

**VISIT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED TRIBES TO
MANIPUR, ASSAM AND ARUNACHAL PRADESH
FROM 14/06/09 TO 21/06/09**

PART-I : Visit to the State of Manipur

14/06/09 (Sunday):

1.0 Meeting with the Hon'ble Governor

His Excellency expressed his happiness over the visit of the Commission to the State of Manipur and desired that the Commission should apprise the areas of concern, requiring his attention, after having meeting with the officials of the State Govt. The Chairperson, NCST briefly mentioned the areas of concern pertaining to educational development, improvement in health standards, service safeguards, socio-economic development of STs and indicated that these were included for discussion with the officials of the State Govt in the ensuing meetings. Chairperson also assured that the important areas emerging from the interaction with the officials of the State Govt. will be brought to the attention of His Excellency.

2.0 Meeting with different ST Associations

A list of the ST Associations and the officials of the State Govt., who attended the meeting, is enclosed at Annexure-I

During the discussions, following issues were pointed out by the Associations:

- Lower representation of hilly areas though these cover major portion of the State
- Panchayat election not being held since 1972; elections of Distt. Council also not held
- Reservation policy in respect of STs not being implemented scrupulously
- Implementation of forest right not being desirable as it restricts ownership to only 4 hectares, while tribals are possessing much larger pieces of land
- Inadequate irrigation facilities
- Agriculture sector being needy of more subsidy
- Diversion of funds meant for STs
- Inclusion in 6th Schedule
- Development and promotion of tribal languages
- Jhum plantation to be seen as a part of their livelihood and should not be discouraged
- No representation of STs in Finance Commission

The officials of the State Govt. assured the Commission that the issues, falling within the jurisdiction of the State Govt. would be looked into.

Regarding remaining issues, the Commission advised the Associations to formulate their proposals formally and submit these through the State Govt to the concerned Ministry of the Central Govt, under intimation to the Commission.

Action: Govt. of Manipur

3.0 Meeting with the Chief Minister

The Commission briefly mentioned the major areas of concern, which were also included for discussion with the State Govt. in the review meeting scheduled to be held on 15/06/09. The issues emerging from the rehabilitation of the displaced persons arising out of setting up of major projects in the State also figured in. It was indicated that there was an urgent need for the State to settle pending cases of compensation especially pertaining to Mapithel Project. The need to establish a system to ensure proper implementation of safeguards available to the STs was also emphasized. The Chief Minister assured that these issues will be addressed on priority.

Action: Govt. of Manipur

15/06/09 (Monday)

4.0 Visit to tribal areas- Longmai (Noney)

The Headman of the village pointed out that the development programmes were not yielding desired results and requested that effectiveness of all welfare schemes should be critically examined with a view to improving their delivery system. Vice Chairperson explained that role of the Commission was to monitor safeguards available to the STs. While specific grievances could be submitted to the Commission, the Village Committee should also bring out the deficiencies in the system to the BDO and the State Govt. SDO assured to look into the complaints of the villagers and do the needful.

The following Memorandums were submitted to the Commission, which will be processed by the RO, NCST, Shillong was processing:

S.No.	Name of the Associations	Issues raised
1	Raengkhang 1,2,3 Village Authority, Distt. Tamenglong	construction of an Auditorium Hall
2	Village Authority Council, Longmai, Longchum, Pongringlong & Haochong Circles, Tamenglong Disttt. Manipur	Setting up of Tribal Hills University, Bank, opening of hostel facilities,. Revival of Ashram School, etc.
3	Karuangmuan, Village Authority, Karuangmuan, Tamenglong Distt. Manipur	Construction of multipurpose play ground

Action: Govt. of Manipur
RO, NCST, Shillong

15/06/09 (Tuesday)

5.0 Meeting with the Chief Secretary and other State level officers

5.1 A list of the officials of the State Govt., who attended the meeting, is enclosed at Annexure-II

5.2 The Commission noted that the State has significant percentage of ST families below the poverty line [56.9% - 2000] out of total percentage of families in this State below poverty line [BPL] [17.30% - 2005]. As 90% of the ST population in this State reside in 5 hill districts having difficult terrain, enormous problems relating to road connectivity, health care system, safe drinking water, electricity and education existed which required to be attended by the State Government on priority to improve the socio- economic condition of the STs. The State Government was advised to have focused and time bound programmes for speedy development of these areas.

