

SUMMARY OF THE TRIPARTITE MEETING

DATE OF THE TRIPARTITE MEETING : 02-01-2006

POINTS DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING

Secretary (Border Management) highlighted the achievements/developments in implementation of Assam Accord. These included all out efforts by the Government to complete the border fence and roads along the entire stretch of the Indo-Bangladesh border (excluding reverine areas) by December 2006, proposed re-fencing of 854 kms of fence constructed under phase-I, sanction of additional 21 Foreigners Tribunals to deal with the problem of illegal migrants in Assam, re-convening of the sub-tripartite committees on Clause 6 and Clause 7 etc. Secretary (Border Management) mentioned that proposals for approval of two major projects viz. Assam Gas Cracker and Rail-cum-road Bogibeel Project are under serious consideration of the Ministries of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals and Railways respectively. Further, Government of Assam has been asked to engage an international consultant for preparing the techno economic feasibility project for revival of the Ashoka Paper Mill. He also referred to funds released to the State of Assam out of the non-lapsable central pool of resources for undertaking projects in areas of power, roads, flood control, education, water supply etc. Secretary (Border Management) pointed out that Central Government is providing adequate funds to the State Governments to tackle flood situation and that the proposal to constitute Brahmaputra Valley/North Eastern Water Resources Authority is under active consideration. He stated that the demand of AASU for declaration of North-East as a special employment zone and reservation of Group 'C' and 'D' for local people has been examined in consultation with the Department of Personnel and the same is not feasible in view of the Supreme Court's Order. He also made a mention of the meeting held by Govt. of Assam with AASU representatives to finalise the time frame for implementing various clauses of Accord.

- 1) Following issues were raised by AASU:
 - The international border with Bangladesh be sealed within a period of one year as agreed to in the PM's meeting. Other steps required are construction of roads,

deployment of BSF in adequate strength, continuous patrolling, introduction of floating BOPs and permanent BOPs in the riverine areas flood lighting of entire border as also electrification of the fence.

- The illegal migrants are a security threat. The Foreigners Tribunals which have been constituted to detect foreigners need to be well-equipped for effective functioning.
- Constitutional safeguards are needed for Assamese people and detailed proposals under Clause 6 have been submitted in this sub-tripartite committee. The demographic pattern is changing and concrete steps are called for.
- Detailed proposals under Clause 7 have been submitted in sub-tripartite committee. Announcement regarding Assam Gas Cracker Project be made; Bogibeel Project be declared as a National Project and that Ashok Paper Mill be handed over to the Hindustan Paper Corporation.
- Updation of NRC based on 1971 electoral rolls is positive outcome of PM's meeting in May, 2005. Modalities have been worked out with the State Govt. Fullproof mechanism and the machinery for up-dating the NRC at all levels need to be put in place. NRC will be a major safeguard for genuine citizens of India. Whatever proposals are submitted by State Govt. for updation of the NRC be considered by the Govt. of India.
- Time bound action plan needs to be drawn up for implementing various clauses of the Accord.
- The State of Assam may be declared as a special employment zone. The people from Assam and North-East are not getting any jobs. Some mechanism need to be found to reserve Group 'C' and 'D' post in Central Govt. establishments in NE for people from the North-Eastern States.
- Special economic package for Assam be declared.
- Follow up action on the task force's report to deal with the flood problem in the North-East be expedited and Brahmaputra Board may be fully activated.
- Section 3 (1) (A) of the Citizenship Act may be scrapped to deny citizenship to children of illegal migrants.
- Two more Battalions may be sanctioned for the State to prevent infiltration.

Next of the kin of 855 “martyrs” of Assam agitation should be given ex-gratia assistance of Rs. 2 lakhs each.

Chief Minister, Assam mentioned that the process of updation of NRC has started and it will be possible to complete the same within two years. 21 more Foreigner Tribunals are being constituted to deal with the problem of foreigners and he is sure that Govt. of India will provide all help for these Tribunals. He assured that genuine citizens will be protected and that illegal immigrants will be detected. The floods in North-East in general and in Assam in particular are already getting attention of Central Government as national problem and large funds have accrued to the Assam. Central Government is all for setting up of North-Eastern Water Resources Authority, agreed to by all the North-East CMs except Arunachal Pradesh. The Prime Minister is very keen to start the Assam Gas Cracker Project and steps in the right direction are being taken. Central Govt. has agreed to set up a thermal power project in Assam. The Bogibeel Project has already been declared as a national project and will be implemented. State Govt. is also going to give priority to promotion and preservation of Assamese Culture. One area identified is preservation of manuscripts. He would request Central Govt. to consider State Govt. proposals for financial support in this regard. The process of finding an acceptable definition for the ‘Assamese people’ is on.

Regarding patrolling of riverine areas, DG, BSF mentioned that the BOPs in riverine areas already exist; efforts are on to identify more islands for erecting BOPs and it is also proposed to put the fence the islands wherever feasible. He added that while speed boats are patrolling the riverine area, it is proposed to undertake fabrication of floating BOPs in Assam.

The two major projects viz. Assam Gas Cracker Project and Bogibeel Project are awaiting final approval. The Ashok Paper Mill has a capacity of 100 MT per day while a minimum of 300 MT per day is considered to be economically viable. State Government should take steps to appoint a consultant for preparing DPR for techno economic feasibility. Govt. is in the process to evolve a consensus to set up North Eastern Waters Resources Authority.