

**REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE UNDER THE  
CHAIRMANSHIP OF  
SHRI M.P.BEZBARUAH  
TO LOOK INTO THE  
CONCERNS  
OF THE PEOPLE OF  
THE NORTH EAST  
LIVING IN OTHER PARTS  
OF THE COUNTRY**

## FOREWORDS

The Committee would like to put on record its appreciation for the sincere efforts put in by the team of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) officials which enabled the Committee to perform its onerous task without hassle. Shri S. Saha, Deputy Secretary, MHA handled the numerous logistical problems with quiet efficiency and coordinated the drafting of the report under great pressure. Shri Ajay Kanoujia, Director, MHA was always available to provide help and assistance to the Committee. Committee would also like to thank the MHA team of Smt. Sreemathi Ghosh, Shri H. K. Arora, Shri Debasis Banerjee, Shri U. P. Srivastava, Shri Ajay Kumar and Shri Anuj Tyagi who put in very hard work ungrudgingly which enabled the Committee to submit its report within the stipulated time.

We would also like to thank all those individuals/organizations within the country and abroad who in writing, or in personal interaction or in internet communications provided us very valuable suggestions and information. We are grateful for their input. The list is too long to be mentioned individually but we would like to express our gratefulness to all of them.

Committee would also like to thank Shri Robin Hibu, Joint Commissioner of Police for helping the Committee during the meetings by giving his valuable suggestions/opinions. We would also like to thank Nagaland House and our member Shri Alemtemshi Jamir for allowing it to be the home of the Committee for most of its work and organizing hospitability for all the meetings so smoothly.

\*\*\*\*\*

## INDEX

Sl. No.	Topics	Page No.
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Background	4
3.	Various kinds of concerns of the people from the North East	7
	(a) Sense of insecurity and vulnerability	8
	(b) Cultural conflict and wrong perception	9
	(c) Discrimination in daily life	9
	(d) Verbal abuse and racial comments and violence	9
	(e) Discrimination and harassment at workplace	10
	(f) Discrimination and Apathy of the law enforcing agencies	10
4.	Major concerns – Summing up	10
5.	Framework of action to be taken to address the concerns	15
	(a) Legal measures	16
	(b) Strengthening Law Enforcement Agencies	26
	(c) Special Police Initiatives	31
	(d) Creating awareness and bridging the gap of misunderstanding	35
	(e) A visible face of the North East in Delhi	38
	(f) The bonding power of sports	40
	(g) Educating the people about the North East	42
	(h) The rich culture of the North East as means of integration	44
	(i) Promoting tourism a means of creating awareness and understanding	45
	(j) Information & Broadcasting and Media to focus on the North East	47
	(k) Role of the Private Sector	48

	(I) Role of the Universities	49
6.	What People from North East have to do	50
	(a) Orientation	50
	(b) Language and Communication difficulties	51
	(c) Role of the State Bhawans	52
	(d) Organizing workers on North East platform	53
7.	Accommodation and Problems of rent	54
8.	Need for Co-ordination	55
9.	People's Representatives can lead the way	56
10.	Implementation	56
11.	Extract of main recommendations	58

## REPORT OF THE NORTH EAST COMMITTEE

### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Ministry of Home Affairs set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M.P. Bezbaruah, IAS (Retd.), Member North Eastern Council to look into the various kinds of concerns of the people hailing from the North Eastern States of India who are living in different parts of the country especially the Metropolitan cities and to suggest suitable remedial measure which could be taken up by the Government in light of the unfortunate death of Sh. Nido Tania, a student from Arunachal Pradesh **Annexure 1**.

1.2 Initially, a Committee was constituted and notified on 5.2.2014 with five members including the Chairman. The Chairman was authorized to nominate representatives from the North Eastern States not included in the initial notification. Subsequently three more representatives of Civil Society and Students Organizations were included as members and the Chairman nominated three members as per authority given to him. The final composition of the Committee is as under; copies of the notifications are at **Annexure 2**.

Sl.No.	Name		Designation
1.	Shri M.P.Bezbaruah	-	Chairman
2.	Shri Alemtemshi Jamir	-	Member
3.	Shri H.W.T.Syiem	-	Member
4.	Shri P.Bharat Singh	-	Member
5.	Shri Tape Bagra	-	Member
6.	Dr. H.T.Sangliana	-	Member
7.	Shri D.M.Jamatia	-	Member
8.	Dr.(Ms.) Doma Bhutia	-	Member
9.	Shri J. Maivio	-	Member
10.	Shri J.T.Tagam	-	Member
11.	Representative of North East India Forum Against Racism	-	Member
12.	Representative of North East Helpline	-	Special Invitee

Shri Robin Hibu, Jt. CP was nominated as representative of MHA to assist the Committee and Shri S.Saha, Deputy Secretary, MHA, as Member Secretary

1.3 The Terms of Reference of the Committee was –

- i. To examine the various kinds of concerns regarding security of the *people* hailing from the North Eastern States.
- ii. To examine the causes behind the attack/violence and discrimination against the people from the North Eastern States.
- iii. To suggest measure to be taken by the Government to address these concerns.
- iv. To suggest remedies to address these concerns *including legal aspect of the issues*.

1.4 Members of *the* Committee had its preliminary meeting at Guwahati on 12.02.2014. It was decided that the Committee would meet in Delhi from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2014 and chalk out a programme to meet interested parties/persons at Delhi. Accordingly MHA was requested to give due publicity about the Committee inviting interested persons/organizations to submit their views and suggestions on a designated e-mail – [mpbcom.northeast@gmail.com](mailto:mpbcom.northeast@gmail.com).

1.5 The Committee also decided to visit other cities viz., Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai and Kolkata where there were substantial students and working populations from the North East Region, and where some incidents were reported earlier. The Committee decided to meet in Delhi from 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 onwards for interactions with various groups/individuals, wrap-up discussions and finalization of the report.

1.6 The Committee also decided to open an email account where suggestions on the issue could be sent. Accordingly, an email account namely, [mpbcom.northeast@gmail.com](mailto:mpbcom.northeast@gmail.com) was opened.

1.7 For wider publicity Press releases were given through MHA Media about the Committee and its terms of reference, inviting anyone who is interested in making any suggestions on the issue to send the same to the Member Secretary of the Committee or through email. Details of various Press Releases is at **Annexure 3**.

1.8 The Committee received numerous suggestions during its interactions through email on this site as also in writing to the Member Secretary. All such suggestions were carefully examined and as appropriate taken into consideration while drafting the report. The Committee also took note of various suggestions contained in articles/reports that appeared in the media. All these materials are too numerous to be appended to the report. However some sample of the interest taken by various organizations like the Naga Hoho, North East Students' Organisation are at **Annexure 4**.

1.9 The Committee held its meetings in Delhi from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2014 as per schedule. Subgroups of the Committee visited Hyderabad, Pune and Mumbai. The Committee met again on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 in Delhi to continue interactions.

1.10 However, as the Lok Sabha elections were announced in the meantime and the Code of Conduct became operative, the Committee was advised to keep its working in abeyance with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2014. Immediately after the elections, the Committee again scheduled its meetings from 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2014 and continued interactions/meetings with Universities, Ministries/Departments, Individuals, Organisations, etc.

1.11 The Committee interacted with more than 800 individuals from different student organisations of North East studying in Delhi, Ministries/Departments, Senior Government Officials of six states, Police of other States, Delhi Police, Academicians, MPs from North East States, Lawyers, Doctors, Proctors, Resident Welfare Associations, NGOs etc. The detailed list of the people, organisations and offices are at **Annexure- 5**.

1.12 On the basis of discussions held and suggestions received, the report has been prepared. Considering the urgency and importance of the issues, the Committee has been at pains to ensure that the report is submitted within the time given to it, though its working was disrupted and delayed due to circumstances beyond its control. It has been a very hectic work, the issues are very wide and complex, the views are very divergent. Within such constraints the Committee has tried to look at the issues objectively, dispassionately and exhaustively.

1.13 As the largest number of **incidents were reported from** Delhi and largest concentration of North Eastern people is in Delhi, **the Committee's recommendations and observations often refers to Delhi. However, the Committee would like to clarify that all such recommendations should be applicable to other areas of the country as well**, suitably adjusted to the local conditions. For example even though the North East Centre in Delhi has been detailed, such Centres as well as support Centres should be set up in all the Metropolitan areas. Similarly, for convenience of expression we have generally referred to Metropolitan areas, but it should be taken as including our concern for other areas of the country.

1.14 The Report of the Committee has been broadly formatted in the following manner, keeping in view the mandate given to the Committee.

- (i) A general background
- (ii) Enumeration of the **main Concerns**
- (iii) Examination of the concerns to find **the root causes for violence** etc.  
The supporting documents for the findings have been serially annexed.
- (iv) Putting the measures needed to address the concerns into **broad main categories.**
- (v) Making detailed recommendations for each category in **order of priorities.**
- (vi) A summary of the recommendations with proper reference to the text.  
For easy reference the recommendations have been highlighted in the text.

## **2. Background**

2.1 A study of the concerns of the people of North East India, living in different parts of the country specially in the Metropolitan areas is not just a matter of delving into the nature and issues of discrimination or assuaging and alleviating the feelings of insecurity felt by them. It encompasses the larger issue of National Integration of the people of India with its amazing diversity. The issues and the concerns of the people of the North East in the Metros have, therefore, larger and deeper implications for the entire process of building the unity and integrity of the nation. Such issues become all the more pertinent for the people of North East



India when it is viewed from the perspective that all the States of the North East, barring Sikkim and Mizoram, are affected by insurgency and separatist movements. The tensions and the turmoil are further accentuated as the people still have a deep sense of alienation and deprivation. Partition of India made the region isolated from the rest of the country, being tenuously linked by the 'chicken neck' corridor and affected the process of its economic development. The North East is in a relative condition of economic underdevelopment as compared to the rest of the country. The vision 2020 document of the North Eastern Council mentions that partition put the region in "economic imprisonment."

2.2 Often, the question is raised as to why special measures are needed for the North East people as such reprehensible incidents as we are dealing with are part of the metro life and other citizens also face such problems. There is no doubt that women in general have an acute sense of threat perception in the metropolitan areas, as also elsewhere. Yet the Committee feels strongly that special attention to the cases of people from North East is deserved for several reasons. First, the number of incidents involving the people from the North East is proportionately very high considering the small number of people from the region living in Delhi. Second, the number of incidents of racial nature, molestation, prejudices, specially directed towards North East communities, are also seen to be growing. There is growing perception within the people from the North East communities that they are particularly targeted for reasons of their difference in physical features. Third, because of such incidents, a large number of youths from the region grow up in the Capital with negative feelings. Their widespread experience of being subjected to taunts, humiliation and racial attacks in the capital city and other metros make them feel bitter, angry and frustrated. Fourth, what is more worrisome is the messages that goes back from such experiences to the North East region. They fuel the already strong feeling of alienation among the youth and encourage separatist movements. The feeling that the authorities are apathetic to such concerns aggravates such tendencies.

**2.3 The strength of the Indian nation is its wide diversity. All our recommendations for increasing two way exchange and understanding of the people of the North East and the rest of India has one primary objective- i.e. the ethnic and cultural difference of the North East should be a cause for**

**celebration and not for raising barriers. They are meant to integrate the North East with the rest of India and not to segregate.**

2.4 While trying to look at various kinds of concerns including the concern for security of the persons hailing from the North Eastern States, the Committee tried to look at the following aspects, viz.,

- (a) The profile of the people from the North East living in Delhi and other metropolitan areas;
- (b) Their experiences in their day-to-day life or in their work places, in their place of studies; and
- (c) The reasons behind the acts of violence, racial profiling and discrimination against the people from the North Eastern States.

2.5 The Committee found that there was no consolidated database of the people from the North East working, studying, living in Metropolitan areas. A study report conducted by the Centre for North Eastern Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia observes that there is a growing outflow of people from the region. The total number of people from the North East in various parts of India, it says, has increased from 0.4 million in 1981 to 0.6 million in 1991 and then to 1.1 million in 2001. These numbers are increasing rapidly for a range of reasons including better opportunities for education, sense of safety, and employment in Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh etc. are major destinations for them. The people from the North East work as teachers, doctors, engineers, waiters, beauticians and call centre workers etc.

2.6 According to this study, over 414,850 people from the North Eastern Region have migrated from 2005 to 2010. Delhi is one of the most preferred destinations, with over 200,000 people from the North East. Until 2000, the report says most people who moved out from North Eastern Region to the Metropolitan areas were those who worked in the Central Government or pursued higher studies. This composition has changed, thereafter and a large number of people came to work in private companies and to pursue general studies. More than 3 lakh persons from North Eastern States are reported to be living in Bangalore City. They are basically concentrated in the eleven localities and the rest of them are scattered across the city. Majority of them belong to the age group of 20-40 years.

2.7 This report and others that we have referred to in the following pages indicate few things- (i) that the people move out of the region because of uncertain law and order situation; (ii) that the number is growing fast in recent times; and (iii) the nature and composition of such people, their socio-economic and educational background etc. is changing. The report, however, does not give any basis for such observations nor about the authenticity of the same. This could however be taken as an indication of the very large number of people coming to the major cities.

### **3. Various kinds of concerns of the people from the North East**

3.1 About the concerns of the people from the North East, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, in its judgment dated 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 has made the following observations:

“We have, during the hearing, enquired from all the appearing counsels the reasons, if any, for spurt of crimes against the people from North-East States in Delhi. No explanation has been forthcoming. We are of the view that an **immediate study in this regard** is required, to determine whether such crimes are for the reason of the victims thereof being from North-Eastern States and the reasons therefor. The Central Government as well as the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, either in tandem or separately, to undertake such studies, as we are of the view **that without identifying the disease, no fool-proof cure thereof can be found**”.

3.2 The Committee is not aware of any detailed study as indicated by the Hon'ble High Court being undertaken so far. **To have a long term solution of this problem, the Committee feels that implementation of the Hon'ble High Court's directives will go a long way in dealing with the matter.**

3.3 The Committee also tried to understand in its interactions if the incidents that involved the North East people are caused by factors endemic in the system or if they are specifically directed against the people from the North East. The submissions made by many and the facts presented before the Committee helped it to understand the root causes.

3.4 The Committee examined the following studies on the problems and concerns of the people from the North East:

- (a) Study Report on Discrimination and Challenges before Women from the North East India conducted by Jamia Millia Islamia as mentioned above.
- (b) Report of the Task Force constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to promote educational opportunities and welfare of students from the North East region belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and OBCs.
- (c) Report on Migration from North East to urban centres; a Study of Delhi Region by V.V. Giri Labour Institute.
- (d) A Research Report on North East Migration and Challenges in National Cities by North East support centre & Helpline.
- (e) Study Report on the status of Northeast India citizens living, working and studying in India's metropolitan cities by Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace.

3.5 According to the report at (d), in 2009-2010, 86% of the North East people said they faced racial discrimination in metro cities of India.

3.6 According to the report at (e), out of *the* total people who moved outside northeast, around 85% numbering 275,250 left to pursue higher education while 15% numbering 139,600 went out in pursuit of employment. The large movement began after 2000 and became more in last two or three years that came with purpose of higher studies and hunt of employment opportunities.