Action: Govt of Manipur

5.3 Regarding literacy, it was noted that a significant gender gap of about 20% existed. The State Govt was advised to fill up the gap in a time bound manner by extending more facilities for education of ST girls, setting up of residential schools, grant of scholarships and other incentives etc. It was also noted that the turn out of graduates in rural/urban areas belonging to ST categories was not significant. Further special coaching/trainings were needed to be organized for ST students at a larger scale. The State Government assured to take necessary step in this regard.

Action: Govt of Manipur

5.4 It was brought out by the State Govt that late release of funds by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MTA) has resulted in marginal shortfall in achievement vis-à-vis target. It was therefore desired that Ministry of Tribal Affairs may be advised to release the funds in time.

Action: Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

5.5 The Commission noted that the position regarding forest villages and enumeration of tribal population therein has not been indicated in the reply to the questionnaire furnished to the Commission. These details were required to realistically review the schemes being implemented to provide basic amenities in such villages. It was requested that the requisite information may be furnished to the Commission at the earliest.

Action: Govt of Manipur.

5.6 The Commission observed that there was no institutional arrangement to regulate collection and marketing of minor forest produce. The State Govt assured that the matter will be looked into.

Action: Govt of Manipur

5.7 It was noted from the position submitted by the State Govt in the meeting that on an overall basis, the percentage of STs in the Govt service is only 24.6% [15,822 out of 64,410 employees]. The representation of STs in all categories except in respect of Gr. 'D' and sweepers is much below than the prescribed quota of reservation [i.e. 31%]. The State Govt was therefore advised to fill up the vacancies earmarked for STs in a time bound manner by launching special drives. Further, the state Govt. should enforce strict implementation of the reservation policy, considering the adverse comments of the Associations in the matter

The Commission also desired that in respect of the cases where man power is being outsourced, the State Govt should ensure proper representation of STs.

Action: Govt of Manipur

5.9 Regarding provision of drinking water in ST dominated habitations, it was indicated by the Joint Secretary, NCST that out of total 2321 ST dominated habitations, only 1721 habitations were covered as per the position furnished by the NHRM. He emphasized that the supply of drinking water to all habitations was targeted to be achieved by 2012. The State Govt assured to step up their efforts to meet the target and also to ensure proper quality of the drinking water being supplied to the habitations.

Action: Govt of Manipur.

5.10 The Commission expressed its concern over the inordinate delay in furnishing of factual position into the reported rape and other physical harassment of 25 girls of Hamar Tribes by ULFA and KCP of Chuda Chandpur Distt. of Manipur. The response from the Director General of Police (DGP) had not been received till date though a reference was made to him one year back. This has led to inclusion of the subject for discussion in the meeting. The Commission advised the State Govt. that the matter relating to atrocities on STs must be looked into on priority basis by the State Govt and any delay in grant of justice to the victims should be avoided at any cost. DGP, Govt of Manipur informed that a Commission had been constituted to investigate into the reported incident and its report is under examination of the State govt. However pending this, compensation has also been granted to the victims. It was assured by the State Govt that the factual position in the matter will be furnished to the Commission within a fortnight.

Action: Govt of Manipur

5.11 The Commission referred to the representation dated 23/4/2008 received from Shri R. Kasar, Chairman, Mepithel Dam Affected Villages Organisation [Thoubal Multipurpose Project], Manipur regarding non-formulation and implementation of a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan by involving the affected villagers. The cost of the project, which was initially Rs. 47.25 crore in 1990, was revised to Rs. 715.81 crore in June 2007. The demand of the affected villagers pertained to payment of compensation commensurate with the present market value of the land, which, inter-alia has been taking into account while working out of the revised

cost of the Project. The State Govt has not furnished status on the rehabilitation and payment of compensation to the Commission in spite of the lapse of considerable period.

The State Govt handed over a note in the meeting indicating the implementation of rehabilitation and resettlement plan for the Project. A response to the representation dated 23/4/08 of Shri R. Kasar pending with the State Govt will also be forwarded to the Commission within a fortnight for examination. Pending this, a copy of the note submitted by the State Govt. will also be forwarded to Shri R. Kasar for his comments if any.

Action: Govt of Manipur

6.0 Visit to Tribal Research Institute (TRI)

Director , TRI apprised of the activities of the Institute and illustrated diversity of the tribal culture.

PART-II: Visit to the State of Arunachal Pradesh

17.09.2008 (Wednesday).

1.0 Visit to Rajiv Gandhi University, Naharlagun

1.1 An audio-visual presentation was made by the University about its activities. The University has been converted into a Central university w.e.f April, 2007. It is offering post-graduation as well as PHD programmes in various disciplines. The University is also strengthening the infrastructure to meet the emerging requirements.

