



Office of the
BODO SAHITYA SABHA

बर' थुनलाइ आफाद

Registration No. 94 of 1972

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Sub-Office J.B. Hagjer Bhawan Nayanpur Road, Ganeshguri Guwahati - 781006 Ph.& Fax : 0361-2203522

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

SUBMITTED BY-
BODO SAHITYA SABHA
DATED16th JULY, 2014

Camp- Bodoland House,
29 A, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48

On the issues of :

1. Bodo Language, Literature and Bodo Medium Education
2. Protection of Tribal Belts and Blocks
3. Foreign National Problem
4. Updating NRC
5. Regarding the Allocation of fund under the Article 275 (1) & SCA-TSP
6. NDFB Problem
7. Proper Implementation of "The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006".
8. Kholongchu Hydro-Electric Project, Bhutan
9. Lower Subansiri Hydro-Electric Project

Respected 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 would like to take this privilege to congratulate you on your historic victory in the last Lok Sabha Elections leading to the formation of a BJP led NDA Govt. at the Centre under your leadership. The clear mandate given by the people of India to lead the country under your able and dynamic leadership as the Prime Minister will certainly make India enjoy good governance as pledged by you during the election campaign. We wish you a sound health and long life enabling you to lead the Nation as a most successful Prime Minister of India.

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 of peaceful dharna at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi on 8th August, 2012 and submitted a Memorandum to the



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them 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 and Government of Assam did not pay heed this appeal and these problems and the problems are still remaining as problems becoming more and more burning now.

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 able to get a berth in your 100 days programme for their prompt and early solution.

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 dated the 12th April, 2012 on following demands:-

- (i) Creation of Separate Directorate of Education for Bodos 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 school located in forest area 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 (Provincialised on Service) Act. 2011.
- (v) Allocation of Medium wise Post as per requirement under the Provision of Chapter-IV Clause 23 (2) of RTE Act. 2009 and holding of separate TET Examination with relaxation 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 the matter of aforesaid demands the PMO issued an order to the Chief Secretary Government of Assam on 17th May, 2012 Vide No. 10/3/C/1/2012-NE Cell for appropriate action. But Sir the Government of Assam has not taken any Step to Solve the said problems hence our demands on various educational and social needs remain unfulfilled.

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.



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3. Foreign National Issue:

Your good self 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 16th 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 allocates annual funds under the article 275(1) & SCA-TSP for the development of down-trodden Tribal People of Assam.

But Sir, Govt. of Assam did not properly distributes the said fund to the people as per the guidance of the Ministry. As instance the allocation during the 2013-14 budget was Rs. 4587 Lakhs under Sanction order No. 14020/7 (3) 2013 SG-1 dated 04/06/2013, & Rs. 6233 Lakhs 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 Governments Minister of State, 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 for the proper allocations of funds & utilization of the same equally as per guide lines of the Ministry.

6. NDFB 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. Sunthagra and Sri



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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 I.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 still active in every part of Assam, so both faction of ULFA should also be bring to the negotiation table immediately for the grater interest of the peace and development of Assam and North East India.

For ensuring permanent peace, tranquility and communal harmony, it is pertinent that all the three factions of the NDFB should be brought under the same negotiation table while handling the Bodoland issue.

7. 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 inculcate 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 service to these Educational Institutions, so that they can provide proper education to the pupils.

8. Kholongchu Hydro-Electric Project, Bhutan:

That Sir, your honourable self laid the foundation stone of Kholongchu Hydro-Electric Project during your august Bhutan visit from 15th to 17th June, 2014. We dare not to oppose the dam project but are apprehensive enough on its impact following its down-stream flow falling within the entire BTAD area comprising the four districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Odalguri of Lower Assam.

We have already had a bitter experience witnessing flood havoc created by overflow of Qurishu river dam in 2004 and 2007. Entire Kokrajhar district was immersed under the flood water created by Qurishu river dam in 2004; while similar incident took place from the same river dam in the Baksa district in 2007. Meanwhile some Social Organizations and Political Parties are opposing the construction of mega dams. Therefore the Bodo Sahitya Sabha would like to opines that a consensus situation be created by taking all Social Organizations and Political Parties who are opposing the construction of mega dams in and outside the State.

Therefore, we sincerely request your honour to take necessary steps so that the down-stream control, down-stream power benefits and down-stream fool proof protection be ensured in future to the down-stream areas covering the entire BTAD areas as stated above.



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9. Lower Subansiri Hydro-Electric Project:

The people of Assam in general have been opposing the proposed Hydro-Electric Project at Subansiri River in the northern part of Upper Assam. The people are quite apprehensive as to the ill effects that may have caused to the down-stream areas of the Project, provided high and sophisticated technology is not applied in consultation with technological experts in the affair. So, people are demanding small dams for generating power instead of big dams.

So, it is our sincere hope that proper thoughts be given over the proposed Subansiri Hydro-Electric Project if it could be reviewed in consultation with high technological experts as desired by the people of Assam so that fool-proof down-stream protection, down-stream benefits and down-stream control be ensured convincingly to the common people of Assam.

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

(Dr. Kameswar Brahma)
President

(Bisweswar Basumatary)
Vice-President.

(Dipak Kr. Basumatary)
Vice-President.

(Kamala Kt. Mushahary)
General Secretary

(Nila Kt. Goyary)
Secretary.

(Prasanta Boro)
Secretary.

(Rajendra Nath Brahma)
Secretary.

Copy forwarded to :

1. Sjt. Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Union Home Minister, North Block, New Delhi-110 001.
2. Sjt. Jual Oram, Hon'ble Union Minister, Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.
3. Sjt. Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble State Home Minister, Govt. of India, North Block, New Delhi-110 001.
4. Sjt. Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister of State, Sports & Youth Affairs (Independent Charge), Govt. of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.
5. All M.P.s of Assam (both Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha).

(Kamala Kt. Mushahary)
General Secretary,
Bodo Sahitya Sabha
094351-90874