3.7 These reports are placed in ***Annexures 6 (a) to (d)***

From these reports, we can broadly identify the basic concerns as follows:

**3(a) Sense of Insecurity and vulnerability:**

As mentioned in the V. V. Giri Institute Report, the people coming from the North East come into a social atmosphere which is different from their lifestyles back home and face the challenge of adjusting to the totally changed situation. They feel insecure and often are vulnerable to the problems in a large city. The report says that even if they try to adjust to the new atmosphere, their Mongolian

features and their pale often make them distinct in public places and even their easy going, friendly outlook is often misunderstood. Such experiences drive them to stick together with their known friends and relatives.

### **3(b) Cultural conflict and wrong perception:**

The nature of cultural conflict was brought out in our interactions with some of the residents welfare associations. Most of the places where the people from the North East tend to settle down because of availability of affordable accommodation, are primarily urban villages. People in these areas have benefited from the real estate boom but basically continue to be very strongly rooted to conservative rural traditions. They find the behaviour of the boys and girls from the North East, their modern and western dress and their free mixing to be directly in conflict with their notion of social behavior. They feel that such behavior would have adverse impact on their children and therefore try to control or regulate the same. Conflicts arise in such cases. In our interaction with RWA and others in Metros, it was reported that the lifestyle of some people from the North East sometimes create a wrong perception about morality.

### **3(c) Discrimination in daily life:**

The Jamia Millia University Report mentions that about two-thirds of the women surveyed frequently suffered varying forms of discrimination in their daily lives. Most common forms of discrimination relate to over-charging of taxi/auto fares, passing lewd comments, teasing, molestation and being mistaken as foreigners at tourist places, museums etc. Discrimination, sexual harassment, physical assault by the local landlord /property dealers are also seen as major common concerns of many people, particularly women, from the North East.

### **3(d) Verbal abuse and racial comments and violence:**

Very large number of people the Committee interacted with and very large number of people surveyed in the studies mentioned above have reported that verbal abuse, taunt and teasing because of their appearances was a common experience.

### **3(e) Discrimination and harassment at the work place:**

Though the workers from the North East are considered to be hardworking, sincere and reliable, the Committee received many complaints of lack of job security, arbitrary job condition, termination of job etc, mostly in the unorganized sectors. Many of them also suffered discrimination or harassment.

### **3(f) Discrimination and apathy of the law enforcing agencies:**

Most vocal complaints from the North East people have been about the behavior and attitude of the police. Most of them did not trust police and were bitter about the attitude of discrimination and harassment faced when they go for registering cases.

## **4. Major Concerns –summing up**

4.1 Apart from the issues generally stated in the preceding section, during our various interactions numerous other issues and factors were brought out. Some of them are illustrated in brief, so that the concerns can be better appreciated:

- (i) Most of the communities of the region barring some from Assam and Tripura have Mongoloid features. In fact while the North East region is often categorized as an entity, there is a vast diversity among the people of the North East. It is estimated that there are more than 247 ethnic communities and tribes in the North East each with own language or dialects different traditions, customs and practices and in fact almost different cultures.
- (ii) Under the influences of modernization and spread of education aspirations of youth have soared. On the other hand, the area is quite underdeveloped and, in fact, many of the rural and remote areas are economically backward. There are very little employment opportunities in the North East region to fulfill such aspirations. Therefore the youth are flocking to the urban areas even in their home states and many of them move to the Metros around India in search of whatever employment that they may get. Many people move out to find safer places because of violent situation at home. This trend is likely to

continue for some time, or till such time that similar opportunities emerge in the North East itself.

- (iii) According to study report of 2009 every year 10,000 North East youths came to Delhi for different purposes. There are many establishments which prefer to employ people from the North East with their oriental looks and knowledge of English. The people from the North East have a reputation for sincerity and reliability. The general impression is that they are willing to work for less remuneration. It appears that in some cases local citizens, especially the educated unemployed youth feel threatened. This feeling is accentuated particularly as they look different with their mongoloid features.
- (iv) The nature of jobs and employment of a large number of the North East are low paid giving rise to other problems.
  - a) The economic background of most job seekers from the people from the North East is far from affluent and they, therefore, reside in rented accommodation which are, also mostly in the affordable lower middle class areas often called urban villages. The residents of such localities are as mentioned earlier, generally conservative. Frictions, therefore, arise because of difference in attitude.
  - b) In such a backdrop, the people from the North East tend to keep to themselves and there is very little interaction even between the landlords and the tenants.
  - c) Language and communication difficulties are also a major problem.
  - d) Due to the nature of work e.g. people from the North East working in shops and establishments in Malls and late working hours in the BPOs for which the workers have often to come home late. This often exposes them to the anti-social elements as also make their movements suspicious in the minds of the neighbours.
  - e) Being away from home some young people also tend to get together very often playing loud music which disturbs the landlords and other tenants.

- f) As a result, landlords and local communities often make allegations of some immoral activities and drug abuse. Isolated examples tend to multiply the wrong perceptions, leading to, in the minds of many such residents, a wrong image about the people from the North East in general.
  - g) It was submitted before the Committee that many landlords also consider the people from the North East as difficult tenants because of their food habits and resent pungent smell that North East cooking have due to the use of fermented seasonings like bamboo shoots and soya beans.
  - h) The rental systems that the North East people have to accept are also ad-hoc in nature with no proper lease or deed agreements leading to misunderstandings especially when it comes to tenures, premature or arbitrary termination of lease etc. Tensions also emerge in matters relating to the refund of advances.
  - i) There are also numerous cases of the young but gullible people from the North East falling prey to 'Agents' who lure them with promises of good jobs but end up either with poorly paid menial jobs or worse, thrown into human trafficking circles.
- (v) As we have mentioned, the concerns of the people from the North East and incidents involving them can't be viewed in isolation of the conditions and situations that prevail in the various cosmopolitan metros of India. Discrimination, harassment, molestation and even rape and atrocities against women are not confined or directed only to people from the North East India. It happens to other people also including foreigners. The scale or the intensity at which they occur, however, varies from place to place. The Committee observed that the incidents are less pronounced in the other Metros such as Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Mumbai and Kolkata than in Delhi. Various reasons have been stated by the cross section of the people with whom the Committee had interacted. The reports of the sub-groups placed at **Annexure 7** mention such reasons and the



Committee has taken note of them in formulating the recommendations.

4.2 To take care of such concerns, very wide ranging solutions – short term, medium term and long term – have to be thought of. Many of the concerns relate to very complex socio-cultural issues and would require very comprehensive, focused attention of the law enforcing agencies, the society leaders, the civil society and the public policy makers. Based on the numerous submissions and suggestions received, we have tried to group some of the remedial measures that appear to be necessary and feasible under the following categories:

- (i) Creating awareness, which we take as a two way journey, though the primary focus is on creating awareness of the people outside North East about the least known and least understood region of the country.
- (ii) Quick, strong *and* fair action by law enforcing agencies.
- (iii) Institutional arrangements to provide guidance, help, information, counseling and orientation.
- (iv) Suitable legal/legislative measures to supplement the above efforts.

4.3 In making these recommendations, we have been guided by some overriding concerns. The primary objective has been to bridge the gap in understanding to integrate and not segregate the people of the North East India into the broader national identity of India and to build connectivity not only physical but also connectivity of minds.

4.4 This Committee would also not like to term each incident involving people from the North East as racial. Each case has to be seen on its merit, in the context and content of its occurrence. Nevertheless, the fact that acts- both overt or otherwise, of racial nature involving the people from the North East - are increasing has been forcefully brought before the Committee by all people/organizations we interacted with.

4.5 Numerous interaction that the Committee had with individuals and organizations confirms these basic concerns. Summarizing all these submissions, Committee would like to illustrate basic issue as follows:

4.6 While these concerns were voiced by different groups, various individuals and institutional representatives strongly argued that racial discrimination **in various forms is the root cause of several manifested problems for the North East people in the metro cities**. The Committee also received a few documents from different individuals and associations on the subject of racism-like. The study by (1) North East India Forum Against Racism Legal Team, (2) Shri Thang Khanial Nagaihte's article in the Economic and Political Weekly dated March 15, 2014 (3) Dr. Doma T Bhutia's paper on "Model National Legislation for the Guidance of Governments in the Enactment of Further Legislation Against Racial Discrimination."

4.7 These are placed at **Annexure 8 (a) to (c)**

**4.8** These documents detail the racial experiences the North East people in the context of forms of racism as follows:

**External Appearances:** This refers to attitude associated with external appearances which include facial structures and colour of *skin*. This attitudinal stereo types and prejudices are expressed in racial slurs, comments and contours when persistently are labeled against individuals and groups in both overt acts and subtle ways tantamount to racial abuses. This nature of racism, it is pointed out by most groups and individuals we interacted with is faced by the North East people in Delhi NCR on daily basis in the form of racial slurs and comments include momo, chinkis, chichi chu chu, chowmein and Chinese. Repeated comments and contours causes hurt feels and when resisted, physical conflict take place e.g. the case of death of Nido Tania.

**Institutional Racism:** Institutional racism comes into play when victim of racist attacks seek to take remedy through the law. The racist prejudice is experienced here in form of attempts by the police to suppress or to make light of the crime, the tendency to cast aspersions on the character of the victim or complaints and refusal to register FIRs, or of putting unnecessary pressures on the victim to withdraw the case, etc. It is interesting to note that all the recent protests by the people from the North East are as much about police apathy as they are about racial prejudice experienced in everyday life. It is time to worry when the institutions of law-governed societies themselves become places where racism occurs.

4.9 The reports point out that such experiences are common also in places of study, hospitals and other public delivery institutions.

## **5. Framework of Action to be taken to address the concerns**

5.1 The people from the North East have many concerns and we have tried to capture and reflect on some of them.

5.2 It will be evident from the foregoing analysis that the most serious concern – a concern that should shake the conscience of all right thinking Indians, is the rise in incidents of racial nature. Such incidents have to be firmly dealt with before this cancerous growth afflicts the future of India. **The Committee deliberated on five main components which are crucial for tackling this matter. These are placed in order of priority as follows.**

- (i) First, the existence of a clear, stringent law that make such acts/incidents of varied nature punishable.**
- (ii) Second, strong and determined law enforcement agency which can prevent occurrence of such incidents and when they occur investigate quickly and professionally to bring the culprits to book.**
- (iii) Third, adequate support systems for the victims.**
- (iv) Fourth, an efficient system for delivery of justice fairly and quickly.**
- (v) Fifth, socio-economic and cultural initiatives to handle the wider issues of educating the people creating awareness and removing wrong perceptions so that occurrence of such incidents is minimized.**

5.3 In the following pages we have examined each of these issues and made detailed recommendations for taking appropriate action.

## **5(a) Legal Measures**

5(a)(1) The Committee received many suggestions for a stringent law to be put in place. There were many writings in newspaper and magazines drawing attention to the importance of legal measures. As a representative sample of the views we can quote an article in Times of India on February 10, 2014 titled “Racism, our dirty secret” “For the ‘social mindset’ to change, the law must first treat, and be seen treating, crimes – including non-racist crimes – against northeast Indians seriously. It is how law enforcers deal with cases in which ethnic or racial minorities are victims and complainants that will determine whether India confines itself to benign discrimination.”

5(a)(2) The Committee has examined at great length the need for a suitable law that take care of the incidents of racial nature that the people from the North East experience. The Committee also had detailed discussions with Secretary Legislative, Govt. of India and other officials of the Ministry and also with other organizations. Shri Jamatia, member of the Committee who is also Secretary, Law, Govt of Tripura and Dr Bhutia another Member and Advocate and the North East India Forum Against Racism were requested to help the Committee with their inputs on the subject. Their reports are placed at **Annexure 8 (a) and (c)**. The Delhi Policy Group also submitted, on our request, a summary of the existing provisions and also a note on the anti racial laws provision in other countries. The legislative department of government of India also furnished a summary of all the existing laws relating to crime of racial nature. This is placed at **Annexure 9**.

5(a)(3) The Committee looked at the problem from the following angles:

- (i) What are the existing rules, laws etc to deal with the type of concerns that the people from the North East have or most specifically to deal with acts of racial nature?
- (ii) Are these provisions adequate to take care of the concerns of the people from the North East ?
- (iii) What more needs to be done?

5(a)(4) The existing legal provisions are broadly summed up as follows: (Ref Note from Delhi Policy Group)

## 1. The Constitution of India.

a) **Article 14**-‘Equality before law -The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.’

(b) **Article 15**-‘Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth:

(1) **The State** shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them.

(2) **No citizen** shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them, be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to:

(a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and palaces of public entertainment; or

(b) the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the general public.’

c) **Article 16**-‘Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment:

(1) There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State;

(2) No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect or, any employment or office under the State.’

However, there is little legislation to operationalize Constitutional provisions against racism. Amongst the existing laws are:

**2. The Criminal Law Removal of Racial Discrimination Act, 1949:** Repealing Section 56 of the Indian Penal Code which discriminated between Indian and European/American convicts. The section demanded a sentence of ‘transportation for life’ for convicted Indians as opposed to the relatively simple manual labour that was awarded to their European counterparts.

**3. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:** Seeks to prevent the commission of offences of atrocities against members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Recently, several measures have been taken in order to enhance its scope so as to include more persons under its ambit. For instance, the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes Amendment Bill of 2013 sought to introduce new offences and new categories of persons under the Act.<sup>4</sup> Further, in 2012, the Ministry of Home Affairs recommended that all States notify the term "Chinkri" as an offence under the Act.<sup>5</sup>

**Problem:**

Many citizens from the North East states are not members of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes community and hence cannot seek protection under this Act.

**4. Section 153 A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860:** Deals with the offence of promotion of enmity between classes on the grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc.

**Section 153 A** of the Indian Penal Code, 1860: 'Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.--(1) Whoever-(a) by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise, promotes or attempts to promote, on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, or (b) commits any act which is prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, and which disturbs or is likely to disturb the public tranquility, 2[ or](c) 2[ organizes any exercise, movement, drill or other similar activity intending that the participants in such activity shall use or be trained to use criminal force or violence or knowing it to be likely that the participants in such activity will use or be trained to use criminal force or violence, or participates in such activity intending to use or be trained to use criminal force or violence or knowing it to be likely that the

participants in such activity will use or be trained to use criminal force or violence, against any religious, racial, language or regional group or caste or community and such activity for any reason whatsoever causes or is likely to cause fear or alarm or a feeling of insecurity amongst members of such religious, racial, language or regional group or caste or community,] shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both...'

This section is limited in scope since it only addresses those acts that cause enmity between classes. While racist remarks/heckling certainly fall under Section 153 A, and it should be rigorously applied to recent events, it does not deal with racist violence.

5(a)(5) The Committee is in broad agreement with the following observations of the Delhi Policy Group:

"The attacks in Delhi went far beyond discrimination, they comprised acts of extreme violence (both general and gendered). While it can be justifiably argued, and statistically proved, that North-Eastern Indians are no more unsafe in Delhi than are other citizens given the high rates of violence in the city, including rape, it is also the case that there are clear racist overtones to acts of violence against North-Easterners, as indicated by the taunts that accompany sexual harassment and brawls against them. One way of dealing with this problem is to add relevant provisions in the IPC and CRPC. For instance, persons committing heinous offences such as murder or rape against citizens from the North East should not just be charged under the general provisions of murder or rape but also under specific provisions that recognize such crimes as racially motivated. Further, Section 153 A7 of the IPC may be amended in order to specifically deal with the issue of hate speech against persons from the North East. This can be done by incorporating illustrations to the section".