The enrollment of STs in the University is 82.3%, while the representation of faculty, belonging to ST category is about 35%.

1.2 The Commission had detailed Interactive session with the faculty and the students.

It was requested that the reservation in the universities in Delhi should be provided as per the policy of the Central Govt.(7.5%) and not 1% as available at present. It was explained by the Commission, the matter is being followed up with the State Govt.

1.3 Indigenous Employees Welfare Association requested for reservation in respect of non-teaching Gp. 'B', 'C' and 'D' staff in accordance with the reservation policy of the State Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh (80%).

The Commission advised the Association that Rajiv Gandhi University is a Central University, and therefore, reservation policy in accordance with reservation policy of the Central Govt. was to be applied.

Action: RO, Shillong
(Letter dated 17/06/09 from
the Association to be replied)

2.0 Visit to North East Region Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST), Naharlagun

2.1 Director NERIST, briefly apprised the Commission of the various activities of the Institute and its achievements in the field of higher education

2.2 North East Region Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) Arunachalee Employees Welfare Association submitted Memo. Dated 17/06/09 raising following issues:

- Implementation of reservation orders in respect of Gr. 'C' and Gr. 'D'
- Lifting of ban on fresh appointments.

It was explained to the Association that as recruitment in Gr. 'C' and Gr 'D' is linked with the ban on NERIST in recruitment in these categories, NERIST should formulate a justifiable proposal for their requirement of manpower and seek sanction thereof from the appropriate authority. Thereafter, reservation as applicable to a Central University will be applicable in respect of the sanctioned strength.

2.3 Shri. Radak Blange, Sr Lecturer requested for establishment of a Special Cell for SCs and STs in the Institute as per the existing instructions and submitted a letter in this regard.

Shri. Radak Blange was advised to submit a formal proposal on the subject matter to the appropriate Authority. In case of delay, the Commission could be approached for intervention.

18.09.2009 (Thursday):

3.0 Visit to Poma tribal village

The Commission visited Poma tribal village which falls in Papum Pare Distt., located just 30 kms from the Capital city of Itanagar. It is inhabited by Nyishi tribe, which is one of the decendents of abotani group of tribal and constitutes the largest tribe of of Arunchal Pradesh. The approach road to this village is partly black topped, partly metalled and rest is muddy roads. It will be difficult to travel in the rainy season to this village as lot of gutters and landslide residual mud will block the way. Interaction with the villagers revealed the following:

- The people in this village lives in traditional houses in their own way.
- There is no potable drinking water facility in this area. It is informed to the Commission that they obtain water from the nearby river and during rainy season, it cannot be used to drink as the water gets polluted.
- There is no work under NREGA as people complained that they got work for only 20 days out of the 100 days work promised by the programme, which they already completed.

- There is no job for the youth. Vacancies exist in schools as trained teachers are not available locally.

4.0 Visit to Basarnallo

The Commission visited another village called Basar Nallo which is also in the Papum Pare Distt. about 20 kms away from the Poma village. Here also the condition of the roads is very pathetic. It is situated on the banks of river Basar which floods during rainy seasons further adding to the woes of the villagers. Though the Distt. Administration constructed a rope bridge to cross the river recently, there is no permanent way to cross the river to reach the adjacent village. Their main income is from agricultural products like bamboo, vegetables like potato, cucumber etc. They produce rice only for their own consumption as there is a scarcity of fertile land. People of the area complained about :

- Lack of electricity in the area
- Non- availability of potable drinking water
- Black topped roads
- Non- availability of job opportunities to the educated

5.0 Visit to Jawaharlal State Museum, Itanagar

Dy. Director, Jawaharlal State Museum illustrated the history and culture of the State , especially various tribals

19.06.2009 (Friday)

6.0 Meeting with the Chief Minister

6.1 The Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh drew the attention of the Commission to the strategic location of the State and lack of employment opportunities. In this connection, he also sought assistance of the Commission for an early approval of the proposal of the State Govt. submitted to the Ministry of Defence for raising of "Arunachal Scouts" for productive employment to large number of youngsters in Arunachal Pradesh who otherwise may be misled by antisocial elements.

6.2 The Chief Minister also highlighted that allocation under Article 275 (1) on the basis of population needs review in respect of hill areas in States like Arunachal Pradesh which are sparsely located. The commission informed that the matter will be taken up with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs especially in the context of Arunachal Pradesh which is strategically located and requires initiatives for expeditious development of Arunachal Pradesh.

