

Note on the Issues discussed, Points raised and action proposed to be taken on the suggestions made by the Chairperson and Hon'ble Members of Parliament during the visit of Parliamentary Standing Committee to Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya (1st to 7th Feb.,2006)

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs (and DoNER) consisting of ten Members of Parliament and four Committee officers from Rajya Sabha Sectt. assembled at Guwahati on 1st Feb.,06 noon for on-the-spot inspection and review of law and order situation and development projects in five North Eastern States. In the evening the Standing Committee visited following two projects implemented with the financial support from this Ministry under NLCPR, in Guwahati.

National Games Stadium, Guwahati:

This facility, created with a total amount of RS.75.10 crore from our resources under NLCPR was much appreciated by the Standing Committee. It was mentioned that Main Athletic Stadium, AC Indoor Stadium and infrastructure so developed are of international standard. The Chairperson specially mentioned about its sustainable use once the games are over and thus the money so spent should not go waste. She suggested that a North Eastern Sports Academy may be established for inculcating a spirit of integration in the Region and for overall development of sports by associating the youths of all the 8 N.E. States. This point is likely to be mentioned during future discussions with the Ministry.

Shrimanta Shankar Dev Kalkshetra, Guwahati:

In the evening, the Standing Committee visited 1250 capacity auditorium and Convention Center at Shankar Dev Kalkshetra, Guwahati. They have seen all the three auditoria. This facility was highly appreciated by one and all the Standing Committee Members. The Kalakshetra, alumnis presented a curtain raiser 'fusion of three Indian Classical dances' which was applauded by all the audiences. The thoughtful support of M/o DoNER was specially admired by the Chairperson, all the Members of Parliament and officers of the State Government. About its sustainable utility, by way of developing the Centre as a hub Centre of Cultural and Fine Arts Activity in the Region, the Chairperson and other Members were fully convinced.

Arunachal Pradesh

In Arunachal Pradesh the Standing Committee visited on 2nd and 3rd Feb.,06 at two locations namely Tawang and Pasighat. In each of the locations, project visited and issues discussed are as follows:-

Tawang:

In Tawang, the project site of ropeway from renowned Tawang Monastery to Ani Gompa was seen by the Standing Committee. After visit to Tawang Buddhist Monastery, which was also requested by the Buddhist monks to declare as World Heritage Site, the ropeway site was visited by the Standing Committee. This project was not in the visit schedule. There was a foundation stone laid by the President of India in 2002. The stone was damaged by the local residents reportedly perhaps due to virtually no action on the construction of proposed ropeway. It was mentioned that the project is under

submission, which may cost around Rs. 3.00 crore. The Chairperson mentioned that pending issues should be sorted expeditiously specially in view of the fact that foundation stone has been laid by the President. She also mentioned that when President of India/Prime Minister of India lays Foundation stone that project must be completed 'on priority' in the given time frame as a matter of principle.

Later on, as understood, from our records, the DPR from Government of Arunachal Pradesh came in 9/3/2004. However, the Techno-Economic aspects of revised DPR as received from the State Government on 25/11/2005 are under examination by the line Ministries, namely M/o Urban Development and M/o Tourism.

Pasighat:

Two Projects have been visited in Pasighat as scheduled:

- (i) **Augmentation of water supply project:** This project was sanctioned under NLCPR in September 1999 with an estimated cost of Rs.5.05 crore. The project is completed to the extent of 95% and funds released to the tune of Rs. 4.85 crores. It was stated by the Executive Engineer that funds to the extent of Rs.15.00 lakh are to be released by the Ministry. I made it clear that Utilization Certificate of last installment of funds released is a financial requirement to release balance amount. Appreciating the fact, the Standing Committee asked the State Government to give UC. They also appreciated the role of M/o DoNER and assured the State Govt. on our behalf, that the balance amount will be released as soon as UCs are sent by the Project authorities/State Government. Later on, we were told

that they have sent the UCs in the month of January,06 and therefore, the release of balance amount may be expedited.