5(a)(6) We find that while there are many laws there is no one clear law that covers the type of incidents that the North East people are exposed to. In absence of a clear, precise law the agencies entrusted with enforcing law are also at a

disadvantage in taking action. Therefore, the perpetrators of such crimes are left free to repeat their misdeeds.

5(a)(7) The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in its judgments dated 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 made the following observation:

“We are further of the view that the GNCTD as well as the Central Government should give thought to the possibility of bringing a legislation for preventing the natives of one State from harassing in any manner the migrants from any other Indian States or from indulging in hate crimes against them, including by amendment to the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. To quote Marcus T. Cicero, the Roman philosopher, politician, lawyer, “The safety of the people shall be the highest law”.

5(a)(8) We had therefore, following scenario before us:-

- i. The direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.
- ii. Suitable amendments to the existing provisions in IPC/Cr. PC etc. to reflect the concerns of the people from the North East.
- iii. An omnibus act that assimilates all the existing provisions in one act and make that act stringent.
- iv. An anti-racial law for the whole country.

5(a)(9) As pointed out by the Hon'ble High Court, it is beyond doubt that there is **need for a law that covers the type of experiences that the North East people have. The direction of the Hon'ble High Court would be the practical solution to the problem. The committee recommends that immediate and serious examination as per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court is taken up.**

5(a)(10) The Committee has received a “Report on a comprehensive law on specific and comprehensive law for protection of North Eastern people (India) against racial discrimination” from legal Committee of North East India Forum against Racism. The report is placed at **Annexure 8 (a)**. The report examines the issues in details and in P. 13-14 has provided a draft framework for such a legislation. These should be taken into account while framing the new law.



5(a)(11) The Committee also considered the second alternative of amendment of Section 153 of IPC. We asked the questions – how can the concerns of the North East People be specifically put into such laws? The most common demand is to make words like ‘Momos’, ‘Chinkis’, ‘Chinese’, ‘Chichi Chu Chu’, or any derogatory remarks relating to race, culture, identity or physical appearances to be made punishable. There is no doubt that these words in themselves may not be violative of the law. In fact, the context and connotation of such expressions is what hurts the sentiments. How to incorporate such concerns into laws needs to be closely examined. One suggestion is to put such concerns as illustrations appended to the main section of the Act and also to amend the main text to include racial discrimination, taunt and words that reflect racial prejudices that hurt the sentiment of a particular group. The Committee had requested one of its member Shri Jamatia to examine this specific issue and he has suggested a draft amendment which is placed below---

## THE CRIMINAL LAW (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2014

No. \_\_\_\_\_ of 2014

[\_\_\_\_\_, 2014]

AN ACT further to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure for protection of citizens from racial atrocities.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

### CHAPTER I

#### PRELIMINARY

1. (1) This Act may be called the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2014.
- (2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

### CHAPTER II

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE INDIAN PENAL CODE

2. In the Indian Penal Code (hereinafter in this Chapter referred to as the Penal Code), in Section 153-B, the word “racial” wherever appears be deleted.

(a) After Section 153-B of the Penal Code, the following section shall be inserted, namely:

**“153-C. Imputations, assertions prejudicial to human dignity.** Whoever, by words either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise.

(i) attempts or promote to attempt on the ground of race or place of origin or such other grounds relating to racial features or to racial behaviour and culture or to racial customs or way of living or any other practices or uses criminal force or violence, or

(ii) participates in such activity intending to use criminal force or violence or knowing it to be likely, participants in such activity will use criminal force or violence against the member of any race or of a particular racial origin or a class of person from a particular group or from any racial origin and such activity for any reason whatsoever causes or is likely to cause fear or alarm or a feeling of insecurity amongst the members of that racial groups shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to five years with fine.”

After Section 509 of the Penal Code, the following section shall be inserted, namely :

Amendment of  
Section 509

**“509-A. Word, gesture or act intended to insult a member of a particular racial group or of any race.**

Whoever intending to insult any member of a particular or any race for whatever reason or for reason of their place of origin, racial features, behavioural pattern, customs, practises or dresses, utters any word, makes any sound or gesture or exhibits any object intending that such word or sound shall be heard or that such gesture or object be seen by such members or intrudes privacy shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years with fine.”

### CHAPTER III

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, 1973

In the First Schedule to the Code of Criminal Procedure, under the heading “I. OFFENCES UNDER THE INDIAN PENAL CODE”:-

(a) after the entries relating to Section 153, the following entry shall be made :

1	2	3	4	5	6
153-C	Imputations, assertions prejudicial to human dignity	Imprisonment which may extend to five years with fine	Cognizable	Non-bailable	Any Magistrate

(b) after the entries relating to Section 509, the following entry shall be made :

1	2	3	4	5	6
509-A	Word, gesture or act intended to insult a member of a particular racial group or any race	Imprisonment which may extend to three years with fine	Cognizable	Bailable	Any Magistrate

**5(a)(12) The committee recommends this amendment of Section 153 of IPC as the second alternative.**

**5(a)(13) The Committee recommends that either a new law should be promulgated as directed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi or IPC should be amended- in that order of preference. Whatever legislation is decided upon should have among other things the following specific provisions –**

**(1) the offence should be cognizable and non-bailable.**

**(2) The investigation of the FIR should be completed compulsorily in 60 days by a Special Squad, investigated by a police officer not below the rank of Deputy SP/ACP. A special prosecutor should be appointed to handle all such cases of atrocities.**

**(3) The trial should be completed in 90 days.**

5(a)(14) The question of anti racial law for the whole country was also strongly voiced by some Groups. Reservations were also expressed by other groups about the need and efficacy of such a law in the context of the specific problems of the North East People. The Committee has examined the issue from two relevant angles: (a) the necessity of such a law in the light of national and international commitment of Government of India and (b) how the concerns of the people from the North East would be addressed by such a law. The issues involved are very wide and need very detailed examination. The Committee did not have the expertise nor the time to go into the question in great depth and to come out with a firm view, but it examined the question objectively in the light of its specific mandate about the concerns of the North East people.

5(a)(15) We are of the firm opinion that government should ensure that any crime of racial nature is viewed very seriously. Recognition of the problems of racial discrimination in all its dimensions should be an essential part of the political discourse a democratic system like India. India's Constitution enshrines the highest principles of respect and commitment for human rights. Any international commitment that the country has must be discussed and debated and acted upon within those Constitutional parameters.

5(a)(16) **We felt that within the broad framework of our Constitution the legal, strategic and philosophical aspects of the demand for an anti-racial law should be debated and in the long run a suitable decision should be taken. For the immediate short run problems of the North East people, the steps enumerated by us above for a specific law or specific amendment to the IPC should be taken up.** We have however placed at *Annexure 8(a)*, a note on the framework for a anti-racial law received from North East Forum against Racism to form part of the debate mentioned above.

5(a)(17) During discussions, few important aspects on the issue came up:

5(a)(18) First, enforcement of the existing legal provisions is a crucial need because laws will be insufficient unless they are properly enforced. For this purpose, we have recommended systematic and specific reforms in the functioning of the Police Stations, steps for speedy and proper investigation and steps for speedy trial.

5(a)(19) Second, it is essential to ensure that the existing provisions are fully made use of by the affected people. We were told that even for SC & ST atrocities Act, there are very few cases relating to the North East. There is a need to create awareness about the existing laws and also about the steps taken by the Police to ensure that they are properly enforced. We have recommended use of the Information Technology system for reaching out to the largest number of affected people. **In addition, a booklet should be prepared containing all the provisions, how to register cases, where to go in case of difficulties and how to monitor that the system operates effectively.**

5(a)(20) Third, along with awareness programmes and proper enforcement, the Committee feels that the system of providing legal aid and assistance to the affected people should be strengthened to enable the victims to take full advantage of the redress available. The facilities for legal assistance through DSLSA and others should be made systematic. It should also be linked to the State Bhawans, the Police network and the proposed North East Facilitation Centre.

5(a)(21) Fourth, along with all the legal steps that can be taken, the Committee feels **that sensitizing the law enforcing agencies about the people and the**

**culture of the North East will go a long way in creating a suitable atmosphere.**

5(a)(22) **Facilities for legal assistance:** The Committee had a discussion with Delhi State Legal Service Authority (DSLISA). Following the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, DSLISA has taken many initiatives for outreach programmes to make the people of the North East aware of their legal rights and render requisite legal assistance. It was mentioned that they have, for the purpose of assisting the people from the North East, –

- (i) tried to recruit advocates from the North East to render legal assistance;
- (ii) tried to get translators to facilitate the North East people;
- (iii) trying para legal volunteers including people from the North East and NGO groups;
- (iv) creating awareness campaign by various means like street play, etc. and
- (v) placing judicial officials in eleven districts for expeditious disposal of cases.

5(a)(23) We recommend the following steps:

- i. Panel of lawyers for legal assistance and consultation through – mobile phone, e-mail, Whats App etc.
- ii. NE lawyers practicing at Delhi at different Courts may be given the preference to form a panel 50 percent members of panel may be women lawyers.
- iii. Legal awareness training for the North East Representatives from eight North East States.
- iv. Legal awareness campaign in vulnerable areas like – Munirka, Safdarjung Enclave, Janakpuri, Kotla Mubarakpur, Malviya Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar, Gandhi Vihar, Chirag Delhi, Gurgaon, etc.
- v. Lecture on legal rights during freshers meet at Delhi University, Jamia University and JNU Campus.
- vi. Dissemination of information on legal rights to NE youths through pamphlets, brochures, CDs etc.

- vii. Dedicated Facebook page / Whats App connectivity for providing legal assistance through social media.
- viii. Pro-active initiative for victim compensation and monetary assistance for to and fro journeys from North East
- ix. Monthly review meetings on action taken on North East youth related problems / complaints and further course of action.
- x. Appointing North East practising lawyers as DSLSA member as well as Coordinator for North East people on the behalf of DSLSA.
- xi. The DLSA assistance is available only for the people below the poverty line. Such assistance should be available for people of the North East above the poverty line also in suitable cases.

#### **5(b) Strengthening Law Enforcement Agencies**

5(b)(1) The Committee's terms of reference also require it to examine the causes behind such incidents/violence etc. To properly understand the reasons for such violence or discrimination, it was necessary to examine the nature of incidents relating to the people from the North East. To do so objectively and rationally and to find out why such incidents happen, it was also essential to get a profile of the people from North East in Delhi and other areas. Many questions arise e.g.

- (i) Do such incidents relate more to some communities or people from some states more than others?
- (ii) If some communities/states have more cases, do the incidents have some relevance to the total number of people of that community residing in Delhi?
- (iii) Do they happen more in localities in which they reside or in work place or in general in and around the cities or in the educational campus?
- (iv) What are the types of incidents they have encountered etc

5(b)(2) Unfortunately, no such profiling of the people or of the cases is available. So far as general profiling of the people of the North East in Delhi is concerned, we discussed at length the desirability and the mode of getting such a profile.

5(b)(3) There was overwhelming opinion that some sort of registration of the people from the North East would be helpful in coordinating various welfare,

security and other related measures. After examining all the suggestions received on this issue, the Committee would like to **suggest a process of comprehensive, computerized database for keeping track of the people from the North East. This recommendation is part of a wider proposal for creating a North East Centre covering many other aspects of the problems that are being discussed. A comprehensive proposal on the North East database is at Annexure 10.** However, leaving aside the non availability of factual information, it can be broadly stated on the basis of submissions made by various organizations and individuals that the people from the North East in Delhi can be grouped under the following categories:

- a) Students both in (a) hostels and accommodation provided by the institutions and (b) staying outside the campus in rental accommodation.
- b) People on paid employment both in the organized and unorganized sectors primarily middle and lower level jobs in service, hospitality and IT Sectors like security guard, restaurant, nurses, call centers etc.
- c) People in Government jobs.
- d) People in Central Government services and higher jobs.

5(b)(4) Almost every group talked about experiencing discrimination, prejudices, taunt of racial nature etc at different times.

5(b)(5) In some cases, such experiences did not result from overt acts or malicious intent but taunts, teasing etc. resulted from ignorance. They do however cause deep sense of hurt and create great psychological dent. Such incidents, reflect a deep malaise which the Indian society has to deeply ponder about. Various steps to create awareness that we have suggested are expected to help in improving the situation so far as the people from North East are concerned but the efforts to remove the deep rooted prejudices in society have to be taken up on a much wider scale. Because of the limited nature of mandate of this Committee and the limited time available, we have refrained from looking at those deeper and wider problems and have focused on how such ignorance or lack of awareness affect the people from the North East in the metros. The measures that the Committee has suggested are aimed at creating two way understanding and awareness - in a sense connecting the minds of the people of the region and of those outside.

5(b)(6) The overt acts of discrimination, molestation, prejudices etc against people from the NE following from the inability to appreciate the differences or from deliberate attempts to hurt mentally and physically are of more serious concern. To enable us to arrive at a sensible and rationale way to tackle such acts of deliberate indulgence in acts in violation of existing laws and rules, we felt that it was essential to quantify the incidents, find out the number of incidents, their nature, communities involved and so on. We requested the MHA for such details for all the metropolitan cities and we also requested the Police Commissioner when we had interactions with him. Unfortunately, such profiling of incidents involving the people from the North East are not available. We were rather surprised to find a crime statement for the last few years (**Annexure - 11**) showing figures of cases involving the people from the North East which shows only 261 cases were registered in all the police stations. The Commission of SC/ST also mentioned that only very negligible number of cases are registered under relevant Acts by people from the North East. Such statements conflict with all the sentiments expressed by almost every North East group and individuals and with the reports that keep appearing in the media. On the other hand, we have noted that the North East Special Police Unit which started functioning from the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 has already received 359 cases. Out of which, 103 FIR has been and rest are under enquiry. We have not been able to find any definite answer for this contradiction but we can only summarize on the possible and plausible reasons for such discrepancies.

5(b)(7) First, the people from North East, even when they are victims of such incidents, do not feel encouraged to approach the police station for a variety of reasons some of which relate not only to the people of North East but for people in general also.

5(b)(8) Secondly, they are deterred from taking such action because even if FIR is lodged, they fear subsequent harassment by police. Most people have mentioned the fact that action on such cases registered are often delayed, that investigation often is flawed, making the hope of getting justice even more distant and uncertain. Many people also have mentioned that they faced hardships and financial difficulties as they are required to go again and again to police station for recording of evidence etc. The Committee had taken up this matter with the National Commission for Women and the Commission made two suggestions:



- a) **If the witness records evidences before a Magistrate, he is not required to again go for examination by the police station. This fact needs to be widely circulated and brought to the notice of all concerned including the DSLSA.**
- b) **The Commission also expressed its willingness to consider proposal for financial support in such cases. The modalities for making such support available to the persons who require it needs to be worked out.**

5(b)(9) Third, The most common reason for the number of cases registered with the police not being in tune with the extent of the problem as widely reported is the difficulty in getting the FIR lodged. Getting an FIR lodged, it is mentioned, can be a harrowing experience. The people don't consider it worthwhile to go through all the hassles. Problems are often faced about the jurisdiction of police stations, unfriendly reception in police stations and often further exposure to taunt and teasing at the police station itself. We have no doubt that at the core of the problems faced by the people from the North East is the deficiency in enforcement of law. Any remedy must touch the issues of practical police reforms, constant supervision and strict accountability at the cutting edge levels of the law and order administration. Subject to such overall reforms, the Committee feels, police administration can and should take some steps to redress grievances of the people from the North East.