6.3 The State Government also indicated burden on their funds earmarked for development on account of meeting essential requirements for defence purposes. Certain infrastructure built up at the expense of state was also being exclusively used by the Defence forces. Being a resource stripped state, Government of Arunachal Pradesh need financial support to cover such expenditure. It was advised by the Commission that the matter could be

taken up with the State Government with the concerned authorities, under intimation to the Commission.

Action: Govt of Arunachal Pradesh.

7.0 Meeting with the Chief Secretary and other Senior Officers

7.1 List of the officials who attended the Meeting is enclosed at Annexure-IV

7.2 Chairperson highlighted that the State of Arunachal Pradesh is blessed with immense natural resources and therefore its benefits should be fully enjoyed by its people, especially those residing in rural areas. Chairperson also shared her experience of the field visits to Poma tribal village and Basar Nallo and indicated that basic amenities for the tribals may be further improved for better living.

7.3 Vice Chairman emphasized that connectivity, infrastructure,- road power and drinking water, telecommunication, educational and health facilities need to be further upgraded for all around economic development of the State.,

7.4 It was noted that gender gap of 26% in literacy is more than the national level. Further, urban rural gap between male and females is about 30%. The Commission observed that the State Govt. should formulate an effective plan to fill up the gap

7.5 The Commission also noted that the State Govt. has not reported Pupil- teacher ratio. Further, taking into consideration the reported shortage of teachers, there is a need to rationalize their strength and also to take urgent initiatives to fill up the vacant posts. Further, new initiatives are required to be taken to open institutes for higher education, as the total annual turnout of graduates in State is about 800-1000 only (out of about 3 Lakh students). There is no medical and engineering college in the State. The State Govt need to take necessary action to open engineering and medical colleges also.

Action: Govt._of Arunachal Pradesh

7.6 Director, Higher & Technical Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh mentioned that Govt. of India has allotted 58 numbers of seats through AIEEE to Arunachal Pradesh. Out of which, only 7 seats have been shown against ST and 8 seats for SC. As per Census 2001, 70% of the population is APST and as such the State govt. has adopted the reservation policy of 80% for the APST in the State whereas there is no SC in the State. Further, no seat has been allotted to NIT. He sought assistance of the commission in the matter. The Commission advised that the State Govt. should submit a formal proposal to the Ministry of HRD under information to the Commission. On receipt of the proposal, the commission will also recommend the same to the Ministry of HRD.

Action: Govt._of Arunachal Pradesh

7.7 In NERIST only 10% of the seats are reserved for Arunachal Pradesh the host State whereas in the St. Longowal Institute of Technology, Punjab, the similarly placed centrally funded institution, 50% of the seats have been reserved for the students of the State. Hence , NCST should take up the matter regarding reservation of 50% of the seats for the host State on the lines of the provisions available for St. Longowal Institute of Technology, Punjab. The Commission advised that a proposal on the subject may be formulated by the State Govt. for taking up the matter with the State Govt. a copy of the proposal may also be forwarded to the Commission for intervention.

Action: Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh

7.8 It was pointed out by the State Govt. that no Medical College has been opened in the State. The State also suffers from non-availability of specialists in critical areas. The Specialists and the Doctors from other areas are also not willing to serve in the State even on contractual assignments due to remoteness of the areas of postings and non-availability of housing and educational facilities as per their expectations. However, the State Govt. is also taking necessary steps to provide housing facility to the Paramedical staff in remote areas to the extent possible As an interim measure upgradation of Nahar Hospital to a 300 bedded Hospital had commenced. It is proposed to be upgraded to 50- seats Medical College in Phase-II.

7.9 The State Govt. requested the Commission into assist in reservation of certain seats for their Doctors in AIIMS in Post-graduation in certain specialized areas to overcome the problems of non-availability of Specialists. The Commission advised the State Govt. to forward a copy of their proposal, addressed to the Ministry of Health, to the Commission for intervention.

Action: Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh

7.10 The State Govt. also highlighted initiatives taken by them with regard to opening of 1 PHC in each Distt. (Total 16) under public private partnership with an investment of Rs 30 Lakh per annum per PHC. It was, however, requested that the existing norms of the Central Govt. for opening of PHC etc. in the hill areas needs to be reviewed due to remoteness of these areas.

