

Report on the Tour to Shillong from 15-17 March, 2004

(I) NEPA Board Meeting:

I attended the Board Meeting of North Eastern Police Academy (NEPA) on 16th March, 2004 on behalf of JS(NEC) who is a Member of the Board. NEPA is the only Police Training Academy in the North East and caters to the training needs of all the 8 States. It runs basic and refresher courses for the Sub-Inspectors and Deputy SPs of the State Governments. Compared to the previous years when only 35-40 trainees were being trained, a total of 103 trainees were trained last year - a quantum jump. This year a total of 20 courses are planned including 2 long term basic courses. NEPA is fully supported by NEC.

The other Board Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Police Training Departments of the State Governments, Director (Training), BPR & D, MHA, FA(NEC) and Director NEPA with Secretary I/c, NEC in the Chair. The major issues discussed during the Meeting were as follows:

- 1) NEPA is finding it difficult to locate teaching faculty in Social Sciences and Computer Software. They have advertised a number of times but suitable candidates as laid down in the Recruitment Rules have not been found. It was agreed that suitable persons on Consultancy basis will be appointed with the approval of Government of India. Meanwhile, steps will be initiated to change the Recruitment Rules so as to make it easier to locate suitable persons.
- 2) It was observed that the State Governments found it difficult to send trainees as they were unable to pay TA/DA on account of fund shortage. It was agreed that DONER will consider the proposal to bear the TA/DA expenses of the trainees. The proposal will require approval of DOPT and Ministry of Finance. A proposal in this regard will be sent through NEC.
- 3) It was agreed that NEPA should avoid running parallel courses for areas for which other institutions are being developed by MHA as areas of Excellence. It was agreed that till these alternative institutions became operational, NEPA may continue its present training programmes. Regarding locating the Centres of Excellence for imparting training to CPMFs in counter insurgency operations, it was discussed that Government of India has already decided to locate the centres at the CRPF training centre.
- 4) On the proposal to set up a Sub-Committee of NEPA Board to ensure better performance, it was agreed that it will be more useful if NEPA Board met bi-annually.

- 5) The Committee felt that there was a need to setup a Forensic Laboratory in the North East, the funds for which could be provided by DONER. It was discussed that since the subject matter came under MHA, it was more appropriate that the Laboratory be set up through MHA. The proposal in this regard has been lying with MHA for the last two years. The matter will be taken up again through DONER.
- 6) The Miscellaneous item was included with the Board's approval. It was discussed that DG-Assam Rifles at present was the Ex-Officio Security Advisor to NEC. Since Intelligence Bureau (IB) was closely involved with insurgency etc., it was more appropriate to have a representative of IB as the Security Advisor. The present Special Secretary, IB, was familiar with the North East and would be the best choice. The proposal will be taken up through DONER.

The detailed Minutes will follow.

(II) Visit to the Construction Site of NEC Secretariat Building & Guest House:

I also visited the site of the NEC Secretariat Building & Guest House Project at Shillong. The work on the office building is almost complete. The NEC Secretariat can move in and it an function from the new location. The Guest House will require a little more work for completion. The construction work was in progress during my visit.

(III) Mandatory Review of RIPAN:

I discussed the Mandatory Review in respect of RIPAN with FA(NEC) and DS(NEC). An amount of Rs. 28 crore had been spent against sanction of Rs. 17 crore. The excess expenditure has been mainly on account of recurring expenditure. NEC will prepare a detailed note including the background of the institution and details of expenditure alongwith break up between recurring and non-recurring. The papers will be resubmitted within a month.

It was discussed that in the case of other NEC supported institutions like RIMS, Mental Health Hospital etc. also NEC is continuing to release funds in excess of the sanctioned amounts in order to meet recurring expenditure on salaries and wages etc. DONER will have to take a view on whether to continue to meet this expenditure from Plan Funds or whether NEC is to withdraw in a phased manner from the day to day running of these institutions once the sanctioned project is complete.