5(b)(10) Subsequent to the order of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, Delhi Police has taken a number of steps to streamline police administration and investigation of the cases relating to the people from the North East. The status was also reviewed by various agencies. We have placed at **Annexure 12 (i) to (iv)** reports of the following review meetings:

- (i) Meeting of Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development with Commissioner of Police and other senior officials on 22.5.2012.
- (ii) Standing Order of Delhi Police No. 383/2014.
- (iii) Meeting held under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary on 25.02.2014.
- (iv) Review meeting in the Ministry of DoNER on 05.2.2014

5(b)(11) Even before the incident of death of Nido Tania, the Ministry of Home Affairs had issued an Office Memorandum on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 and 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014 on the subject of discrimination and racial profiling faced by Indian citizens of North Eastern States in some parts of the country. The Office Memoranda, among other things, invite attention to the following aspects:

- a) Sensitization and training of the police personnel/law enforcement agencies;
- b) Minimizing delays in investigation of cases of atrocities against SCs/STs;
- c) Improving the quality of investigation;
- d) Recruitment of sufficient number of persons belonging to SCs/STs/minorities as police personnel, programmes;
- e) Creating awareness among vulnerable sections of the society and legal recourse open to them;
- f) Adopting appropriate measures for swift and salutary punishment to public servants found guilty of neglect of duty and violence against SCs/STs;
- g) Setting up of special courts; and
- h) Improving the effectiveness of schemes developed for the welfare and rehabilitation of SCs/STs who are victims of crime.

5(b)(12) **The Office Memorandum also talks about 'Zero Tolerance Policy', so far as the crime against the people from the North Eastern States is concerned, need for proactive action in cases like eve teasing, stalking, passing derogatory remarks, etc., desirability of outreach programme from the Police side, regular quarterly meetings with the community leaders and formation of Area Security Committees.** Government also pointed out that very serious view would be taken against police officers for dereliction of duties in such cases.

5(b)(13) These are all commendable initiatives but the fact that many incidents keep happening and many complaints of police inaction or harassment keep coming perhaps indicate that there are gaps in implementation. The order of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi about creating a separate cell for dealing with crimes against persons from the North Eastern States in Delhi has some very specific

directives. We have been informed that these directives have been implemented by Delhi Police. We felt that many of the steps taken have remained isolated and are not widely known. **We recommend that a comprehensive, clear, readable booklet, not just compilation of all government orders on all major instructions on steps taken by Police for redressing the problems of the people from the North East, be prepared, printed and widely circulated. Every Police Station must have a copy of it readily available.**

5(b)(14) It is however, essential to ensure that such measures do not remain as ad hoc reactions to an emergent situation but are made part of a system, are transparent and ensure that the system fixes accountability in case of failure and provide for constant monitoring. In this connection, we would like to make the following further specific recommendations to supplement that has been done so far. **The review taken by the DoNER Ministry should be made a part of the system of regular review.**

#### **5(c) Special Police Initiatives**

5(c)(1) A large number of initiatives have been taken up. They need to be constantly monitored and followed up. At least for sometime one nodal officer of the rank of IGP should be placed in MHA for this purpose. His duties and functions should be clear and sufficient powers should be given to make him effective. We have suggested a model of functions at **Annexure 13**.

5(c)(2) The North East Special Police Unit should have the power of a police station so that at one point officer in charge could register cases and give directions to various police stations instead of routing it through various officers who have jurisdiction over those police stations. Home Department of GNCTD of Delhi should issue notification giving jurisdiction to North East Special Police Unit for whole Delhi for investigation, arrest etc.

5(c)(3) It has also been felt that justice to be effective needs to be dispensed promptly. A few cases settled quickly with deterrent punishment would go a long way in preventing recurrence of such incidents. **Therefore, the Committee would strongly suggest creation of Fast Track Courts for handling the cases relating to the North East people, particularly those which are racially**

**motivated and heinous crimes against North East women and children.** We are aware that commenting on a similar suggestion by the Additional Solicitor General, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi had opined that "a quicker decision in the cases can be achieved by giving direction on the administrative side to the concerned courts, rather than designating one court only for trial of all such cases". There is no doubt that getting the existing courts to dispose cases expeditiously would be a good solution. **However, we also feel that having designated courts would give some urgency and importance to the matter and may be appropriately considered.**

5(c)(4) Specially designated public prosecutors should be appointed for cases involving people from the North East. They should also be properly trained and sensitized.

5(c)(5) The Committee was informed by a large number of affected people that investigations of cases filed by the North East people are often tardy. It was mentioned by Delhi Policy Group during discussions that only in about 13 percent cases the complainants get justice. There is a tendency in the lower levels of the police force to persuade the victims to compromise the case or to make settlement. We have suggested various measures, some of which are already under the plans of the police department as mentioned above, to strengthen action at the police station level. However, we feel that creation of a **special squad supervised by the North East Special Police Unit** would go a long way in speedy justice in criminal cases. The squad could be manned by the people specially selected for such purpose and could be specially trained and sensitized about the problems of the North East people.

5(c)(6) Relief Corpus Funds for helping heinous crime victims. Expenses for dead body disposal, attending Court from North Eastern States to Delhi, honorarium for social workers.

5(c)(7) Counseling Centre with Delhi Police Special Unit for North East Region at Nanakpura, Delhi may be made properly functional to involve North East NGOs in its operation on the pattern of counseling of Special Police Unit for Women & Children of Delhi Police.

5(c)(8) Empanelling of lawyers preferably from North East for legal counseling of the cases/trials of North East crime victims.

5(c)(9) It is learnt that a proposal for creation of 318 posts for the Special Unit for North East region, is pending with the Government. This should be sanctioned immediately and special recruitment may be carried out from the North Eastern States. It is learnt that earlier recruitment drive in North East was not very successful. Therefore, we suggest that the following measures may be taken in all future recruitment in the North East:

- (a) Information relating to special recruitment may be given to all the 8 North Eastern States two months in advance.
- (b) Effective dissemination of recruitment advertisements through:-
  - i. Advertisement in vernacular papers.
  - ii. Repeated advertisement through local TVs/Cable TVs. Special scroll messages at the local cable TV channels.
  - iii. Repeated announcement at All India Radio in local dialects at news hours.
  - iv. Request to the State Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) and State Bhawans at Delhi for wide publicity, in particular.
    - a. To request all the Zila Parishad Members for repeated announcements through Gram Panchayat Sabha meetings at Panchayat Offices.
    - b. Information to the District Commissioners and District SPs for wide publicity.
    - c. The District SPs should also be requested to send the information to all the Police Stations, Chowkis, Check gates and Battalion headquarters for wide publicity.
- (c) DGPs of 8 North Eastern States may be asked to appoint one local officer at Police Headquarters as a Nodal Officer for coordinating recruitment of Delhi Police in their respective States.
  - (i) Nodal Officers should have one dedicated helpline during office hours manned by police personnel who can communicate in the local languages/dialects of the State.
  - (j) One senior officer preferably from North East may be appointed as in charge to coordinate the recruitment of all the North Eastern

States and he will coordinate with all the Nodal Officers from the Police Headquarters of all the 8 North Eastern States to carry out the recruitment drive.

- (k) Out of the total number of vacancies 30 percent may be kept reserved for female candidates.
- (l) The proposed written examination for the special recruitment may be held at the North Eastern States' Capitals instead of Delhi only.
- (m) Special advertisement drive for recruitment of North East youth for Delhi Police may be carried out in local newspapers and audio visual media of North East to attract maximum candidates.
- (ix) North East the special cell should have, on the pattern of Special Police Unit for Women and Children (SPUWC) Unit the requisite logistics/infrastructure having jurisdiction all over Delhi. It should have :-
- North East officers in visible positions. Other officers should be specially trained or sensitized on North East issues.
  - Designated Public Prosecutors preferably North East lawyers.
  - Time bound investigation within 90 days.
  - CFSL (Central Forensic Science Laboratory) may be advised to take immediate action in sensitive North East related cases and give reports at the earliest.
- (x) The Special Helpline for North East youths, 1093 should synchronize with PCR 100 number so that Complaints of North East people may be brought to the notice of DCP/SPUWC for North East and Chief Coordinator for North East. This number should be the helpline for North East in every Metro.
- (xi) Delhi Police Special Unit for North East should have data bank of all the crimes against North East people and do the analysis for further action. This unit should also monitor investigation/trial stages of the cases against North East people on fortnightly basis.
- (xii) There should be compulsory refresher training for the police personnel who are posted with Special Unit for North East for efficient handling of North East related cases/counseling etc.

- (xiii) All ranks of Delhi Police should be sensitized during basic training, promotional training, specialized training etc. For that purpose the basic training module and syllabi should be redesigned with North East contents.
- (xiv) As far as possible and subject to the overall norms of the department Delhi Police officials from North East may be posted at those places where North Eastern students and employees reside in large numbers.
- (xv) Delhi Police should take pro-active initiative for involving North East people in activities of RWAs, Market Associations, Taxi and Auto Associations etc. The security committees should be functional and must meet every quarter, and it should include a representative of District Magistrate and of the North East people.
- (xvi) Interactive media campaign should be taken up in North Eastern States for highlighting the steps taken by Delhi Police for security of North East people with the help of print/audio visual media.
- (xvii) MHA should facilitate close coordination between Delhi Police and Ministry of DoNER, so that help and assistance as needed and possible are available for proper implementation of many of these initiatives.

#### **5(d) Creating awareness and promoting understanding**

5(d)(1) We have looked at the issue of creating awareness in wider dimensions. Firstly, the aim to make the rich culture, history, geography, tradition, crafts, etc. of the North East known to the people outside.

5(d)(2) Secondly, such awareness creation aims to remove common misunderstanding about the people of the North East. It tries to emphasize on the differences as an integral part of the strength of the Indian nationality.

5(d)(3) Third, the objective is to motivate the important media to move away from stereo-type depiction of the North East to sensitive, understanding and positive descriptions.

5(d)(4) From our interaction with various Ministries of Government of India like I&B, Culture and MHRD, we find that the Ministries are aware of and sensitive to the concerns of the people of the North East. In recent times, a large number of initiatives have been taken by each of the Ministries and notes on such initiatives

have been placed at **Annexure- 14(a) to (c)** for information of all concerned. In addition, we are making a few more suggestions to supplement what has been initiated.

5(d)(5) For this purpose, the Committee wanted to interact and discuss with the senior editors of the newspapers and electronic media as they are the ones who determine the policies of the newspapers/media. **Such a meeting was not possible but we would suggest that MHA/I&B Ministries may suitably convey the Committee's views to them.**

5(d)(6) The committee feels that exposure is essential both ways and actual experiences of living and sharing is more important than just reading or hearing. **We have proposed cultural exchange programmes for students in schools and colleges. Such programmes should be properly organized and funded by the concerned departments. It would be useful if on completion the students are encouraged to write reports or prepare projects as part of their work.**

5(d)(7) The North East has very strong presence of army and Central Armed Police Forces. They come into contact with locals and when they are dispersed they carry their impressions with them. Unfortunately, use of army for civil assistance for long periods in the region and the use of much criticized Armed Forces Special Power Act – which was argued before us as a discriminatory - have often created hiatus between local population and the armed forces. **It is, therefore, essential also to sensitize the armed forces personnel. MHA in consultation with Ministry of Defence should work out the modalities for such sensitization.**

5(d)(8) During our meeting with Delhi Administration, the Chief Secretary had explained the many steps taken by the Administration to provide help, protection and support as well as to sensitize the key functionaries. We have separately recommended measures to link Delhi Administration to the North East Special Police Unit and North East website. **It would go a long way if Delhi Administration could examine the possibility of sensitizing the public service providers at the grass root level, CISF personnel and other security**



**personnel in metro etc., licensing authorities of various public services and so on.**

5(d)(9) The Republic Day parade and the cultural tableau get the greatest attention of the entire nation. We are aware that North East is getting good exposure in this event. It would still be worthwhile to **suggest that effective participation of the North East and imaginative cultural presentation receive special attention. It would also be very useful for the I&B Ministry to especially brief the TV, Radio Commentators covering the event on the most effective way of presenting the North East.**

5(d)(10) The Committee has received quite a few proposals aimed at creating awareness about the North East and also to facilitate cultural exchanges and understanding. We have explained to them that the Committee is not a body for implementation of schemes nor is it a recommending body. However, the Committee did have interaction on the following projects given to it and felt that keeping the overall objective of creating awareness and understanding all worthwhile initiatives should be encouraged:

- (i) A half-marathon run in Delhi on the North East theme
- (ii) A North East train across the country.
- (iii) Books and videos on the North East
- (iv) Concept note for North East travel/tourism magazine.

5(d)(11) Copies of all these proposals are in **Annexure 15 (i) to (iv)**. The MHA officials were advised to send these copies to the Ministry of DoNER for appropriate examination and necessary action. **We would like to mention that we found the intent and the content of these proposals very suitable and worth pursuing. They are innovative and likely to create good impact. There are many other good examples, initiatives which should be encouraged, and Ministry of DoNER should explore the need for taking up suitable schemes for this purpose.**

5(d)(12) As a large number of initiatives have been taken by the Ministries and some more have been recommended by us, it is essential to keep track of implementation of those proposals. **We, therefore, recommend that a nodal officer should be designated in these Ministries particularly in**

**MHRD/Culture/I&B and Sports and Tourism to monitor implementation of the many proposed schemes.** The nodal officer should also have links to Ministry of DoNER/NEC, as well as weblink to the proposed North East Centre data bank.

**5(e) A Visible face of the North East in Delhi.**

5(e)(1) While talking of the concerns of the people of North East, it is necessary to keep in mind that the North East is very diverse and the physical homogeneity of the region hides tremendous diversity. The only generalization that can be made about the NE, it is often said, is that no generalization can be made.

5(e)(2) Within that broad diversity, the Committee tried to find general pattern of experiences of people from the North East. We realized that in Delhi or any other metro there is no visible North East face- Institutions or otherwise. The State Bhawans work independently and the various associations from different States have only a loose common platform. Many of the associations within one State again are based on communities or tribes.