7.11 The Commission noted that the State Govt. should have more focus on improvement of standards of health in respect of areas having infant mortality rate, low expectancy at birth, significant distance to the nearest medical centre, absenteeism of doctors, compounders and nurses etc

7.12 Joint Secretary, NCST mentioned that as per the report received from the NHRM, out of total 5322 ST dominated habitations, 4067 habitations have been covered with supply of drinking water. He mentioned that as per the target all habitations are required to be covered by 2012. It was confirmed by the State Govt. that the target will be met with supply of drinking water of stipulated standard of quality.

Action: Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh

7.13 In the context of the setting up of major projects, especially in the Hydro Power sector in the ensuing years, the State Govt. confirmed that a rehabilitation policy – 2007 has been framed, which is being followed.

8.0 Meeting with the MLAs and Panchayat leaders

8.1 List of tribal delegates is enclosed at Annexure-IV

8.2 The representatives informed that functional authority and decentralization of funds with financial powers is yet to be devolved to the Panchayats.. It was informed by the State Govt. that the matter was under consideration. The Commission desired that an urgent action should be taken by the State Govt. in the matter to enable the Panchayats function effectively.

Action: Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh

9.0 Visit to the State Museum

The Commission was briefed of the history and tribal culture of various tribal groups of Arunachal Pradesh.

PART-III : Visit to the State of Assam

16/06/09 (Wednesday)

1.0 Meeting with different ST Associations

1.1 List of the Associations’ reps, who attended the meeting, is enclosed at Annexure-III

1.2 The issues raised by the different Associations are summarized as under::

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deficiencies in implementation of the Assam SCs and STs (reservation of vacancies in services and posts) Act, 1978: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Delay in filling up of large number of vacancies; carry forward principle not being followed ➤ Reservation roster not being maintained properly ➤ De-reservation of STs being resorted without concurrence of the WPT&BC Deptt.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation into de-reservation of 59 posts of Inspectors of Police vide order dated 9th June 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> %Increase the reservation quota from the present level on account of addition of new communities of STs in 2002
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Termination of services of non-tribal people illegally occupying the posts reserved for the tribal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Certain advertisements for employment not specifying reservation of STs

•	No further scheduling of communities
•	Improper utilization of funds- diversion of funds including of SCA;
•	Construction of tribal hostels in Guwahati, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and in all educational institutions in Assam
•	Existence of health- disparities in tribal dominated areas; 30 bedded hospitals in every tribal dominated areas
•	Sole ownership rights to tribals
•	Consultative status to Tribal Sangha
•	Increase in present level of reservation (12 %) to the level of ST population in accordance with 2001 census
•	No ST member in any Board or Corporation; tribal representative desirable especially in Land Advisory Committee
•	Infrastructure development in tribal dominated areas
•	National Scheduled Caste ST Finance and Development Corporation and Assam Plains Tribes Development Corporation to be activated with introduction of more schemes
•	Delay in conduct of Special Recruitment Drive
•	Improper fixation of seniority of reserved candidate vis-a vis general candidates in promotional post
•	Posting of tribal officers in TRI, Director, TRI should be a tribal

1.3 It was mentioned to the Associations that the issue raised by them will be discussed in the meeting with the Officials of the State Govt. RO, NCST, Shillong was also requested to process the cases, which were referred to them, with the State Govt. expeditiously.

1.4 Regarding implementation of reservation policy it was clarified by the Officers of the State. Govt. that It is being followed in letter and spirit. JS, NCST suggested that RO, NCST, Shillong, may verify record of n Deptts. of the State Govt. with regard to roster management., dereservation and adherence to the instructions/ procedure of the reservation policy.

Action: RO, NCST, Shillong

2.0 Visit to tribal areas

2.1 Sonapur village which is about 30kms from Guwahati was visited in the afternoon. While meeting the tribal people, one girl by the name of Dayali Deori narrated that she was denied admission in the nearest Govt.School which was near to her house. Under these circumstances, she was forced to take admission in a private school, which is far away. She is also not receiving any scholarship in the private school. The denial of admission to a tribal in a Govt. School was taken note by the Commission for discussion in the State Level Review meeting. This was followed by the visit to All Assam Tribal Sangh District Unit, Dimoria's office. The Secretary of the Sangh stated that the Sangh had received Rs.20 lakhs from Tribal Sub Plan in the year 2007-08. Out of this, Rs.10,000 each was given to 10 ladies for starting their business through small shops This amount is a one time assistance and is not refundable. While in Tupatoli village, Rs.one lakh was given to a Self Help

Group (SHG) to weave their own traditional dress and gomchas. The products were then sold in the retail counter set up at every ten kms. Some youths were also assisted by helping them to open a counter for mobile phones- Aircell, Airtel or Reliance to enable them to sustain themselves.

