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Office of the  
**BODO SAHITYA SABHA**  
बर' थुनलाइ आफाद

Registration No. 94 of 1972

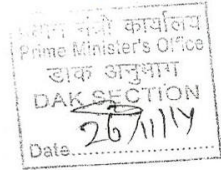
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A  
MEMORANDUM  
TO

SJT. NARENDRA DAMODAR DAS MODI  
HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA  
SOUTH BLOCK, NEW DELHI-1

SUBMITTED BY-  
**BODO SAHITYA SABHA**  
THROUGH A MASS DHARNA PROGRAMME  
AT JANTAR-MANTAR, NEW DELHI  
DATED 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2014



**Hon'ble Prime Minister Sir,**

We, the undersigned, on behalf of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha, the Apex Body of the Bodos in the field of language, literature and culture and its allies i.e. All Bodo Students Union (ABSU), All Bodo Women Welfare Federation (ABWWF), All Bodo Primary Teachers Association (ABPTA), Dularai Boro Harimu Afad (DuBHA) would like to take this opportunity to place before you a Memorandum containing a number of very serious issues and problems of the Bodo community.

That Sir, the Bodo people are the most aboriginal plains tribal people of India constituting the largest group among them in Assam. Yet, they have been suppressed, exploited, dominated in all spheres of social life, be it in the matter of flourishing their language and literature, protecting their lands traditionally inherited to them, growing according to their own distinctive tradition and genius by the successive State Govts. of Assam since independence. The problems they are facing now are multifarious and even non-redressal of these problems may lead to complete extinction of the Bodo Community itself.

The problems we have drawn your kind attention to had also been placed before the earlier UPA Govt. for early solution; but all our efforts went in vain. All the Bodo national organizations under the leadership of Bodo Sahitya Sabha even had to stage a peaceful dharna at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 and submitted a Memorandum to the then Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for immediate intervention and solution of the burning problems. Accordingly we submitted the copy of Memorandum to His Excellency the President of India. As a result, the letter Sl. No. P2/8/0309/20124 sent from the President's Secretariat (Public Section) Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam asked the State Government to communicate and liaise with the Bodo Organizations and to take needful action. But interestingly the then UPA Govt. at the Centre and the State Govt. of Assam did not pay heed to this appeal and these problems and the problems are still remaining as problems becoming more and more burning now.

That Sir, along with these the team of Bodo Sahitya Sabha in our last visit to New Delhi from 14th to 18th July, 2014 had already apprised Hon'ble Ministers and submitted our Memorandum to redress our genuine grievances.

On 16th July, 2014 the delegation team met Hon'ble Minister of HRD, Govt. of India Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani at Parliament House Office Chamber, New Delhi and placed before her a 20 - Point Charter of Demands which are related with HRD.

On the same day the team of Bodo Sahitya Sabha held meeting with Hon'ble Minister of State, Environment & Forest and Information & Broadcasting Sjt. Prakash Javedekar at Parliament House Chamber, New Delhi and also submitted a 2- Point Charter of Demands.

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Likewise, the team also met and discussed with Hon'ble Minister of State, Home Affairs, Govt. of India Sjt. Kiren Rijiju at North Block, New Delhi on 17th July, 2014 and submitted the copy of Memorandum that was prepared for Hon'ble Prime Minister Sir and discussed with him in detail and apprised him about overall situation of Assam in general and Bodoland in particular.

The delegation team also met Sjt. Jual Oram, Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India at Odisha Bhawan, New Delhi on 17th July, 2014 and placed before him a 2 -Point Charter of Demands.

Thereafter, the Bodo Sahitya Sabha had to stage a Mass Dharna Programme in front of Raj Bhawan, Assam demanding solution of our genuine, democratic and very much constitutional demands relating to social and educational arena. On request of His Excellency, the Governor of Assam, a team of BSS met and discussed over the demands of BSS on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 and requested him to take necessary action from his end. But most regrettably we would like to inform you that His Excellency is also not positive to respond to the solution of these problems.