5(e)(3) **The Committee, therefore, would like to recommend the establishment of a North East Centre in Delhi.** We have received many suggestions for facilitating a two way exchange of ideas and information and to create understanding of the culture, lifestyle, and traditions of the North East people. Quite a lot of initiatives have been taken in recent times by various Ministries and other organizations. We have a feeling **that there is a need for sustained, systematic and continuous exposure of the North East to the rest of India and the world.** A question may arise as to why we need another institution. We would like to clarify that while recommending the establishment of the Centre, we are not pushing the existing initiatives to the background. Broadly, at present, there are following types of institutions:-

- a. Purely culture institutes like IGNCA, which partly promote the North East.
- b. Cultural-cum- intellectual initiatives for creating awareness and think tank like the Jamia Centre or the North East Centre in JNU.
- c. Organizations representing the separate States of the North East like the State Bhawans.

5(e)(4) We have felt that there is need to strengthen all such initiatives and to make them broad based. **In the long run, however, the need for a comprehensive organization, which goes beyond all the partial initiatives, was strongly felt. The approach, therefore, should be to strengthen the existing ones in the short run and in the long run to build a comprehensive umbrella organization as outlined below:**

5(e)(5) The Centre should be an autonomous institution preferably in PPP mode with carefully planned, very high level of responsible management. It should be **given a name evocative of the rich culture and tradition of the North East.** It should have the following functions or wings, but the list is only illustrative:-

- i. A comprehensive database and arrangement for networking. A detailed proposal for establishing such database has been placed at **Annexure-10** . The proposed networking should be extended to cover social networking in addition to security networking, with the objective of sharing information and creating bonding with various organizations. **This database centre should be immediately started by DoNER within its existing facilities even before the permanent centre becomes operational.** The Centre should have provision for permanent exhibition and sale of North East handicrafts, handlooms and cuisine. It should be linked to Dilli Haat for this purpose.
- ii. The Centre should also have facilities for cultural performances, dance, theatre, art exhibition. For cultural purposes, the centre should function as an outreach of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.
- iii. It should also have one wing of the extension of the national museum depicting products from the North East which are not on display at the national museum.
- iv. The Centre should have, link to the database facilities for 24x 7 assistance to the North East people in distress. This facility should be linked to the North East police cell as well as to the State Bhawans and also to other prominent NGO Organizations which are scrutinized and approved by the Centre – (a concept note is at **Annexure- 6(d)**).
- v. It should have a continuous orientation programme for new arrivals, on life in the metro cities. The orientation centre should also have

facilities for spoken Hindi classes/Local languages on voluntarily basis. Similarly, facilities should be created where necessary for people to learn languages/dialects of the North East if they wish.

- vi. The Centre should also provide facilities for voluntary registration of people from the North East and create a basic profile. To encourage such registration some incentives may be provided in utilization of the facilities in the centre.
- vii. The Centre should have professional trauma care facility as well as counseling for those who are in distress.
- viii. The centre should provide the first point of contact for legal advice and shall have connection to DSLSA.
- ix. The Centre should also have practical outreach research and documentation on the problems of the people of the North East in Delhi. Such research facilities need not duplicate the existing excellent facilities in institutions like Centre for North East in Jamia Millia, North East Centre in JNU etc., but should be ideally linked to them.

5(e)(6) It has been brought to our notice that a Centre of North Eastern Culture within the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture Government of India is under process. A status note on the centre is placed at **Annexure-16**. It appears to us that the concept of the Centre is much narrower than the one outlined above. The process of development so far seem to have been very bureaucratic. **We would like to recommend that the proposal should be reviewed in the light of our recommendation for a more comprehensive North East Centre and both institutions could be merged.**

#### **5(f) The bonding power of sports**

5(f)(1) The Committee feels that sports can be used as a tool for creating understanding sports also is a binding and bonding factor. North East also has the advantage in having great pool of talents in sports. The Committee, therefore, had a detailed discussion with Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and its officers. The Ministry made a presentation on all the steps that have been initiated for the North East by the Ministry. The presentation is at **Annexure-17**. On the

basis of our discussions with the Ministry, we would like to make the following observations:

- (i) The Ministry has taken up many useful schemes for the North East **which should be given wide publicity.**
- (ii) More important than having the schemes, **is to ensure their proper implementation.** The Committee was informed, for example, that a project worth Rs. 400 crore was being held up for requisite approvals from the State Government. **The Committee, therefore, feels that Ministry of DoNER/North Eastern Council could evolve a system to monitor progress of the Sports Ministry's schemes** in the region and also to coordinate with the State Governments for speedy implementation.
- (iii) During our discussions, the Ministry offered the following:
  - (a) If there are talents in the States who are not covered within the structure of the schemes, they can be taken up for special coaching in special institutions outside the region.
  - (b) The Ministry can **set up a National Institute/Centre of Excellence in the North East in the pattern of the Laxmi Bai National Institute.**
  - (c) The Ministry **would set up two nodal officers to coordinate North East related schemes.**
  - (d) The Ministry **would be willing to sponsor prize money tournaments, if any such tournament could be tied up.**
  - (e) The Ministry also **offered all assistance including subsidies to attract private franchise tournaments to the North East.**
  - (f) The Ministry informed that facilities created during Commonwealth Games in Delhi are available for the communities. They would give wide publicity in the educational institutions. This facility can also be put up in the North East Website.

5(f)(2) In addition to the above measures, the Committee would like to **recommend the following:**

- (i) **All the above** suggestions should be given wide publicity.
- (ii) **The Sports Ministry Website should be linked to the North East Centre Website as proposed by us.**
- (iii) **Ministry of DoNER/North Eastern Council and the Sports Ministry should institutionalize mechanism for review and implementation of the decisions.**
- (iv) In addition, the Committee recommends that the **Ministry should take steps to hold regular national/international events in the North East as such events create greater harmony and better understanding.**
- (v) The **Ministry should**, therefore, review the **status of present facilities** and make an assessment if they are suitable for such events. If not, **one such facility should be created in every state of the North East**, for example, cricket in one, football in another, tennis in somewhere else.
- (vi) Indigenous games of the North East should be promoted.

#### **5(g) Educating the people about the North East**

5(g)(1) One of the most persistent suggestions placed before the Committee was to educate the future generation on the history and culture of the North East by inserting suitable text in the text books. We had detailed discussions with the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) on this issue and officers of MHRD including Secretary, Higher Education, Secretary, Primary Education, UGC, NCERT etc. were present.

5(g)(2) MHRD impressed upon us that the Ministry was aware of the important role played by the education system in creating awareness and in sensitizing the people about the North East. The Ministry assured that they have taken a number of initiatives in this regard. The note received from the Ministry is placed at **Annexure 14B**. MHRD also informed that NCERT had edited text books for secondary level on the basis of recommendations of the Mrinal Miri Committee.

They also informed that the text books at every level from Class III had included adequate mention of the North East.

5(g)(3) During discussions, it was emphasized and generally accepted by the MHRD that the question was not just to put in a few instances of North East history or a few North East heroes in the text books. The idea was to bring in the North East ethos in the entire gamut of education, in a sensible manner and in the context of India. It was felt that suitable innovative ways should be devised to integrate each aspect of the North East into the consciousness of the people outside. Some of the broad agreements that emerged are –

- (a) NCERT would continue to review the matter in the light of wider issues as discussed. The Committee recommends that when the next review takes place, these concerns should be adequately reflected.**
- (b) All teachers training institutes would be advised to make their syllabus** in a way that can sensitize the trainees on the North East.
- (c) The metro universities outside the North East could make projects on North East as mandatory part of course curricula. Even in schools, project work on North East related themes should be built into the system.**
- (d) The Ministry agreed to consider a scheme to select good teachers from the North East to train teachers in training institutions outside North East to sensitize them on the North East.**
- (e) Action taken by the Ministry on these recommendations should be uploaded to a North East link within the Ministry's website.**

5(g)(4) Large migration of students for higher education in Delhi and other metros has been a prominent feature in recent times. One reason for such exodus is the absence of Institutions of excellence in the North East. The Ministry of Human Resources Development placed before the committee all the steps taken by the committee or being contemplated to promote such institutions. Nevertheless, **detailed socio-economic study of the nature of students migration from the North East would be worthwhile as it will provide valuable insight for planning of higher education in the region.**

5(g)(5) Earlier, for example, many students used to Delhi at school level for getting education in institutions like the Delhi Public School. Now, DPS has many

branches/franchise in the North East and presumably it has helped retaining many students within the region. Similarly, many foreign private universities are opening campus in India- and also in the North East. Many private Indian institutions, though not all of them of desired quality and standard have opened centres in the North East.

5(g)(6) Most students come to Delhi because they have a fascination for the brand image of the Delhi University, JNU, St. Stephens, Hindu College etc. A question can be asked, if foreign universities can come and lure students **why can't DU/JNU or even some colleges open campus/centers in the North East.** Horizons of education and learning **systems has changed tremendously and unbelievably in recent times. We believe such benefits in brand, quality and experience that the Delhi institutions provide can be made available in the North East. MHRD/UGC may find it worthwhile to explore such out of the box solutions in the context of huge migration of students from the North East.**

#### **5(h) The rich culture of the North East as a means of integration**

5(h)(1) The North East is a rich mosaic of culture. Culture can play an important role in bridging gaps in understanding. Presentation of North East culture has been mostly stereotype – ignoring the rich variety, depth and very modern imageries. The Committee had a meeting with the Ministry of Culture to understand its role in the matter.

5(h)(2) The Ministry presented all the steps taken by it and also mentioned the efforts to popularise North East Culture through the Zonal Centres. It also mentioned that many schemes were delayed in implementation, like the project of Science City in Guwahati, and proposed Buddhist Cultural Institute in Arunachal Pradesh for matters resting with State Governments. The Committee would like to make the following suggestions:

- i. **For speedy implementation of projects, MHA, DONER, Min of Culture should evolve some mechanism of monitoring and coordination. Even NEC can help monitoring locally with the State Government. As this issue has come up in respect of other Ministries also DONER should examine the issue very carefully and**



device some pragmatic mechanism for coordination with all Ministries on implementation of schemes in the North East.

- ii. To improve perception about the North East, the cultural programmes should also target the lower and middle class in metros. The ongoing programmes generally are considered to be elitist. The zonal Cultural Centres could consider organising such cultural festivals in selected RWAs areas every year.
- iii. While many ad hoc cultural activities on North East take place – and they should continue – it is felt that in Delhi (as also in other metros) one major festival should be organised on fixed date every year. NDMC had offered to organise it, and the Delhi Municipal Organisation also expressed willingness. NDMC had suggested that Pragati Maidan as venue. MHA, Ministry of Culture, Min. Of Tourism and DONER should jointly sponsor and make it a yearly mega event and put it in the National, International Calendar of Festivals.
- iv. All the North Eastern States should also have a Calendar of Cultural events in Delhi and other Metros, as well as within the State – preferably on a fixed date every year.

**5(i) Promoting Tourism as a means of creating awareness and understanding**

5(i)(1) Tourism is a very useful means for creating more awareness about people and places. In the process of creating awareness it also creates income and employment to the local people.

5(i)(2) The North East has a great comparative advantage in tourism resources. The region really reflects what modern tourists look for, i.e. having unique experience. It is a pity that tourism growth in the region is still dismal. The would not like to go into great details about the potential of tourism and would only like to make a few generic suggestions purely in tune with the mandate of the Committee. **These suggestions may be taken up by Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of DoNER for implementation.**

- (i) The revised **and redesigned Incredible India campaign should have a special focus on North East preferably with a proper branding.**
- (ii) The North Eastern Council had prepared a Master Plan for Tourism Development of the North East, which, it is reported, is languishing. **A strong monitoring of its implementation by a High Level Committee should be taken up and projects identified in the Master Plan should be made eligible for priority funding.**
- (iii) Tourism is a private sector driven industry and therefore the Ministry of Tourism/Ministry of DoNER should take steps to ensure that the private sector play a lead role. It is necessary to involve **prominent tour operators of the country in promoting the North East by arranging intensive visit to the region and then follow up by aggressive marketing. Ministry of Tourism/Ministry of DoNER may take up such schemes for promotion of North East.** We believe that this way of promoting Tourism in the North East may be the effective way.
- (iv) Focused media exposure of North East in the tourism sector is presently missing. **The Committee received a sample of a project (Annexure 18 ) by a person from the North East,** aimed to project North East tourism in a professional, systematic, continuous manner to the outside world. The Committee feels that any worthwhile initiative should be looked into and encouraged. The Committee suggests that **the Ministry of Tourism/Ministry of DoNER may look at the concept for necessary action within their policy frame work.**
- (v) Tourism is an ideal instrument for creating understanding and harmony. The North Eastern States should be encouraged to promote tourism in a focused manner. For this purpose, the Committee feels that the **continuation of the LTC scheme for North East would go a long way in creating awareness.**
- (vi) As Bollywood plays such a prominent role in forming images in minds of people, DoNER Ministry should consider a **suitable scheme of incentives for encouraging to use North East locales**

**for Bollywood pictures.** Such incentives may also encourage popular serials in TVs to look at the North East, even to include North East stories in such serials.

(vii) The Ministry of DoNER should sponsor a **massive campaign in collaboration with MHA, Ministry of Tourism and National Integration Council on 'Understanding Your North East'**. It should be carefully designed for maximum impact and properly scrutinized for factual authenticity.

(viii) Ministry of DoNER should also try to associate respectable and popular icons from the field of culture, sports, music, etc. to be their brand Ambassadors for the North East to promote this campaign.

#### **5(j) Information & Broadcasting and Media to focus on the North East**

5(j)(1) Considering that media in the present age is the most important instrument for creating and spreading awareness the Committee had a detailed discussion with the I&B Ministry. The Ministry made a detailed presentation on all the steps taken by all the agencies of the Ministry. The Committee appreciated the awareness of the Ministry about the problems of the North Eastern States. We would like to make the following further suggestions :

- i. **The steps taken by the Ministry should be given due publicity. For this purpose, among other things, creation of a North East website was suggested.**
- ii. **Timely implementation of many of the initiation is important. Therefore, there should be regular and systematic interaction for coordination between MHA / I&B and DONER.**
- iii. **While the DD Channels / AIR within North East are serving a very useful purpose it is important for the media to reach out to put the North East on the National centre stage. How to sensitize the national media about the North East is something for I&B to consider-- at the least prime coverage should be given to the North East Region in the media facilities under its control. It should provide uplink facilities to all the States. The police forces in these States should be provided with O.B. vans.**

- iv. **The Ministry assists 170 Community Radio stations across the country. They are very useful media for creating awareness. As I&B Ministry financially supports them, it can ensure that North East inputs are carried by these stations. I&B, MOT, DONER could jointly create materials for such sensitization.**
- v. **Resources from the North East should be selected as visible faces in the visual media.**
- vi. **National Quiz Programme of DD/AIR, or talent shows should consciously try to bring inputs from the North East including personnel.**
- vii. **Some buildings/institutions of public importance should be named after North East landmarks – rivers, hills, tribes, icons.**

#### **5(k) Role of the Private Sector**

5(k)(1) The Committee has suggested a number of measures to create awareness about the North East and also about sensitization of the service providers about the North East. We tried to expand the horizon of activities to the private sector as well and to interact with industry organizations to see if the process could be carried across the country by the private sector. Because of paucity of time we could not have wide ranging discussions with all but had a meeting with the representative of FICCI. **We recommend the following initiatives offered by FICCI and hope that MHA and Ministry of DoNER would carry this initiative to other organizations like CII, ASSOCHAM, PHD CHAMBER etc.:**

- i) **The industry news letters can regularly focus on the concerns of the North East to the members of the associations.**
- ii) **FICCI can place brochure/materials on the North East if such materials are provided by Ministry of DoNER in each conference that they hold across the country as part of the background materials.**
- iii) **MHA or the Ministry of DoNER should design some attractive readable materials on ‘Understanding Our North East’. It will be even better if it could be linked up**

**with Ministry of Tourism so that awareness is followed by experience of the tourists.** Such materials should be provided to the industry organizations for action as above.

iv) Private Sector can also play a very important role in recruitment of youth from the North East. Industry organizations can sensitize their members suitably on this social responsibility.

### **5(l) Role of the Universities**

5(l)(1) Universities have a very important role to play in the process of mutual understanding. While the tensions are less pronounced in the academic environment, there is still much to be done.

5(l)(2) Delhi University has been proactive in initiating the following activities which could be also taken up by other Universities in the Metros of India.

- i. Promoting Cultural awareness through Orientation sessions for students, where North East students should be encouraged to participate.
- ii. Setting up of a Website for information and guidance.
- iii. Appointment of Nodal officer for North East in every college
- iv. Setting up a North East Cell in the University.
- v. Setting up admission help desks.
- vi. Conducting Security coordination meetings.
- vii. Organising Self defense classes along with promoting participation in **NCC and NSS** activities
- viii. Programs to organise Street plays on NE region of India.

5(l)(3) The Vice Chancellor, Delhi University also shared his desire to take a train of 1000 students to the North East for cultural experience.

5(l)(4) Jawaharlal Lal Nehru University (JNU) also has an elaborate grievance redressal mechanism.

5(l)(5) The CNES (Centre for North East Studies) at Jamia Millia has been doing commendable work on research and sensitization about the North East such endeavour should be spread to other Universities. Similarly the North East India

study program at JNU is another welcome initiative. They are doing courses on North East for UG students – catering to the knowledge domain and prolonged process of engaging with students from the North East. Such study Centres could be made more proactive and given new directions to delve into and documenting the History of the North East India which at present is focused only on the issues of secessionism and insurgency. There are other more interesting aspects of history that have linked the region to the rest of India starting from interpretation of the events of the Mahabharata to the presence of the Moghuls as also the period of British rule culminating in World War –II. There could also be documentation of Folk tales of the North East. The Universities can provide the necessary resources of manpower and framework otherwise for writing appropriate books on the North East that may eventually be reading material at graduate, Postgraduate and even PhD levels.

5(l)(6) Programs for students of Universities in the Metros to go for projects in North East region should also be initiated with the help of UGC.

5(l)(7) The Universities could also play a proactive role in recruiting eligible people from the North East region to the faculty and various categories of post in the Universities. The Delhi University at present reportedly has about 4000 vacancies to be filled up.

5(l)(8) The Madras University with the support of the Tamil Nadu Government has been proactive in preventing ragging in the colleges and institutions. Such policies should be adopted by all other Universities.

5(l)(9) The Universities should have orientation programme for the students of the North East.

## **6. What People from North East have to do**

### **6(a) Orientation**

6(a)(1) The different life style of the people from the North Eastern States has been repeatedly mentioned by almost every one as one of the factors causing misunderstanding and clashes with other sections. While the Committee has made many recommendations on the primary requirement of sensitizing the people of the metropolitan cities about the life, culture, and traditions of the people

of the North East, it is equally essential for the people of the North East coming to work or study in metropolitan cities to be sensitive to the environment in which they live and work. **We have suggested primarily three way efforts to adjust this basic requirement –**

- (i) education and sensitization of the people before arrival and after arrival in the metros about ways of living and adjust to the culture in which they have to live and work;**
- (ii) greater efforts for interaction with the local communities in which they live and the need for involving the police and district administration to facilitate such two way interactions for a healthy living atmosphere;**
- (iii) more North Eastern cultural and social activities in RWAs and greater participation of North Eastern people at local functions and activities.**

6(a)(2) We understand that an earlier attempt by the Delhi Police to sensitize the people from the North East about “Dos and Don’t” did not receive very favourable response. Perhaps, those initiatives require a relook. Nevertheless in tackling wider issues of the concerns of the North Eastern people, and in trying to find a solution, it is essential to have an open mind, a pragmatic approach and appreciation of the realities. In such an approach, the greatest danger is to adopt an “ostrich syndrome’ which should be meticulously avoided. Many North East groups have emphasized, in appreciation of the overall issues, that it is important for the people of the North East not to accentuate the wrong image or perception of the local people by indulging in acts they do not indulge in even back home- like open drinking, late night loud parties and singing disturbing other residents. **We, therefore, recommend that a pragmatic orientation and proper follow up by the North Eastern communities should be an important part of addressing the concerns of the North Eastern people.**

#### **6(b) Language and Communication difficulties**

6(b)(1) Many organizations and individuals have mentioned before the Committee that inability to communicate in Hindi often causes misunderstanding and resultant problems. As a very large number of people from the North East come out in search of jobs at lower levels and live in areas where the medium of

communication is primarily Hindi, a good knowledge of spoken Hindi would facilitate greater interaction, and will ease the process of understanding. The Committee heard many stories of how the people from the North East are asked to pay admission fees etc. as applicable to foreigners in Museums and other tourist places. Most of these misunderstandings can be eased if the people can communicate in Hindi on the local language.

6(b)(2) **The Committee feels that pragmatic, need based facilities for learning spoken Hindi or regional languages should be created in the Metros for those who feel the need for such facilities.**

### **6(c) Role of the State Bhawans**

6(c)(1) We had a detailed discussion with the Resident Commissioners of the North Eastern States to understand how they view the problem and what role they play. Some of them informed that they had very good coordination and the Bhawans are used for regular community meetings or to discuss problems. When some incidents had taken place in 2009, Mizoram Bhawan said, they had provided shelters to the victims and also assisted in getting proper help.

6(c)(2) Most people we interacted with feel that the state Bhawans should be the point of contact in case of problems and in fact they should play the role that embassies play in foreign countries. The overwhelming feeling was that they were not playing this role. **We would like to make following recommendations:**

- (i) Considering that a very large number of people are migrating from the North East, it is essential **for the Bhawans/State Governments to play the role of informing and educating the people on their arrival.** For example, those in search of jobs or seeking admissions in institutions need proper certificates about residence, caste, tribe etc. People should be informed about these essential requirements preferably before they leave their home states.
- (ii) The Bhawans **should be available for contact to get information and advice after arrival.**
- (iii) For this purpose, **each Bhawan should have a nodal officer for public affairs and his contact number etc. should be placed in the links that we have recommended.**



- (iv) As the Bhawans generally work in isolation, a North East perspective and North East combined effort is often missing. **The North East Resident Commissioners should make a formal North East platform. There should be periodic reviews among themselves** and also networking with the North East police cell as well as with the proposed North East centre.
- (v) This North East forum **should also have periodic meetings with the nodal officers of the universities in a systematic manner to provide assistance** to the students at the time of admissions.
- (vi) We have seen for example in Bangalore and in Munirka, how wrong reporting or rumours can cause serious damage to community relations and lead to law and order problems. Quick response to handle such unconfirmed rumours is essential to help the law enforcing agencies. **The North East Forum in collaboration with Ministry of DoNER should set up such a mechanism for quick response.**
- (vii) **The Bhawans should provide relief and rehabilitation facilities for people of the State in distress.**

#### **6(d) Organizing workers on North East platform**

6(d)(1) A major problem faced by the North East workers in the Metros is exploitation by their employers. There are also very few mechanisms today to redress their grievances and the individuals, far from their homes, are often totally helpless to stand up for their rights when they are mistreated and harassed. The Helpline cannot cover all aspects of assistance that are needed by the large population of NE people in the Metros.

6(d)(2) This matter was discussed with the Delhi Administration where the Commissioner/Secretary labour clearly stated that any grievance brought before them could be looked into and appropriate relief can be given. The North East Special Police Unit should give due publicity to this possibility.

6(d)(3) Delhi Administration also mentioned that action under relevant labour laws would be facilitated if the workers from the North East could form some organization/professional association enabling them to redress their grievances under the relevant provisions of the existing laws. Such a move will go a long way

in protecting their interest. **Such organizations can be affiliated to the National level trade bodies thereby strengthening the integration process.** The problem of how to organise them and how to provide financial or other assistance for funds for the initial process of organisation could be examined by the Labour Department/Ministry.

6(d)(4) Information about procedures, legal recourse available etc. should be disseminated.

6(d)(5) The North East Forum of Resident Commissioners could examine how such organization could be formed and how the State Governments can facilitate it.

## **7. Accommodation and problems of rent**

7.1 The problem of accommodation of the student as well as women employees and exploitation by landlords in hiring accommodation were persistently mentioned as serious problems. The Committee would like to make the following recommendations:

- i. The present accommodation created by Ministry of DoNER at Jasola is underutilized. There are apparently problems in the rules and procedures prescribed. All the issues should be immediately looked into and appropriate measures should be taken to properly to utilize the existing accommodation and its management streamlined.**
- ii. A proposal for 500 room accommodation in JNU is pending approval. JNU authorities are all ready to implement the project. It should be immediately sanctioned. Similar proposals from Dayal Singh College and Hindu College are also pending. Ministry of DoNER should look into all these proposals and coordinate action to remove bottlenecks.**
- iii. Delhi University Authorities, NDMC and Municipal corporation of Delhi have all expressed their willingness to put up suitable hostels for students/working women etc. where North East could be given appropriate reservation. We suggest that MHA and DoNER should take the lead in coordinating with the**

**Ministries like Urban Development to find out suitable land and start construction.**

7.2 So far as problems of landlords and exploitations are concerned, the Committee feels that facilities offered by the Government of Delhi for redressal of such grievances should be widely made known to everyone. The Chief Secretary of Delhi informed the Committee that under the Bhagidari Scheme the local administration holds periodic meetings with RWAs for discussing such issues and sorting them out amicably. We have **proposed that such meetings should be made a part of the system and local police should also be involved in the interaction. It was mentioned that response of the North East organizations to such meetings was not adequate. The North East network should ensure that the meetings are widely published and adequately attended.**

**8. Need for Coordination**

8.1 Of late various Government agencies have been sensitive to the problem of the North East and many departments have come out with many programmes, schemes and suggestions. During our interaction with the Government of Delhi, we came to know that the Government has a Nodal Officer in the Secretariat and also at the district level to take care of the grievances of the people of the North East.

8.2 We also learnt that all the Universities- Delhi University, JNU and Jamia Millia have their own mechanism for redressal of their grievances. **The National Commission for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, during discussions agreed with us that its role, mandate and activities need to be widely disseminated. The commission also agreed to establish a system of coordination with police in some metros and also take initiatives to educate and inform about the Commission's activities.**

8.3 The Committee felt that often such good initiatives were made in isolation and are not widely known. The Committee feels that there is a great need, firstly to give wide publicity to various measures undertaken by them and secondly, to ensure that such initiatives and activities are linked to other initiatives of similar nature by the Police and the Government so that the necessary information and assistance are available to those who need them. **Every institution/organization**

**providing services/ security to the people of North East in Delhi and other Metros and having any institutional mechanism should link them to the North East database network proposed by us. Till the time that the North East database network is operational, the North East Police Cell should provide the linkages to all such agencies.**

8.4 During our discussion the Ministry of Tribal Affairs we were informed that urban areas are also coming under their focus. **Ministry of Tribal Affairs should reach out to the North East communities in urban areas for providing the necessary facilities. A nodal officer should be designated for the purpose, who should upload information in the North East Website.**

## **9. People's Representatives can lead the way**

9.1 In our federal democracy the voice of the people is carried most effectively by the Public representatives – the MP's. The committee had a detailed discussion with the North East MPs' forum and received very valuable suggestions from them.

9.2 The Committee has made many recommendations for the security and welfare of the people from the North East living in the Metropolitan areas and elsewhere outside North East, on its understanding and appreciation of the issues after wide ranging discussions.

9.3 We believe that if the respected MP's keep vigilant watch and monitor through various democratic fora, implementation of the recommendation will be effective.

9.4 The North East MP's forum can perhaps systematically take a lead in pursuing the redressal of the concerns of the people from the North East.

## **10. Implementation**

10.1 The Committee is happy to note that Delhi Police and various ministries have taken a number of steps to address the problems of the North East people. We have also recommended a number of steps to supplement these initiatives.

Often, it is felt by the general public that good initiatives of the government remain only on paper. **An affective monitoring mechanism therefore should be built into the system. We recommend that a high level committee should be set up under the Home Ministry with representatives of Ministry of DoNER, Ministry of Home Affairs, Resident Commissioners, Delhi Police and suitable representation from the Civil Society Organizations working for the concerns of the North East people.**

10.2 **The Committee should have powers to ensure implementation and the powers and functions should be clearly laid down. The powers given to the Committee should also enable it to fix accountability and the concerned Ministries should act upon the decisions of the Committee within a specified time. The committee should meet at least once a quarter and review the implementation of the many initiatives.**

10.3 **The nodal officer from police proposed to be placed in the MHA should be the convener and the member secretary of the committee.**

10.4 **The results of review by the committee should be uploaded in the network of North East Police Cell and later on should be linked to be North East network recommended by us.**

# 11. EXTRACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Grouped on the basis of priority showing implementation agency

For the purpose of priority we define Immediate, Short and Long term periods are as follows:

- Immediate – to be implemented within a period of 6 months to 1 year.
- Short term – to be implemented within a period of 1 to 1½ years.
- Long term – to be implemented within a period of 1½ years to 3 years.

## **IMMEDIATE**

### **11.1 Various kinds of concerns of the people from the North East**

11.1.1 The Committee is not aware of any detailed study as indicated by the Hon'ble High Court being undertaken so far. To have a long term solution of this problem, the Committee feels that implementation of the Hon'ble High Court's directives will go a long way in dealing with the matter.

(Page -7)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs)

### **11.2 Legal Measures**

11.2.1 As pointed out by the Hon'ble High Court, it is beyond doubt that there is need for a law that covers the type of experiences that the North East people have. The direction of the Hon'ble High Court would be the practical solution to the problem. The committee recommends that immediate and serious examination as per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court is taken up.

(Page-20)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of Law & Justice)

11.2.2 The committee recommends this amendment of Section 153 of IPC as the second alternative.

11.2.3 The Committee recommends that either a new law should be promulgated as directed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi or IPC should be amended- in that order of preference. Whatever legislation is decided upon should have among other things the following specific provisions –

- i. The offence should be cognizable and non-bailable.
- ii. The investigation of the FIR should be completed compulsorily in 60 days by a Special Squad, investigated by a police officer not below the rank of Deputy SP/ACP. A special prosecutor should be appointed to handle all such cases of atrocities.
- iii. The trial should be completed in 90 days.

