



भारत सरकार

Govt. of India

राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जनजाति आयोग

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338क के अंतर्गत एक संवैधानिक निकाय

(A constitutional body under Article 338A of the Constitution of India)

File No. Review/4/NERAMAC/2024-SSW

Dated: 24.08.2024

To

**Shri Angshuman Dey,**

Secretary,

North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. (NERAMAC),

H/No. 09, Rajbari Path,

Ganeshguri, Guwahati-781005.

(Assam).

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**Sub: Review Meeting on implementation of constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Tribes – North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. (NERAMAC).**

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Minutes of Review Meeting held under the chairmanship of Shri Nirupam Chakma, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), New Delhi on 24.07.2024 at Guwahati, Assam.

It is requested that the action taken / to be taken on the recommendations / suggestion of the Meeting may be intimated to NCST within 30 days from receipt of this letter, for taking appropriate action.

Encl: As above.

Yours faithfully,

(R. S. Misra)

Research Officer

Ph. 011-24641640.

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Member (NC), NCST
- ✓ 2. NIC, NCST – for uploading on the website of the Commission.

## National Commission for Scheduled Tribes

Report and recommendations under article 338a(5)(c) of the Constitution of India on the measures to be taken by North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC), Guwahati for effective implementation of constitutional safeguards and review and monitoring of schemes for the protection, welfare, and social economic development of the Scheduled Tribes by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

[File No. Review/4/NERAMAC/2024-SSW]

Date of Review: 24.07.2024, Guwahati, Assam

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) is a Constitutional body set up under Article 338A of the Constitution of India to investigate and monitor all matters relating to protection, welfare and socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes in the Country. As per the Constitutional provisions, the Union and every State Govt. shall consult the Commission on all major policy decisions affecting Scheduled Tribes. The Commission presents its Reports to the Hon'ble President of India and all such Reports of the Commission upon the working/implementation of the Constitutional safeguards provided for Scheduled Tribes, are to be laid before each House of Parliament along with Memorandum explaining the Action Taken or proposed to be taken on the recommendations relating to the Union and the reasons for non- acceptance, if any, of any of such recommendations by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

2. In pursuance of the above constitutional mandate, Shri Nirupam Chakma, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, in the presence of Smt. Alka Tiwari, Secretary to Govt. of India, NCST and other Senior Officials of the Commission took review meeting with the Managing Director(MD) and other senior officers, North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) at NEDFI Conference Hall in Guwahati (Assam) on 24.07.2024 to evaluate the working of constitutional safeguards available to the Scheduled Tribes in the NERAMAC and review implementation of various service safeguards and other developmental schemes/programmes for the welfare and development of Scheduled Tribes employees and Scheduled Tribes of the Country.

3. Before the Review Meeting on 24.07.2024, the Hon'ble Member, NCST, in the presence of Secretary, NCST, Joint Secretary and other officials of the Commission had interaction and discussion with the lone ST Employee of NERAMAC as there is no SC / ST Employees Welfare Association in NERAMAC. He stated that there is relatively no problem in so far as ST employees are concerned. Presently, two ST employees are working on contractual basis in the organisation.

4. Thereafter, the Hon'ble Member, NCST, in the presence of the Secretary, Joint Secretary and other Sr. Officers of NCST reviewed NERAMAC with the Managing Director and other Sr. Officers of NERAMAC regarding issues affecting Scheduled Tribes employees in NERAMAC and also the activities NERAMAC w.r.t the welfare of STs in the North Eastern States. After a round of introduction and briefing on the functions and duties of the NCST, MD, NERAMAC apprised the Commission about the activities being undertaken by the NERAMAC for welfare and protection of Scheduled Tribes Employees and welfare of North Eastern States and country.

5. The MD, NERAMAC informed that North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC) Limited was incorporated in 1982 as a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) of the Government of India and now functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (M/o DoNER). Over the years, NERAMAC has evolved from its initial role as a



निरुपम चाकमा / Nirupam Chakma

सदस्य / Member

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marketing agency to focusing on capacity building. The NERAMAC has authorized share capital of Rs. 60 Crores and Paid-up share capital of Rs. 35.85 Crores. Its zonal offices are located at Agartala (Tripura), Imphal (Manipur) and Shillong (Meghalya). It is also an implementing agency for the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's (MoAFW). There are about 10,000 FPO (Farmer Producer Organization) formed and promoted under Central Sector Schemes of MoAFW. Starting from the Financial Year 2020-21, it developed about 220 FPOs in 5 years, out of which 163 are FPOs pertaining to Scheduled Tribes. Currently, over 27,000 farmers are linked with NERAMAC, which will increase to about 40,000 by August, 2024, when all are fully mobilised. It has also made significant advancements in the cold chain sector and the establishment of both major and minor food processing units. The fruit processing plant set up at Aizawl (Mizoram) is funded from Ministry of DoNER / NEC. It has about 11 retail kiosks at New Delhi, Assam, Nagaland and Tripura wherein 19% ST entrepreneurs are facilitated. Considerable efforts have been put-in by NERAMAC to issue Geographical Identification tagging from which 1400 farmers are benefitted. It was also informed that 16 more food products of NER for GI tagging are in progress, with special focus on Manipur. It actively engages in skill training and entrepreneurship development in collaboration with agencies such as MSDE, NSDC, FICSI, ASCI, NABARD and the Ministry of Social Justice. Skill training programmes focus on agriculture, food processing, rubber and allied sectors. During the year 2023-24, 10 events were organized / participated by NERAMAC. It was also informed that no ST funds were allocated to NERAMAC by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

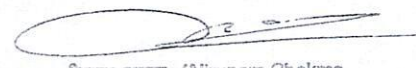
#### 6. Observation of the Commission:

In the reply to NCST Questionnaire, the NERAMAC has informed that Govt. of India announced revival package to NERAMAC on 18.08.2021. As part of the revival package, 20 out of 21 regular staff of NERAMAC opted for VRS. The revival plan does not permit regular appointment and only contractual staff was being hired. The total number of employees in the company was 51 out of which two (2) belong to ST category. There was only 2 regular staff, while the rest of the staff was on contract / casual basis. It was observed that the ST reservation was not followed by the administration in the contractual posts of NERAMAC.

#### Recommendation of the Commission:

After discussion with the MD, NERAMAC, the following recommendations are given in so far as it relates to the welfare of STs employees of the NERAMAC and welfare and development for STs of North Eastern States and country.

1. Comprehensive overview of State-wise backward and forward linkages may be furnished.
2. ST reservation may also be made in the outsourced / contractual posts in the organization.
3. State-wise list of Scheduled Tribes Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) may be provided.
4. Details of training organized / imparted for skill development of STs may be furnished. Skill which does not require migration may be promoted.
5. Indigenous training programmes on the local need basis may also be initiated.
6. The schemes / programmes run by NERAMAC needs to be evaluated.
7. 'One District One Product' programme may be identified and boosted for betterment of ST population.
8. The programmes may also be tied up with Autonomous Councils of the States (i.e. Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura under 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule to the Constitution of India).
9. State/Area wise plans/schemes require to be chalked out.
10. Awareness programmes about the schemes being implemented by NERAMAC may be launched.
11. An Internal Grievance Committee in NERAMAC may be constituted to look after the grievances of ST employees, as suggested by NCST in August, 2021.

  
निरुपम चाकमा / Nirupam Chakma  
सदस्य / Member  
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