Now, under your able and dynamic leadership and yourself being a lover of down-trodden communities, may we hope that the burning problems explained below in detail being faced by the Bodo Community of Assam would be resolved within a specific time-frame.

Under these circumstances, the Bodo Sahitya Sabha, having no alternative has taken up a Mass Dharna Programme at Jantar-Mantar, New Delhi today, the 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 to highlight our issues and problems at national level and to draw your kind attention for immediate redressal thereof as detailed below:

**1. On Bodo Language, Literature and Bodo Medium Education:**

That Sir, on the Bodo Language, Literature and Educational Problems the Bodo Sahitya Sabha placed a memorandum to the former UPA led Prime Minister, Govt. of India on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 on following demands:-

- (i) Creation of Separate Directorate of Education for Bodo and other Tribal Languages.
- (ii) Creation of Separate Directorate of Education for Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).
- (iii) Implementation of Tribal and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act. 2006 and allotments of land for the schools located in forest areas under the Forest Right Committees as per the provisions of the Chapter-II clause 3 (2) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act. 2006.
- (iv) Amendment of Some Sections of the Assam Venture Educational Institutions (Provincialization of Services) Act. 2011.
- (v) Allocation of Medium-wise posts as per requirement under the Provision of Chapter-IV Clause 23 (2) of RTE Act. 2009 and holding of separate TET Examination with relaxation of norms for Bodo Medium School Education.
- (vi) Implementation of Bodo as an Official Language of Assam specially within the BTAD areas as per Bodo Accord, 2003.

That Sir, responding to the matter of aforesaid demands the PMO issued an order to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 Vide No. 10/3/C/1/2012-NE Cell for appropriate action. But Sir, the Govt. of Assam has not taken any step to solve the said problems and hence our demands on various educational and social needs remain unfulfilled.

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## 2. Protection of Tribal Belts and Blocks:

As many as 47 Tribal Belts and Blocks were constituted under the Chapter-X of Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 to protect the lands of the Tribals from other Non-Tribal people. The plains tribal people of Assam are basically cultivators and so land is of supreme importance to them. But the successive State Govts. of Assam did not take any appropriate measure to protect these tribal belts and blocks as per the provision laid down in the Chapter-X of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886. This reluctant attitude of the State Govt. of Assam in the matter of protecting tribal lands has been decried time and again but to no effect.

This has resulted in large-scale encroachment of Non-Tribals and suspected Foreigners into these belts and blocks threatening the very existence of the indigenous tribal people of Assam.

We, therefore, demand immediate and necessary steps to protect the tribal belts and blocks by implementing the provisions of the aforesaid Regulation and as per clause No.10 of Assam Accord, 1985.

## 3. Foreign National Issue:

Your goodself is quite aware of the facts how foreign nationals have infiltrated into Assam and the entire North-East threatening the very existence of the indigenous people of the region. Such an infiltration of foreign nationals is believed to be continuing unabated into the region. Thus, the issue of the foreign nationals is not only the issue of Assam and North-East, but it is soon going to be a national issue which may change the demographic pattern of North East India.

In this context, we thankfully recall your clarion call in an election rally of the last Lok-Sabha Elections appealing all foreign nationals living in Assam and West Bengal to leave the country bag and baggage after 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. We believe this call of yours had added to secure clear mandate of people in your favour more than what was expected specially in the State of Assam.

We sincerely hope, your honour will take all possible measures to check infiltration of foreign nationals into Assam and North-East and deport all the illegal migrants from the region as per Assam Accord, 1985.

## 4. Updation of NRC:

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) must be updated with immediate effect so that the foreign national issue in the state of Assam may be solved. The suspicion of the indigenous people on the immigrants will be removed only when the NRC is updated by taking 1951 as the base year.

In this regard, it is heartening that the Union Govt. has already released an installment of the fund meant for updating NRC in Assam. We sincerely welcome this move of the Central Govt. and hope that the Centre will persuade the State Govt. of Assam to undertake the updation of NRC without further delay and complete the same within a stipulated time-frame.