(Page - 23)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of Law & Justice)

### **11.3 Facilities for legal assistance**

#### **11.3.1 Committee recommends the following steps:**

- i. Panel of lawyers for legal assistance and consultation through – mobile phone, e-mail, Whats App etc.
- ii. NE lawyers practicing at Delhi at different Courts may be given the preference to form a panel 50 percent members of panel may be women lawyers.
- iii. Legal awareness training for the North East Representatives from eight North East States.
- iv. Legal awareness campaign in vulnerable areas like – Munirka, Safdarjung Enclave, Janakpuri, Kotla Mubarakpur, Malviya Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar, Gandhi Vihar, Chirag Delhi, Gurgaon, etc.
- v. Lecture on legal rights during freshers meet at Delhi University, Jamia University and JNU Campus.
- vi. Dissemination of information on legal rights to NE youths through pamphlets, brochures, CDs etc.
- vii. Dedicated Facebook page / Whats App connectivity for providing legal assistance through social media.
- viii. Pro-active initiative for victim compensation and monetary assistance for to and fro journeys from North East
- ix. Monthly review meetings on action taken on North East youth related problems / complaints and further course of action.
- x. Appointing North East practising lawyers as DLSA member as well as Coordinator for North East people on the behalf of DLSA.
- xi. The DLSA assistance is available only for the people below the poverty line. Such assistance should be available for people of the North East above the poverty line also in suitable cases.

(Page – 25-26)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of Law & Justice)

### **11.4 Strengthening Law Enforcement Agencies**

11.4.1 The review taken by the DoNER Ministry should be made a part of the system of regular review.

(Page – 31)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of DoNER)



## 11.5 Special Police Initiatives

11.5.1 A large number of initiatives have been taken up. They need to be constantly monitored and followed up. At least for sometime one nodal officer of the rank of IGP should be placed in MHA for this purpose. His duties and functions should be clear and sufficient powers should be given to make him effective.

11.5.2 The North East Special Police Unit should have the power of a police station so that at one point officer in charge could register cases and give directions to various police stations instead of routing it through various officers who have jurisdiction over those police stations. Home Department of GNCTD of Delhi should issue notification giving jurisdiction to North East Special Police Unit for whole Delhi for investigation, arrest etc.

11.5.3 It has also been felt that justice to be effective needs to be dispensed promptly. A few cases settled quickly with deterrent punishment would go a long way in preventing recurrence of such incidents. Therefore, the Committee would strongly suggest creation of Fast Track Courts for handling the cases relating to the North East people, particularly those which are racially motivated and heinous crimes against North East women and children.

11.5.4 However, we also feel that having designated courts would give some urgency and importance to the matter and may be appropriately considered.

- (i) Specially designated public prosecutors should be appointed for cases involving people from the North East. They should also be properly trained and sensitized.
- (ii) However, we feel that creation of a special squad supervised by the North East Special Police Unit would go a long way in speedy justice in criminal cases. The squad could be manned by the people specially selected for such purpose and could be specially trained and sensitized about the problems of the North East people.
- (iii) Relief Corpus Funds for helping heinous crime victims. Expenses for dead body disposal, attending Court from North Eastern States to Delhi, honorarium for social workers.
- (iv) Counseling Centre with Delhi Police Special Unit for North East Region at Nanakpura, Delhi may be made properly functional to involve North

East NGOs in its operation on the pattern of counseling of Special Police Unit for Women & Children of Delhi Police.

- (v) Empanelling of lawyers preferably from North East for legal counseling of the cases/trials of North East crime victims.

11.5.5 It is learnt that a proposal for creation of 318 posts for the Special Unit for North East region, is pending with the Government. This should be sanctioned immediately and special recruitment may be carried out from the North Eastern States. It is learnt that earlier recruitment drive in North East was not very successful. Therefore, we suggest that the following measures may be taken in all future recruitment in the North East

- i. North East the special cell should have, on the pattern of Special Police Unit for Women and Children (SPUWC) Unit the requisite logistics/infrastructure having jurisdiction all over Delhi. It should have :-
  - North East officers in visible positions. Other officers should be specially trained or sensitized on North East issues.
  - Designated Public Prosecutors preferably North East lawyers.
  - Time bound investigation within 90 days.
  - CFSL (Central Forensic Science Laboratory) may be advised to take immediate action in sensitive North East related cases and give reports at the earliest.
- ii. The Special Helpline for North East youths, 1093 should synchronize with PCR 100 number so that Complaints of North East people may be brought to the notice of DCP/SPUWC for North East and Chief Coordinator for North East. This number should be the helpline for North East in every Metro.
- iii. Delhi Police Special Unit for North East should have data bank of all the crimes against North East people and do the analysis for further action. This unit should also monitor investigation/trial stages of the cases against North East people on fortnightly basis.
- iv. There should be compulsory refresher training for the police personnel who are posted with Special Unit for North East for efficient handling of North East related cases/counseling etc.

- v. All ranks of Delhi Police should be sensitized during basic training, promotional training, specialized training etc. For that purpose the basic training module and syllabi should be redesigned with North East contents.
- vi. As far as possible and subject to the overall norms of the department Delhi Police officials from North East may be posted at those places where North Eastern students and employees reside in large numbers.
- vii. Delhi Police should take pro-active initiative for involving North East people in activities of RWAs, Market Associations, Taxi and Auto Associations etc. The security committees should be functional and must meet every quarter, and it should include a representative of District Magistrate and of the North East people.
- viii. Interactive media campaign should be taken up in North Eastern States for highlighting the steps taken by Delhi Police for security of North East people with the help of print/audio visual media.
- ix. MHA should facilitate close coordination between Delhi Police and Ministry of DoNER, so that help and assistance as needed and possible are available for proper implementation of many of these initiatives.

(Page- 31-35)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of DoNER)

## **11.6 Some more routine action that police should take**

11.6.1 Troublesome streets, by lanes, localities and neighbourhoods to be identified and mapped out by Police in their respective jurisdictions.

11.6.2 Patrolling and beat visits to be regular.

11.6.3 Beat constables should be sensitized on how to collect intelligence regarding presence of racial tension and racial miscreants within their beats.

11.6.4 Intelligence briefing and de-briefing regarding racial crime to be done daily by the Station House Officers and substance of the briefings to be entered in the Station House Diary.

11.6.5 A Rowdy Register to be maintained at every police station in which names, photos, phone number and address of Bad Characters and racial and communal zealots may be entered. Such class of people should be required to go and sign

the Attendance Register at the police stations so that they know that they are under the watchful eyes of the police.

11.6.6 One or two police stations to be designated as 'Northeast Nodal Police Stations' with responsibility to entertain each and every complaint brought by the Northerners.

11.6.7 Every case reported at police station to be registered without fail, FIR issued and a copy given to the complainants in addition to an entry made in the Station House Diary whenever racial complaints are brought. The case or cases may be later transferred to the jurisdictional police station if necessary.

11.6.8 Police to take suo motto case/issue reported in media or at the police station including rumors; and they should investigate about their authenticities promptly and take proactive steps to prevent occurrence of racial disturbance. Failure of the police to give importance to rumors and non verification of their veracity was the main reason for un-necessary panic followed by exodus of Northeasterners from Bangalore in 2013.

11.6.9 If there are case and counter case on similar issue or incident two cases may be registered and investigation taken up side by side; and the finding either for or against decided later on. The question of jurisdiction should never cause delay in taking police action.

11.6.10 Investigation of every case of racial nature to be taken up by an officer of the rank of ASP/Dy. SP in order to enhance the degree of importance given to such cases.

11.6.11 The investigation should not take more than 3 months or 90 days.

11.6.12 Fast tract courts should be established exclusively for taking trial of such cases and the trial not to take more than 3 months.

11.6.13 A special Prosecutor to be appointed to handle all such cases.

11.6.14 Police should not try to effect compromise if not asked to do so.

11.6.15 In all cases the accused should be bounded for good behaviour under section 107 and 110 Cr PC.

11.6.16 Data of racial cases reported all over the country in general and cases concerning the Northeasterners in particular may be maintained at such cell offices.

11.6.17 All records pertaining to racial cases to be kept at the National Crime Record Bureau in Delhi for a period of 3 years.

## **11.7 The bonding power of sports**

11.7.1 The Committee would like to recommend the following:

- (i) All the above suggestions should be given wide publicity.
- (ii) The Sports Ministry Website should be linked to the North East Centre Website as proposed by us.
- (iii) Ministry of DoNER/North Eastern Council and the Sports Ministry should institutionalize mechanism for review and implementation of the decisions.
- (iv) In addition, the Committee recommends that the Ministry should take steps to hold regular national/international events in the North East as such events create greater harmony and better understanding.
- (v) The Ministry should, therefore, review the status of present facilities and make an assessment if they are suitable for such events. If not, one such facility should be created in every state of the North East, for example, cricket in one, football in another, tennis in somewhere else.
- (vi) Indigenous games of the North East should be promoted.

(Page- 42)

(Action: Ministry of DoNER/North East Council/Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs)

## **11.8 Educating the people about the North East**

11.8.1 NCERT would continue to review the matter in the light of wider issues as discussed. The Committee recommends that when the next review takes place, these concerns should be adequately reflected.

11.8.2 Action taken by the Ministry on these recommendations should be uploaded to a North East link within the Ministry's website.

11.8.3 Nevertheless, detailed socio-economic study of the nature of students migration from the North East would be worthwhile as it will provide valuable insight for planning of higher education in the region.

(Page – 43)

(Action: Ministry of Human Resource and Development/ University Grants Commission)

## **11.9 Information & Broadcasting and Media to focus on the North East**

11.9.1 The steps taken by the Ministry should be given due publicity. For this purpose, among other things, creation of a North East website was suggested.

11.9.2 Timely implementation of many of the initiation is important. Therefore, there should be regular and systematic interaction for coordination between MHA / I&B and DoNER.

11.9.3 While the DD Channels / AIR within North East *are* serving a very useful purpose it is important for the media to reach out to put the North East on the National centre stage. How to sensitize the national media about the North East is something for I&B to consider-- at the least prime coverage should be given to the North East Region in the media facilities under its control. It should provide uplink facilities to all the States. The police forces in these States should be provided with O.B. vans.

(Page – 47)

(Action: Ministry of DoNER/Ministry of Information & Broadcasting/  
Ministry of Tourism)

## **11.10 Role of the State Bhawans**

11.10.1 Considering that a very large number of people are migrating from the North East, it is essential for the Bhawans/State Governments to play the role of informing and educating the people on their arrival. For example, those in search of jobs or seeking admissions in institutions need proper certificates about residence, caste, tribe etc. People should be informed about these essential requirements preferably before they leave their home states.

11.10.2 The Bhawans should be available for contact to get information and advice after arrival.

11.10.3 For this purpose, each Bhawan should have a nodal officer for public affairs and his contact number etc. should be placed in the links that we have recommended.

11.10.4 As the Bhawans generally work in isolation, a North East perspective and North East combined effort is often missing. The North East Resident Commissioners should make a formal North East platform. There should be

periodic reviews among themselves and also networking with the North East police cell as well as with the proposed North East centre.

11.10.5 This North East forum should also have periodic meetings with the nodal officers of the universities in a systematic manner to provide assistance to the students at the time of admissions.

11.10.6 We have seen for example in Bangalore and in Munirka, how wrong reporting or rumours can cause serious damage to community relations and lead to law and order problems. Quick response to handle such unconfirmed rumours is essential to help the law enforcing agencies. The North East Forum in collaboration with Ministry of DoNER should set up such a mechanism for quick response.

11.10.7 The Bhawans should provide relief and rehabilitation facilities for people of the State in distress.

(Page – 52-53)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of DoNER/State Government)

#### **11.11 Accommodation and problems of rent**

11.11.1 The present accommodation created by Ministry of DoNER at Jasola is underutilized. There are apparently problems in the rules and procedures prescribed. All the issues should be immediately looked into and appropriate measures should be taken to properly to utilize the existing accommodation and its management streamlined.

11.11.2 A proposal for 500 room accommodation in JNU is pending approval. JNU authorities are all ready to implement the project. It should be immediately sanctioned. Similar proposals from Dayal Singh College and Hindu College are also pending. Ministry of DoNER should look into all these proposals and coordinate action to remove bottlenecks.

11.11.3 Delhi University Authorities, NDMC and Municipal corporation of Delhi have all expressed their willingness to put up suitable hostels for students/working women etc. where North East could be given appropriate reservation. We suggest

that MHA and DoNER should take the lead in coordinating with the Ministries like Urban Development to find out suitable land and start construction.

11.11.4 Under the Bhagidari Scheme the local administration holds periodic meetings with RWAs for discussing such issues and sorting them out amicably. We have proposed that such meetings should be made a part of the system and local police should also be involved in the interaction. It was mentioned that response of the North East organizations to such meetings was not adequate. The North East network should ensure that the meetings are widely published and adequately attended.

(Page – 54-55)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of DoNER/State Government/  
Ministry of Urban Development/GNCTD)

#### 11.12 **Implementation**

11.12.1 An affective monitoring mechanism therefore should be built into the system. We recommend that a high level committee should be set up under the Home Ministry with representatives of Ministry of DoNER, Ministry of Home Affairs, Resident Commissioners, Delhi Police and suitable representation from the Civil Society Organizations working for the concerns of the North East people.

11.12.2 The Committee should have powers to ensure implementation and the powers and functions should be clearly laid down. The powers given to the Committee should also enable it to fix accountability and the concerned Ministries should act upon the decisions of the Committee within a specified time. The committee should meet at least once a quarter and review the implementation of the many initiatives.

11.12.3 The nodal officer from police proposed to be placed in the MHA should be the convener and the member secretary of the committee.

11.12.4 The results of review by the committee should be uploaded in the network of North East Police Cell and later on should be linked to be North East network recommended by us.

(Page – 57)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs)



## **SHORT TERM**

### **11.13 Legal Measures**

11.13.1 We have recommended use of the Information Technology system for reaching out to the largest number of affected people. In addition, a booklet should be prepared containing all the provisions, how to register cases, where to go in case of difficulties and how to monitor that the system operates effectively.

11.13.2 Along with all the legal steps that can be taken, the Committee feels that sensitizing the law enforcing agencies about the people and the culture of the North East will go a long way in creating a suitable atmosphere

(Page – 24-25)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of Law & Justice)

### **11.14 Strengthening Law Enforcement Agencies**

11.14.1 The Committee would like to suggest a process of comprehensive, computerized database for keeping track of the people from the North East. This recommendation is part of a wider proposal for creating a North East Centre covering many other aspects of the problems that are being discussed.

(Page- 27)

11.14.2 If the witness records evidences before a Magistrate, he is not required to again go for examination by the police station. This fact needs to be widely circulated and brought to the notice of all concerned including the DLSA.

11.14.3 The Commission also expressed its willingness to consider proposal for financial support in such cases. The modalities for making such support available to the persons who require it needs to be worked out.

(Page- 29)

11.14.4 We recommend that a comprehensive, clear, readable booklet, not just compilation of all government orders on all major instructions on steps taken by Police for redressing the problems of the people from the North East, be prepared, printed and widely circulated. Every Police Station must have a copy of it readily available.

(Page- 31)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of DoNER)

## 11.15 Creating awareness and promoting understanding

11.15.1 The Committee wanted to interact and discuss with the senior editors of the newspapers and electronic media as they are the ones who determine the policies of the newspapers/media. Such a meeting was not possible but we would suggest that MHA/I&B Ministries may suitably convey the Committee's views to them.