20/09/2008 (Saturday)

3.0 Meeting with the Chief secretary and senior officials of the Govt. of Assam

3.1 The Vice Chairperson enquired about the status on inclusion of Tea and ex-Tea Garden Communities- Moran/Matak/Tai/Chutia in the list of STs. It was informed by the State Govt. that the proposal was recommended to the Central Govt. in May 1995. The proposal is still awaiting consideration of the Central Govt. A copy of the Govt. of Assam letter dated 15th may 1995, addressed to the Ministry of Welfare in the matter was also handed over to the Commission

3.2 The Commission raised the issue regarding enhancement of the present quota of reservation (10%) on account of increase in population of STs as a result of addition of five new communities in 2002. It was explained by the State Govt. that the proposed increase in the present level of reservation was not possible as it violated the overall ceiling of reservation in respect of STs, SCs and OBCs, laid down by the Supreme Court.

3.3 Joint Secretary, NCST referred to the discussions held with the ST Associations on 16/06/2009, where officials of the State Govt were also present. In the said meeting it was mentioned by the Associations that roster maintenance in respect of the govt employees was not proper and de-reservation of the post reserved for STs was not being carried out in accordance with the prescribed procedure. It was also highlighted that a large number of vacancies reserved for STs were lying vacant.

3.4 It was explained by the State Govt that about 5000 vacancies for STs were lying vacant and a special drive to fill up these posts had already been launched. The rosters were properly maintained and the procedure for dereservation of posts were also strictly followed. The Commission desired that a review in this regard would be carried out by the Regional Office of NCST at Shillong.

Action: R.O, NCST, Shillong.

3.5 Joint Secretary, NCST referred to the advertisement for filling up of the post of 51 Principals in provincial colleges of the State without specifying any percentages for SCs/STs/OBCs. The post of Principal should not be treated as a single post for any college but belonging to one cadre of the department. As such, reservation in accordance with 100 point roster should be applicable. Based on the intervention of the RO, Shillong, the Dept of Welfare of plain tribes and backward classes has also written to the Education Department of the State for enforcing reservation as per 100 roster point. However, the final

outcome of the decision has been communicated as yet. It was decided by the Commission that the subject should be urgently examined by the State Govt and communicated to the RO, Shillong. RO, Shillong will also further interact with the State Govt..

Action: R.O, Shillong and Govt of Assam.

3.6 The Vice Chairperson noted that a large number of NGOs are being involved by the State Govt in disseminating information and implementation of programmes for development of STs. He inquired about the quality of service of these NGOs. The State Govt mentioned that they have no role in selection of the NGOs while failures in meeting the desired standards of performance by some of the NGOs were also noted. The Vice Chairperson observed that the selection of NGOs and monitoring of their performance should be carried out in accordance with their laid down procedure/criteria so that non-performing NGOs are not provided any role in the process of development of STs. He also requested the State Govt to periodically apprise of the performance of the NGOs to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, who may also be requested to select NGOs based on a well laid down criteria and past performance.

Action: Govt of Assam and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

3.7 The Commission noted the wide gender gap of about 20% in literacy of STs. and desired that the State Govt should formulate and implement an effective plan of implementation to fill in the gap within a reasonable period. Further there is a need to intensify efforts for economic development of the STs who are below poverty line. A targeted approach in this regard should be followed.

Action: Govt of Assam

3.8 Regarding shortage of doctors and paramedical staff and shortage of about of 12000 teachers, it was explained by the State Govt that the shortages, which are huge are being met through contractual appointments. As an incentive for posting to remote areas, accommodation, to the extent feasible is also being provided. Chief Secretary, Assam mentioned that a process of rationalization of the existing strength of the teachers in the schools was also on to the uniformly place services of the teachers within their available strength.

4.0 Meeting with the Chief Minister

The Commission briefly apprised the Chief Minister of Assam of the discussions held with the senior officers of the State Govt and its experience of the field visit. It was indicated that the information furnished by the State Govt was required to be supplemented and also to be further reviewed by the Commission. The Chief Minister noted that certain initiatives of the State Govt, which were recently launched did not appear to have been projected to the Commission. He directed the officials of the state Govt to furnish a note to the Commission at the earliest so that the position regarding development of STs in the state is properly reflected.

Action: Govt of Assam