

**STATE LEVEL REVIEW MEETING OF TRIPURA STATE HELD ON 5 & 6th
NOVEMBER, 2015 AT AGARTALA, TRIPURA**

Meeting ó 1.

(a) Meeting with MLAs/MPs/Ex-MLAs/Ex- MPs etc. :

Venue : State Guest House, Agartala, Tripura

Date : 05.11.2015

Time : 12.00 Noon.

The meeting attended by ten numbers of Public Representatives including sitting MP, sitting MLAs and Ex-MLAs (The attendance sheet is enclosed as **Annex-I**). During the discussion with the public representatives of Tripura State, following issues emerged.

1. False Caste Certificate : Issuance of false caste certificate is rampant in Tripura State. Although hundreds of such cases have been detected, but the cases are pending at State Government level pending enquiry & investigation. The public representative(s) urged for expedite decision on each reported cases and also demanded for issuance of SC Certificates quickly to those who genuinely belong to Scheduled Castes.
2. Filling up of reserved vacancies in the State service : It has been reported that about 15,000 of posts are lying vacant in the State. It is demanded that such reserved vacancies should be filled up immediately.
3. Non-maintenance of Reservation Rosters : It is alleged that the reservation rosters are not maintained in the State both at State Government level (particularly in the Departments like Education, Police, PWD, Social Welfare and Electricity) as well as PSU level. It has been further added that 100 point rosters are specifically not followed in following cases:
 - (a) School & College teachers with fixed pay.
 - (b) Under SarbaSikshaAbhiyan and,
 - (c) Gram Sevak under NREGA programme.
4. The scheme on allotment of land amongst landless SC people is to be restored in the State as the same is reportedly stopped since 2011-12.
5. In 298 revenue villages predominantly occupied by SCs, the infrastructural developmental works have stopped since 2009-10. It has been demanded for restoration of development work with an immediate effect.

6. Family income limit has to be increased should be increased to ` 5 lakh from the present limit of Urban ` 1.2 lakh and Rural ` 90,000/-.
7. District-wise English medium school should be opened to ensure quality education for SC children.
8. Percentage of BPL families in the State of Tripura is 21.68% i.e. more than population percentage of SCs which 17.8%. It is demanded that special measures be taken to reduce / wipe out the gap.
9. Setting up of Rest House / Hostel in New Delhi for SC students / job aspirants from Tripura State : It has been demanded for setting up rest houses / hostels for SC students and job aspirants who require to stay in New Delhi but don't find suitable accommodation there.
10. Allotment of fund under SCSP as per SC population in the State: A demand has been made to ask the Government of Tripura to allocate budget under SCSP sub-plan as per population percentage in the State which should be 17.8% instead of 17% as in practice now.
11. Reservation of 1 seat for Scheduled Caste in Parliament from Tripura State.

Meeting ó 2.

(b) Meeting with general public, representatives of Scheduled Caste Service

Associations and NGOs :

Venue : State Guest House, Agartala, Tripura

Date : 05.11.2015

Time : 02.00 p.m.

Twenty eight petitioners/representatives of associations were present in the meeting and many of them submitted written petitions and orally explained their grievances. While most of the points raised have already covered in the meeting with the public representatives, other prominent points as raised are enlisted as under :-

1. In the even SC entrepreneurs seek loan from the Government owned financial institutions like State SC Finance Corporation etc., the applicant are ask to produce certificate from the Government employees as "Guarantor" against the loan. Due to such harsh condition, many SC entrepreneurs fail to obtain loans from the State Government.
2. NREGA payment shall be made as per minimum wages of the State.

3. Extra-curricular activities should be introduced in hostels to ensure overall development of SC youth.

List of participants attended the meeting is enclosed as **Annex-II**.

Meeting ó 3.

(c) State level Review of Tripura Government :

Venue : State Guest House, Agartala, Tripura

Date : 06.11.2015

Time : 10.00 a.m.

Dr. PL. Punia, Honøble Chairman, Dr.Raj Kumar Verka, Honøble Vice-Chairman, ShriRajuParmar, ShriIshwar Singh and Smt P.M. Kamamma, Honøble Members conducted the meeting with the Chief Secretary, Secretary ST & SC Welfare, Home Secretary, DGP and other department heads. The list of participants is enclosed as **Annex-III**.

The meeting started with brief introduction by Honøble Chairman about Commissionø's mandate and informed that the present meeting is not a fault finding exercise but sharing Commissionø's experience in other States / Uts the field of SC Welfare. Thereafter, a brief power point presentation made by the SC Welfare Department, Tripura Government highlighting schemes and programmes the department have undertaken for welfare of Scheduled Castes in the State followed by agenda-wise discussion based on filled-in questionnaire received from the State.

The issues as discussed are as under:

Literacy :

1. Honøble Chairman and team praised the efforts made by the State Government to educate SC population in the State as the State has a very high level of SC literacy (89.45%) when the General Literacy is 87.20% during the year 2011 in the Tripura State. Compared to All India status (74.04%), the SC literacy is also in higher side (89.45%). When compared to Male / Female literacy breakups, the SC Male (92.78%) and SC Female (86%) recorded higher while their counter parts from General Castes recorded as Male (91.50%) and Female 82.70%). Presence of good number of schools in the State has also been praised by the full Commission.

2. However, looking to the dropout rates at Secondary level, the Commission opined that the same is quite high as 19.16 per 100 boys and 22.61 per 100 girls as enumerated during the year 2014.
3. The fact that the State has no Ashram School reported in the State of Tripura and report on large number of SC seats is vacant in SC Hostels is areas; the State ought to concentrate upon as opined by the Honøble Commission.

SCSP Allocation :

1. Honøble Chairman has pointed out that the expenditure made out of total plan on SC specific schemes is very 4eagre which accounts for only 0.31% during the year 2012-13 which otherwise, should have been at least 18 %.
2. The Commission has also observed that details of SC specific schemes are not given and no guidelines appeared to be in force to ensure zero default in SCSP allocations and expenditures in the State of Tripura as done by A.P. Government.

SC BPL Population

Honøble Chairman observed that the SC persons belong to BPL category seemingly in higher side (21.62%) compared with State SC population which is 17.8% as per 2011 census which should be another area of concern of the State Government.

Allotment of surplus land to SC landless

Honøble Chairman has observed that allotment of land to landless SC people should not have stopped and urged the State Government to continue the same till the State has surplus land to offer.

Infrastructure Development of SC Dominated Villages

Honøble Chairman has observed that the complaint received regarding discontinuation of infrastructure development work in respect of 298 SC dominated villages should not have stopped and asked for its continuation for bringing such villages at par with other developed villages.

Service Safeguard

The representation of SCs in both State Government service and State PSUs are not in consonance with the State share of SC population even when literacy percentage is very high. Thus, according to the Commission, the State may opt for Special Recruitment Drive to fill up all vacant reserved posts for SC and OBC communities.

False Caste Certificate

Honble Chairman has observed that all 800 reported false caste certificate cases, the State should initiate action on a time bound manner and confiscate all such false caste certificates and ensure maximum punishment to false caste certificate holders to spread a deterrent message.

Atrocity & Awareness:

Honble Chairman appreciated that the incidence of atrocity is less in the State of Tripura. He however lamented that the State has not constituted the State Level / District Level Vigilance & Monitoring Committee and District Level Vigilance & Monitoring Committees even though the SC/ST (POA) Rules enacted in the year 1995. He also observed that the State Government seldom organizes any awareness programme to inform SC communities about their rights & privileges.

The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks delivered by the Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura.