

SUMMARY OF THE TRIPARTITE MEETING

DATE OF THE TRIPARTITE MEETING : 05-05-2005

POINTS DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING

1) IMDT Act.:

Representatives of AASU wanted illegal Migration (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 (IMDT Act) to be repealed as it failed to achieve the objective of identifying and deporting foreigners from Assam. Representative of AASU said that the Act has many shortcomings and is applicable only to Assam, which is not correct. Chief Minister, Assam defended IMDT Act, which has saved many genuine Indian Citizens from harassment. He further said that progress of identification and deportation foreigners under the Foreigners Act in Assam and other States was no better than what was achieved in Assam under IMDT Act. PM said that he had taken note of feelings of AASU representative. Objective of all concerned was deportation of foreigners, the differences were regarding procedure. He said that discussions should be held between the State Government and AASU to narrow down these differences and agree to streamline the procedures under IMDT Act to make it more effective while awaiting the judgment of Supreme Court. AASU, however, insisted on repeal of the IMDT Act.

2) NRC:

Chief Minister, Assam said that State Govt. has agreed to update 1951, NRC by including names of persons from the electoral rolls upto 1971 and their descendents. He said that all efferots would be made to complete the work in 2 years after which identity Cards will be issued. He also agreed to create a separate directorate to take up the work expeditiously. Chief Minister, Assam wanted Central Government to give financial assistance for this purpose. Prime Minister assured that Government of India will give financial support to the State Government to enable it to complete the work within the stipulated time.

3) India-Bangladesh Border Management:

AASU representatives wanted Bangladesh border with Assam to be sealed in a time bound manner. They suggested that the work may be handed over to Army as

was done in J&K. It was stated that Phase-I of fencing requires urgent repairs and riverine border also required fencing and patrolling. PM noted that the point raised by AASU was valid and the border fencing work should be accelerated. HM assured that the fencing work will be expedited and Govt. will examine the suggestion to hand it over to Army/BSF. He stated that Phase-I fencing will be repaired/replaced where required. AASU representative suggested that in riverine portion, instead of floating BOPs, pillars may be erected in the river and BOPs constructed on them. They also insisted on a timeframe for completion of the fencing work in Assam.

Chief Minister, Assam wanted that the Central Govt. should give financial support for two additional battalions of State Police to act as second line of border defence. HM Stated that raising of required India Reserve (IR) Battalions can be considered for this purpose. _

4) Constitutional Safeguards:

AASU representatives wanted the sub-committee appointed earlier for this purpose to be revived. He stated that there should be reservation for the “Assamese People” in the legislature and land should be under their control. CM, Assam said that consultations were being held to decide an agreed definition of “Assamese People”. He said that the State Govt. did not want further problems to be created and this should be done after careful consideration. He assured that the Stat Govt. will expedite decision in the matter.

5) Economic Measures:

- The following demand were raised by AASU
- Floods in Assam be declared as a national problem.
- Brahmaputra Board should be revamped.
- Gas Cracker Project should be commissioner.
- Revival of Ashok Paper Mill.
- Bogibeel Railway bridge should be constructed.

Declaration of North East as a special Employment zone. __

6) Time Frame:

AASU wanted timeframe to be fixed for implementing each of the Clauses of the Accord. PM stated that this should be discussed at the level of officers.

7) Administrative Requirements:

AASU wanted a separate Directorate in MHA and a Cell in PMO to monitor progress of implementation of Assam Accord. PM stated that MHA is the nodal Ministry for Assam Accord. In addition, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region is there for economic development. North Eastern Council has also been given a new mandate. These arrangements are adequate and no new administrative machinery is required.

8) Citizenship Act.

AASU wanted Section 3(1)(a) of the Citizenship Act to be scrapped as it dilutes the spirit of Assam Accord. PM did not accept this suggestion as its scrapping will create a host of new problems.

9) AASU representatives raised the following new demands:

- Next of kin of those killed during Assam Agitation should be paid Rs. 2 lakh as compensation.
 - Proposed Indian Institute of management may be located in Assam.
 - A medical institute like All India Institute of Medical Sciences may be established in Assam.
 - Railway tracks in Assam may be doubled.
- Oil cess of Rs. 10,000 crore may be used for development of oil sector in Assam.