- (ii) **Pasighat Airport:** Shri Tapir Gao, Member of Parliament from Pasighat time and again emphasized the need for an airport at Pasighat. In fact, he was the force behind the Standing Committee to bring them at this part of the Arunachal Pradesh. On 2nd Feb.,2006, despite two attempts from Tawang, the air force helicopter could not make to Pasighat due to bad weather conditions. Therefore, scheduled visit to Itanagar was abandoned. Thus, we reached Pasighat on 3rd Feb.,2006.

The Standing Committee felt that to provide air-connectivity is an absolute requirement to the area. In this regard, the Standing Committee understood that after abandoning the initial work by the M/o Home Affairs with a cost of Rs. 3.25 crore, the NEC stepped in to undertake the project with an estimated cost of Rs. 20.77 crore. However, the progress is at snail's pace as requisite formalities of consulting Planning Commission, M/o Civil Aviation, M/o Finance etc to prepare Standing Finance Committee Memo are yet to be completed. The Standing Committee expressed anguish and desired to place it in the meetings with all concerned including in the future discussions with the NEC and Ministry.

Nagaland

The Standing Committee visited in the evening to primarily review the law and order situation in the State. During the review, the State Government has brought out two project proposals 'namely modernization of

district administration' and 'modernization of the district village guards'. Both the project proposals obviously pertain to the subject matter of M/o Home Affairs. No doubt, a copy has been given to us. However, we would pass on these as also the formal proposals if it comes to our Ministry to M/o Home Affairs for further necessary action at their end as they consider appropriate.

Manipur

The visit to Manipur comprised of following areas and projects:-

Border Trade Site: Moreh Trade Centre

The Committee noted that while direct trade on the border of India and Myanmar is very little but indirect trade from the border even through 'barter system' is in vogue substantially. M/o Commerce and Industry has created infrastructure but actual utilization is not up to the mark.

Khuman Lampok Sports Complex

The Standing Committee visited Khuman Lampok Sports Complex which has been created under NLCPR with a release of Rs. 10 crore during 1998-99. A need was felt to convert it into Sports Academy so as to ensure sustainable use of this facility. In this regard, process is on in consultation with M/o Sports to provide additional infrastructure under NLCPR. However, Committee felt that all concerned agencies need to take expeditious action on this matter.

Manipur University

Development of infrastructure for Manipur University and 60 affiliated colleges with an assistance of Rs. 20 crore was agreed to under NLCPR during 1999-2000. In addition, project for construction of 100 bedded hostels one each for girls and boys in the University campus were sanctioned during 2004 under NLCPR with a total cost of Rs.3.89 crore. However, the State Government informed to the Standing Committee that nearly 50% grant in both the cases i.e. expansion as well as setting up of hostels is still to be utilized by the State.

Regional Institute of Medical Sciences(RIMS)

The Committee visited the RIMS in the evening of 5/2/2006. The phase-I of the RIMS has been completed with an amount of Rs.89.01 crore from NEC. The Second phase has been restricted to Rs.74.36 crore. However, the revised phase-II proposal prioritizing the important items of work which need to be taken up during the balance period of 10th Plan is still to be firmed up by Director(RIMS). The Committee was requested to expedite the issues especially in view of announcements made by the then Prime Ministers during their visits for expansion and strengthening of RIMS. It was felt that the matter may be expedited by NEC and Director(RIMS) in collaboration with M/o Health and Family Welfare and other concerned agencies including our Ministry.

The other issues raised by the visiting Standing Committee include:

- (i) The connectivity especially the roads and air should be given uppermost importance to minimize isolation of the region and maximize economic linkages to the Region.

- (ii) State have requested for assistance to participate in the North East Trade Expo (as NEC is not coming forth, we have already moved a file to release Rs.4 lakhs to each of the North Eastern State for NE Expo 2006).
- (iii) Border Trade and related infrastructure in the Region should be given adequate attention. Presently, most of the trade is through illegal channels, leading to loss of revenue. Ministry of DoNER should take the lead for a meeting on one of the sites with Ministries of External Affairs, Commerce and Finance to streamline and expedite the process of regulated international trade in the NER.
- (iv) Encouraged by their visit and understanding the issues the Standing Committee intended to undertake visits to remaining three States of NER, namely Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim at their earliest convenience.
