch of police released their photographs.

The 19-year-old Dalit girl died on 21st June 2012, after battling for life in the hospital for more than five months. She died of septicaemia [blood infection], acute respiratory distress syndrome [ARDS], and cardiac arrest.

The body of the girl was handed over to her family members in the evening after post-mortem, which was done under tight security, and in the presence of crime branch police officials, who are investigating the case.

The District Collector Girish S.N. handed over a cheque for Rs. 10 lakh to the father of the victim, Babuli Behera, saying that the State government had announced the compensation to the family. Accepting the government compensation reluctantly, a distressed Babuli said he wasn't satisfied with the government's overall handling of the case.

Meanwhile, the crime branch police, which had submitted charge sheets against eight persons in this case, including attempt to murder charges against two, have decided to file a supplementary charge-sheet, converting the charges from Section 307 to Section 302 of IPC.