

**Proceedings of the Sitting on 13.01.2010 of Hon'ble Member Shri Oris Syiem Myriaw with Secretary, Dept. of Welfare of PT and BC, Assam**

A list of officers present in the Sitting is at Annexure.

**ISSUE**

Representation from Bodo Sahitya Sabha regarding action taken report on the points raised in their Memorandum w.r.t. (i) diversion of funds received under 275(1), (ii) non filling of backlog vacancies, (iii) enhancement of amount of scholarship to tribal students, and (iv) financial grants to Bodo Medium Schools.

**BACKGROUND**

A representation dated 26.07.2006 was received in the Commission from Bodo Sahitya Sabha regarding diversion of funds provided under the provision of Article 275(1), non filling up of backlog vacancies, enhancement of amount of scholarship to the tribal students and financial grants to Bodo Medium Schools.

The matter was taken up with the Secretary, Department of Tribal Welfare, Assam vide Commission letter dated 11.10.2006 followed by reminders dated 09.06.2008, 15.09.2008, 27.10.2008 and 05.05.2009, but there was no response from the Govt. of Assam. In view of this, Hon'ble member fixed a discussion with the Secretary, WPT&BC Deptt. Assam on 07.09.2009. In response, Secretary didn't come, however, a reply was furnished, wherein it was mentioned that schemes under ITDP in Kamrup District during 2003-04 and 2004-05 had been enquired into and it was found that out of 26 nos of schemes 17 schemes did not have tribal population. It was further mentioned that there had not been any case of diversion of funds meant for welfare of tribal people since 2006-07.

The Commission took up the matter again with the Secretary, WPT&BC, Assam regarding fixing of responsibility of this irregularity and taking action in the matter. The comments of the State Govt. on the other three points raised by he Bodo Shitya Sabha were also sought.

Since there was no response from the Govt. of Assam, Shri Oris Syiem Myriaw, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes decided to have a discussion with the Secretary, WPT&BC Dept. Assam in the matter on 13.01.2010 at 1500 Hrs in the Commission.

## **DISCUSSION**

Secretary, WPT&BC Department, Assam submitted a written reply dated 07.01.2010 and explained as under on the issues raised by the Bodo Sahitya Sabha:

i) Regarding diversion of funds received under provision of Article 275(1), it was confirmed that these schemes were implemented outside the TSP areas and had already been completed. In this regard, necessary action has been processed for taking needful action against the concerned officers. Moreover, necessary show cause notices is being issued to the concerned officers for diversion of fund. It was also confirmed that there was no case diversion of funds under TSP after 2006.

ii) It was mentioned that Govt. has already initiated action to fill up backlog vacancies of SC/ST/OBC by SRD. So far 145 vacancies have been filled in various departments since June'09. He further informed that there were about 12000 vacancies of teachers and these huge shortage of teachers was being met by the contractual appointment. All the deptts. have been instructed to launch a Special Recruitment Drive within a month to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies.

The Commission expressed its displeasure on the slow progress on filling up of backlog reserved vacancies (to the tune of 5000). It was also expressed that contractual appointments should not be resorted, as there were no reservation in these appointments. Regular appointments should be made with proper reservation. Post based Rosters should be maintained properly for all posts and SRD should be conducted strictly as per the rosters.

iii) The matter of enhancement of scholarship of students has already been raised in the review meeting of the State Secretaries, Tribal Development Dept. taken by MTA. A uniform criteria for scholarship in all categories is being worked out. The matter will be further pursued with the MTA.

iv) It was mentioned that efforts have been made to provide special incentives for upliftment of Bodo medium education and other Tribal languages by extending grant for Boys and Girls Hostel, School Building, College Building and special financial incentives to meritorious ST students. It was assured to the Commission that in case a list of Bodo Medium Schools, where grants are required, is provided to the State Govt. it would be looked into and favorably considered based on the merits.

**RECOMMENDATION**

In view of the discussion as above, the Commission recommended that contractual appointments should not be done and huge number of backlog reserved vacancies should be filled up through Special Recruitment Drive at the earliest, positively within a period of 6 months. Post Based Rosters should also be maintained properly in respect of all the posts.

**ANNEXURE**

The following were present in the sitting on 13.01.2010 :

**NCST**

1. Shri Oris Syiem Myriaw, Hon'ble Member .....In Chair
2. Shri Aditya Mishra, Joint Secretary
3. Shri Vinod Aggarwal, Director

**Govt. of Assam**

1. Shri L. Phangcho, Commissioner & Secretary, WPT&BC Dept.