(Page – 36)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

11.15.2 We have proposed cultural exchange programmes for students in schools and colleges. Such programmes should be properly organized and funded by the concerned departments. It would be useful if on completion the students are encouraged to write reports or prepare projects as part of their work.

(Page – 36)

(Action: Ministry of DoNER/Ministry of Human Resource Department)

11.15.3 It is, therefore, essential also to sensitize the armed forces personnel. MHA in consultation with Ministry of Defence should work out the modalities for such sensitization.

(Page – 36)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of Defence)

11.15.4 It would go a long way if Delhi Administration could examine the possibility of sensitizing the public service providers at the grass root level, CISF personnel and other security personnel in metro etc., licensing authorities of various public services and so on.

(Page – 36-37)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/GNCTD)

11.15.5 The Republic Day parade and the cultural tableau get the greatest attention of the entire nation. We are aware that North East is getting good exposure in this event. It would still be worthwhile to suggest that effective participation of the North East and imaginative cultural presentation receive special attention. It would also be very useful for the I&B Ministry to especially brief the TV, Radio Commentators covering the event on the most effective way of presenting the North East.

(Page – 37)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of Information & Broadcasting)

11.15.6 As a large number of initiatives have been taken by the Ministries and some more have been recommended by us, it is essential to keep track of implementation of those proposals. We, therefore, recommend that a nodal officer should be designated in these Ministries particularly in MHRD/Culture/I&B and Sports and Tourism to monitor implementation of the many proposed schemes. The nodal officer should also have links to Ministry of DoNER/NEC, as well as weblink to the proposed North East Centre data bank.

(Page – 37-38)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of Information & Broadcasting/Ministry of Culture/Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs/Ministry of Tourism)

### 11.16 The bonding power of sports

11.16.1 On the basis of our discussions with the Ministry, we would like to make the following observations:

- i. The Ministry has taken up many useful schemes for the North East which should be given wide publicity.
- ii. More important than having the schemes, is to ensure their proper implementation. The Committee was informed, for example, that a project worth Rs. 400 crore was being held up for requisite approvals from the State Government. The Committee, therefore, feels that Ministry of DoNER/North Eastern Council could evolve a system to monitor progress of the Sports Ministry's schemes in the region and also to coordinate with the State Governments for speedy implementation.
- iii. During our discussions, the Ministry offered the following:
- iv. If there are talents in the States who are not covered within the structure of the schemes, they can be taken up for special coaching in special institutions outside the region.
- v. The Ministry can set up a National Institute/Centre of Excellence in the North East in the pattern of the Laxmi Bai National Institute.
- vi. The Ministry would set up two nodal officers to coordinate North East related schemes.

- vii. The Ministry would be willing to sponsor prize money tournaments, if any such tournament could be tied up.
- viii. The Ministry also offered all assistance including subsidies to attract private franchise tournaments to the North East.

(Page- 40-41)

(Action: Ministry of DoNER/North Eastern Council)

### **11.17 Educating the people about the North East**

11.17.1 All teachers training institutes would be advised to make their syllabus in a way that can sensitize the trainees on the North East.

11.17.2 The metro universities outside the North East could make projects on North East as mandatory part of course curricula. Even in schools, project work on North East related themes should be built into the system.

11.17.3 The Ministry agreed to consider a scheme to select good teachers from the North East to train teachers in training institutions outside North East to sensitize them on the North East.

11.17.3 Most students come to Delhi because they have a fascination for the brand image of the Delhi University, JNU, St. Stephens, Hindu College etc. A question can be asked, if foreign universities can come and lure students why can't DU/JNU or even some colleges open campus/centers in the North East. Horizons of education and learning systems has changed tremendously and unbelievably in recent times. We believe such benefits in brand, quality and experience that the Delhi institutions provide can be made available in the North East. MHRD/UGC may find it worthwhile to explore such out of the box solutions in the context of huge migration of students from the North East.

(Page – 43)

(Action: Ministry of Human Resource and Development/ University Grants Commission)

### **11.18 The rich culture of the North East as a means of integration**

11.18.1 For speedy implementation of projects, MHA, DONER, Min of Culture should evolve some mechanism of monitoring and coordination. Even NEC can help monitoring locally with the State Government. As this issue has come up in respect of other Ministries also DONER should examine the issue very carefully and devise some pragmatic mechanism for coordination with all Ministries on implementation of schemes in the North East.

11.18.2 To improve perception about the North East, the cultural programmes should also target the lower and middle class in metros. The ongoing programmes generally are considered to be elitist. The zonal Cultural Centres could consider organising such cultural festivals in selected RWAs areas every year.

11.18.3 While many ad hoc cultural activities on North East take place – and they should continue – it is felt that in Delhi (as also in other metros) one major festival should be organised on fixed date every year. NDMC had offered to organise it, and the Delhi Municipal Organisation also expressed willingness. NDMC had suggested that Pragati Maidan as venue. MHA, Ministry of Culture, Min. Of Tourism and DONER should jointly sponsor and make it a yearly mega event and put it in the National, International Calendar of Festivals.

11.18.4 All the North Eastern States should also have a Calendar of Cultural events in Delhi and other Metros, as well as within the State – preferably on a fixed date every year.

(Page- 44-45)

(Action: Ministry of DoNER/Ministry of Culture)

### **11.19 Promoting Tourism as a means of creating awareness and understanding**

11.19.1 The revised and redesigned Incredible India campaign should have a special focus on North East preferably with a proper branding.

11.19.2 The North Eastern Council had prepared a Master Plan for Tourism Development of the North East, which, it is reported, is languishing. A strong monitoring of its implementation by a High Level Committee should be taken up and projects identified in the Master Plan should be made eligible for priority funding.

11.19.3 Tourism is a private sector driven industry and therefore the Ministry of Tourism/Ministry of DoNER should take steps to ensure that the private sector play a lead role. It is necessary to involve prominent tour operators of the country in promoting the North East by arranging intensive visit to the region and then follow up by aggressive marketing. Ministry of Tourism/Ministry of DoNER may take up such schemes for promotion of North East. We believe that this way of promoting Tourism in the North East may be the effective way.

11.19.4 Tourism is an ideal instrument for creating understanding and harmony. The North Eastern States should be encouraged to promote tourism in a focused manner. For this purpose, the Committee feels that the continuation of the LTC scheme for North East would go a long way in creating awareness.

11.19.5 As Bollywood plays such a prominent role in forming images in minds of people, DoNER Ministry should consider a suitable scheme of incentives for encouraging to use North East locales for Bollywood pictures. Such incentives may also encourage popular serials in TVs to look at the North East, even to include North East stories in such serials.

11.19.6 The Ministry of DoNER should sponsor a massive campaign in collaboration with MHA, Ministry of Tourism and National Integration Council on 'Understanding Your North East'. It should be carefully designed for maximum impact and properly scrutinized for factual authenticity.

11.19.7 Ministry of DoNER should also try to associate respectable and popular icons from the field of culture, sports, music, etc. to be their brand Ambassadors for the North East to promote this campaign.

(Page – 46-47)

(Action: Ministry of Tourism/Ministry of DoNER)

#### **11.20 Information & Broadcasting and Media to focus on the North East**

11.20.1 The Ministry assists 170 Community Radio stations across the country. They are very useful media for creating awareness. As I&B Ministry financially supports them, it can ensure that North East inputs are carried by these stations. I&B, MoT, DONER could jointly create materials for such sensitization.

11.20.2 Resources from the North East should be selected as visible faces in the visual media.

11.20.3 National Quiz Programme of DD/AIR, or talent shows should consciously try to bring inputs from the North East including personnel.

11.20.4 Some buildings/institutions of public importance should be named after North East landmarks – rivers, hills, tribes, icons.

(Page – 48)

(Action: Ministry of DoNER/Ministry of Information & Broadcasting/  
Ministry of Tourism)

11.20.5 Media should be careful while covering race related cases in order to prevent escalation of tension leading to increase of such incidents; they should rather be agents of tension defusion.

11.20.6 Social sites like Facebook, Twitters, YouTube, etc. should be watched, edited and strictly regulated and posting of provocative statements and pictures should not be allowed.

### **11.21 Role of the Private Sector**

11.21.1 We recommend the following initiatives offered by FICCI and hope that MHA and Ministry of DoNER would carry this initiative to other organizations like CII, ASSOCHAM, PHD CHAMBER etc.:

- i. The industry news letters can regularly focus on the concerns of the North East to the members of the associations.
- ii. FICCI can place brochure/materials on the North East if such materials are provided by Ministry of DoNER in each conference that they hold across the country as part of the background materials.
- iii. MHA or the Ministry of DoNER should design some attractive readable materials on 'Understanding Our North East'. It will be even better if it could be linked up with Ministry of Tourism so that awareness is followed by experience of the tourists. Such materials should be provided to the industry organizations for action as above.
- iv. Private Sector can also play a very important role in recruitment of youth from the North East. Industry organizations can sensitize their members suitably on this social responsibility.

(Page – 48-49)  
(Action: Ministry of DoNER)

### **11.22 What People from North East have to do**

11.22.1 Education and sensitization of the people before arrival and after arrival in the metros about ways of living and adjust to the culture in which they have to live and work

11.22.2 Greater efforts for interaction with the local communities in which they live and the need for involving the police and district administration to facilitate such two way interactions for a healthy living atmosphere;

11.22.3 More North Eastern cultural and social activities in RWAs and greater participation of North Eastern people at local functions and activities.

11.22.4 We, therefore, recommend that a pragmatic orientation and proper follow up by the North Eastern communities should be an important part of addressing the concerns of the North Eastern people.

(Page – 51)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of DoNER)

### **11.23 Language and Communication difficulties**

11.23.1 The Committee feels that pragmatic, need based facilities for learning spoken Hindi or regional languages should be created in the Metros for those who feel the need for such facilities

(Page – 52)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of DoNER)

### **11.24 Organizing workers on North East platform**

11.24.1 Workers from the North East could form some organization/professional association enabling them to redress their grievances under the relevant provisions of the existing laws. Such a move will go a long way in protecting their interest. Such organizations can be affiliated to the National level trade bodies thereby strengthening the integration process. The problem of how to organise them and how to provide financial or other assistance for funds for the initial process of organisation could be examined by the Labour Department/Ministry.

11.24.2 Information about procedures, legal recourse available etc. should be disseminated.

11.24.3 The North East Forum of Resident Commissioners could examine how such organization could be formed and how the State Governments can facilitate it.

(Page – 53-54)

(Action: Ministry of DoNER/ State Government)



## **11.25 Need for Coordination**

11.25.1 Every institution/organization providing services/ security to the people of North East in Delhi and other Metros and having any institutional mechanism should link them to the North East database network proposed by us. Till the time that the North East database network is operational, the North East Police Cell should provide the linkages to all such agencies.

11.25.2 During our discussion the Ministry of Tribal Affairs we were informed that urban areas are also coming under their focus. Ministry of Tribal Affairs should reach out to the North East communities in urban areas for providing the necessary facilities. A nodal officer should be designated for the purpose, who should upload information in the North East Website.

(Page – 55-56)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of Tribal Affairs)

## **LONG TERM**

### **11.26 Legal Measures**

11.26.1 We felt that within the broad framework of our Constitution the legal, strategic and philosophical aspects of the demand for an anti-racial law should be debated and in the long run a suitable decision should be taken. For the immediate short run problems of the North East people, the steps enumerated by us above for a specific law or specific amendment to the IPC should be taken up.

(Page - 24)

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs/Ministry of Law & Justice)

### **11.27 A Visible face of the North East in Delhi**

11.27.1 The Committee, therefore, would like to recommend the establishment of a North East Centre in Delhi.

11.27.2 We have a feeling that there is a need for sustained, systematic and continuous exposure of the North East to the rest of India and the world.

11.27.3 In the long run, however, the need for a comprehensive organization, which goes beyond all the partial initiatives, was strongly felt. The approach, therefore, should be to strengthen the existing ones in the short run and in the long run to build a comprehensive umbrella organization as outlined below

11.27.4 The Centre should be an autonomous institution preferably in PPP mode with carefully planned, very high level of responsible management. It should be given a name evocative of the rich culture and tradition of the North East. It should have the following functions or wings, but the list is only illustrative:-


- i. A comprehensive database and arrangement for networking. The proposed networking should be extended to cover social networking in addition to security networking, with the objective of sharing information and creating bonding with various organizations. This database centre should be immediately started by DoNER within its existing facilities even before the permanent centre becomes operational. The Centre should have provision for permanent exhibition and sale of North East handicrafts, handlooms and cuisine. It should be linked to Dilli Haat for this purpose.
- ii. The Centre should also have facilities for cultural performances, dance, theatre, art exhibition. For cultural purposes, the centre should function as an outreach of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.
- iii. It should also have one wing of the extension of the national museum depicting products from the North East which are not on display at the national museum.
- iv. The Centre should have, link to the database facilities for 24x 7 assistance to the North East people in distress. This facility should be linked to the North East police cell as well as to the State Bhawans and also to other prominent NGO Organizations which are scrutinized and approved by the Centre.
- v. It should have a continuous orientation programme for new arrivals, on life in the metro cities. The orientation centre should also have facilities for spoken Hindi classes/Local languages on voluntarily basis. Similarly, facilities should be created where necessary for people to learn languages/dialects of the North East if they wish.
- vi. The Centre should also provide facilities for voluntary registration of people from the North East and create a basic profile. To encourage such registration some incentives may be provided in utilization of the facilities in the centre.

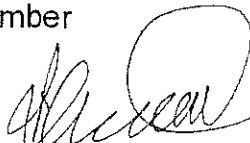
- vii. The Centre should have professional trauma care facility as well as counseling for those who are in distress.
- viii. The centre should provide the first point of contact for legal advice and shall have connection to DSLSA.
- ix. The Centre should also have practical outreach research and documentation on the problems of the people of the North East in Delhi. Such research facilities need not duplicate the existing excellent facilities in institutions like Centre for North East in Jamia Millia, North East Centre in JNU etc., but should be ideally linked to them.


(Page- 38-40)  
(Action: Ministry of DoNER)

\*\*\*\*\*

  
Shri Alemtemshi Jamir  
Member

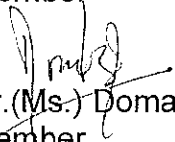
  
Shri H.W.T. Syiem  
Member


  
Shri P. Bharat Singh  
Member


  
Shri Tape Bagra  
Member

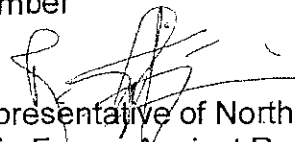
  
Dr. H.T. Sangliana  
Member


Shri D.M. Jamatia  
Member

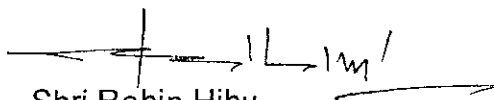
  
Dr. (Ms.) Doma Bhutia  
Member


  
Shri J. Maivio  
Member

  
Shri J.T. Tagam  
Member

  
Representative of North East  
India Forum Against Racism  
Member

  
Representative of North East  
Helpline  
Special Invitee

  
Shri Robin Hibu  
Representative of MHA

  
Shri M.P. Bezbaruah  
Chairman