## 5. Regarding Allocation of Fund under Article 275 (1) & SCA-TSP:

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs Government of India has been allocating annual funds under the article 275(1) & SCA-TSP for the development of down-trodden Tribal People of Assam.

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But Sir, the Govt. of Assam did not properly distribute the said fund to the people as per the guidelines of the Ministry. For instance, the allocation during the 2013-14 budget was Rs. 4587 Lacs under Sanction order No. 14020/7 (3) 2013 SG-1 dated 04/06/2013, & Rs. 6233 Lacs under SCA-TSP for 2013-14 vide Sanction Letter No. 14020/8 (2) 2013-14 SG-II dated 30/08/2013.

That Sir, the WPT & BC Department Govt. of Assam could not allocate the funds to respective ITDP areas of Assam due to intervention of UPA led Government's Minister of the State for Tribal Affairs Mrs. Rani Narah.

Hence the said fund is still lying unutilized by depriving downtrodden tribal people of Assam.

That Sir, you are requested to take necessary steps to ensure proper allocations of funds & utilization of the same equally as per guidelines of the Ministry.

#### 6. NDFB and ULFA issue:

In this context, it may be recalled that at the ardent appeal of the entire Bodo people, the NDFB came forward for the political solution of their demand for Separate State of Bodoland by declaring unilateral ceasefire in 2005. Consequently, many rounds of talk had already taken place between the Central Govt. of India, State Govt. of Assam and the NDFB (P) on later times since 2005, but all these talks could not make any major headway. In course of time, such a dilly-delaying process of talk resulted in creation of splinter groups within the NDFB as the NDFB (P) and NDFB(R) led by Sri Dhiren Boro alias B. Sungthagra and Sri Ranjan Daimary alias D.R. Nabla respectively. The talk with the NDFB(R) is still at the level of interlocutor. This sort of slow process of talk again resulted in creation of another splinter group named as NDFB (S) led by L.K. Sangbijit which is still indulging in extortion, kidnapping, killing in certain areas of Northern Assam.

Similarly ULFA (Swadhin) under the leadership of Mr. Paresh Baruah is still active in every part of Assam. So both factions of ULFA should also be brought to the negotiation table immediately for the grater interest of peace and development of Assam and North East India.

#### 7. On al-Qaeda and Jehadi Activities:

Some Muslim fundamentalist organizations and KLO are also active in selected parts of Assam including BTAD area, indulging in subversive activities like extortion, kidnapping, killing etc. So, the allegation made by some non-Bodo organizations having vested interests that any incidents involving arms, whatsoever, are carried out only by the Bodo extremists in the region are quite irresponsible and nothing but a blame-game to pose the Bodo community in a chaotic situation.

After serial blasts at Bardhaman in West Bengal some al-Qaeda Extremists have been apprehended and it proves that these forces are quite active in some parts of India including Assam.

After the arrest of al-Qaeda Extremists some political leaders of Assam specially AIUDF MLAs Md. Abdur Rahim Khan, Md. Aatur Rahman Majhar Bhuyan, Md. Ali Hussain and Ex-MLA Md. Rosul Haque Bhahadur are behaving like spokespersons of al-Qaeda by denying the existence of al-Qaeda in Assam. But to their dismay, the NIA has very currently established the existence of al-Qaeda and other Jihadis in Assam by arresting the main accused of Bardhaman blast Shahanur Alam's wife Sujena Begum and her relatives. The Jehadi activities of al-Qaeda, JMB have threatened socio-religious fabric of the great Indian Nation.

So, these forces must be dealt with firmly and strictly so that they may be nipped in the bud.

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**8. Proper Implementation of "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006":**

The Bodo people belonging to Scheduled Tribes, have been dwelling in different forest areas of Assam since long year. To provide education to their children through Mother Tongue, they have established Educational Institutions of various categories i.e. Lower Primary, Upper Primary & Secondary School etc. in those forest areas. But these Educational Institutions have been deprived of Government permission and recognition due to non-receipt of land allotment in the name of institutions though as per the chapter-II clause 3(2) of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 of India, they are entitled to receive land allotment. Thereby injustices have been done to the Bodo Tribal people of Assam by violating "the Schedule Tribe and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 which is also contrary to the right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. Because of such injustice, in Sonitpur district alone as many as 128 Nos. of Lower Primary Schools, 17 Nos. of Upper Primary Schools and 16 Nos. of High Schools (Total-161) have been dropped out from the process of provincialization and also deprived from getting financial assistance provided earlier by the Govt. of Assam.

We, therefore, earnestly request your honour to issue necessary directives to the State Govt. of Assam for allotting land to the educational institutions set up at forest areas and thereby accord Govt. permission, recognition and provincialization of services to these Educational Institutions so that they can provide proper education to the pupils.

**9. News bulletin Programme and Spoken Words with Song and Drama in Bodo language in DDK Guwahati and DDK North-East.**

That Sir, the Bodo Sahitya Sabha is immensely pleased to express that Bodo Language has been constitutionally recognized to get a berth in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India in 2003. Culturally & Linguistically Bodo is a Major group of population in N.E. India. But they are deprived from the facility of Bodo programmes in DDK Guwahati and DDK North-East.

After a series of agitational programmes and discussions only two days programmes for 20 (Twenty) Minutes have been broadcast without News bulletin since 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 2007. Regarding the new assignment order for morning transmission with enhancement of time in DDK NE and DDK Guwahati, an official proposal was submitted to the Director General, Doordarshan, New Delhi-1 on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 vide No. DDK/Guw/Prog/2007 (copy enclosed). But no further information has been conveyed to us regarding the matter.

That Sir, your honour is earnestly requested to introduce Bodo Programme in DDK Guwahati and DDK NE everyday by enhancing the duration from 20 (Twenty) minutes to 30 (Thirty) minutes including 10 (Ten) minutes News Bulletin Programme in DDK Guwahati and DDK NE.

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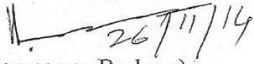
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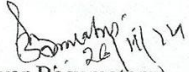
We look forward for your sympathetic consideration and needful action in resolving the long standing demands of the Bodos as stated above and oblige.


We remain ever yours, Sir.

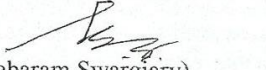
Yours faithfully,

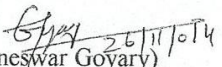
For and on behalf of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha and its allied organizations

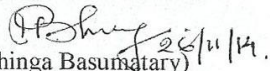
  
(Dr. Kameswar Brahma)  
President

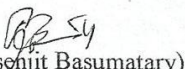
  
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Vice-President.

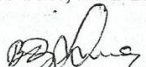
  
(Dipak Kr. Basumatary)  
Vice-President,


  
(Kabaram Swargiary)  
Treasurer. 26/11/2014

  
(Guneswar Goyary)  
Vice-President, ABSU

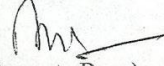
  
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President, ABWWF

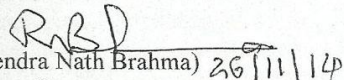
  
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President, ABPTA

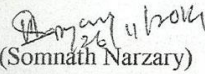
  
(Billa Kr. Brahma)  
President, DuBHA

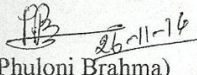
  
(Kamala Kt. Muthahary)  
General Secretary

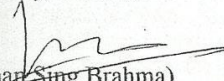
  
(Nila Kt. Goyary)  
Secretary.

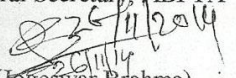
  
(Prasanta Boro)  
Secretary.

  
(Rajendra Nath Brahma) 26/11/14  
Secretary.

  
(Somnath Narzary)  
AGS, ABSU

  
(Phuloni Brahma)  
Joint Secy, ABWWF

  
(Laksman Sing Brahma)  
General Secretary, ABPTA

  
(Jogeswar Brahma)  
General Secretary, DuBHA