

Tour note of Hari Krishna, Joint Secretary (I), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) to Meghalaya & Manipur from 1st to 6th September 2004.

I visited Meghalaya and Manipur with Minister, DONER as per the program attached at annexure I.

1.9.2004

Discussed the progress of NLCPR and BADP projects with Commissioner (Planning) and requested him to expedite the progress of projects lagging behind the schedule for completion.

2.9.2004

Attended function of laying a foundation stone at Lad-Mawngap up gradation of Market of Hima Mawphlang. Chief Minister of Meghalaya and the Minister DONER attended the function, inter alios. There, on the demand of local people, during his speech the Minister DONER announced sanction of construction of a village auditorium under NLCPR.

After the function I visited the proposed site of Mairang Water Supply Scheme. The water supply scheme is already in operation. It was implemented not very long back. Intake system, pipeline from intake point to the treatment plant, the treatment plant clean water reservoir, and distribution pipeline are already there. Now the proposal is for extension of this water supply scheme to a number of villages. The project is already retained for techno-economic examination for funding under NLCPR. Therefore, on receipt of DPR of the scheme in the Ministry from the State Government it should be examined keeping these facts in mind.

3.9.2004

Visit to the site of BADP projects

The Director, BADP Meghalaya accompanied me during the visits to these projects. Following BADP projects were visited and were found executed on the spot. I talked to some of the beneficiaries of the projects and they were very happy about the implementation of these projects.

Felicitation of Minister, DONER

I attended felicitation function organized by Sein Jaintia Shillong in the honor of Minister DONER. In the function the speakers spoke in Khasi / Jaintia and, therefore, I could not follow. The Minister later on told me that he was requested by the organizers for the reconstruction of the Auditorium in which the function was being held. He also told me that he has asked the Chief Minister to send a proposal in this regard to the DONER Ministry.

4.9.2004

Visit to Jowai Water Supply Scheme

I visited Jowai Water Supply Scheme sites and reviewed the progress with the concerned Superintending Engineer, Assistant Engineer and Junior Engineer. This project has been lingering on since long. The Ministry of DONER approved it and the first installment was released on. During my last visit of Meghalaya during 22nd to 26th February 2004, I had reviewed this project but by then there was no progress. Now the construction of approach road to the site of water intake works has made substantial progress. The Superintending Engineer wanted some inter items reallocation of released funds. Looking into the justified request of State Government and the PHE Department I told them that we would send its approval soon. JS (NEC) who is now looking after Meghalaya state NLCPR projects has already been requested by me to do the needful.

Meeting of Union Home Minister and Minister, DONER with Chief Ministers of North Eastern Region

Attended the meeting of Union Home Minister and Minister, DONER with Chief Ministers of North Eastern Region. Chief Ministers Spoke mainly on security related and law and order issues. However they spoke on some developmental aspects also. The Chief Ministers' speeches as circulated in the meeting (for the 4 of them including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura) are annexed herewith. The main issues raised by them as summarized as under:

CM, Meghalaya

1. Inter State Boundary line should be settled once for all.
2. A Police force specifically and separately for the North Eastern Region should be created.
3. Meghalaya Preventive Detention Law has been enacted for putting in jail for one year initially and if needed for 3 years.

CM, Arunachal Pradesh

1. Tripartite Committee for inter state boundary issues should be formed. Boundary fencing should be raised in between States.
2. Whatever commitments given by the NDA Government nothing implemented. UPA Government should implement them.
3. Infrastructural Development should be strengthened. Roads, Power & Telecom facilities should be provided so as to make the environment conducive to the investment from outside so that locals youth may be gainfully employed.
4. One and a half IRBM already raised. Rest could not be raised on account of financial constraint. Maintenance cost should be borne by Government of India.
5. Tripura is a strategically important State. No rail line or airport in the region.

6. Road map prepared for development of the region by Shukla commission for basic minimum services and infrastructure should be implemented for NE Region.
7. National Highway parallel to NH-52 should be made.
8. Seven Mega Power Projects that are feasible should be implemented.
9. Border Trade from Arunachal Pradesh should also be allowed.

CM, Assam

1. Camps of insurgents have shifted from Bhutan to Arunachal Pradesh and Garo Hills, Assam is more vulnerable today than it was two years back. 180 companies should be provided to the state. Now there are only 120. Modern equipments should be provided to the state Police.
2. Development should go hand in hand with the application of control measures on insurgency.
3. For centrally sponsored schemes instead of 25% state contribution the North Eastern states should be allowed to contribute only 10%.
4. Bank credit is the lowest. Should be increased.
5. Timber bridges should be converted into concrete bridges. Roads should be constructed.
6. Stilwell road be constructed soon.
7. Shukla Commission report should be implemented.
8. More regional imbalances are there now. Special packages for North Eastern Region – Incentives for large scale, small scale and medium scale industries.
9. Teaching and training Institutes imparting employment-oriented education should be set up.
10. Rate of interest be reduced.
11. Funds for rehabilitation should be given to alleviate the problems created by floods and also adequate funds should be made available for repair of infrastructure assets like– roads and bridges etc damaged by recent floods.
12. Education, midday meal
13. Surrendered people should be given financial assistance like Rs. 3 lac in J&K.

14. Recruitment in Government for surrendered militants.

CM Manipur

1. There are 4.5 lac educated unemployed. Last Finance Commission Award made a blunder with regard to the award made for Manipur. The provision was made only for Rs.45 crore against Rs.105 crore requirements.
2. Insurgency should be dealt with firm hand but simultaneously development should go hand in hand.
3. No rail line, no waterway in Manipur.
4. Rs.5000-10, 000 per truck is being collected by insurgents. NSCN (IM) insurgents were released after they were caught but because of the ir cease-fire agreement with GOI they had to be released.

CM, Mizoram

1. With development we can bring peace in the region.

CM, Nagaland

1. Shukla commission report should be implemented.
2. DONER budget be enhanced.
3. For Boarder Area Development there is a provision of only Rs. 4 crore. More funds should be given.
4. For Special Category States – NE States – downsizing of Ministry is a problem. The central government should look into it.

CM, Tripura

1. Only 143 Km of border out of over 800 Km has been fenced. Rest of the border is porous and work should be completed soon.
2. 22 Battalions are needed but now only 12 of them are there.

3. Restructuring of NEC --a separate meeting of Chief Ministers with Minister, DONER should be organized before finalization of recommendations of the committee.
4. Rs.1000 crore should be given to NEC. Procedures/systems related to sanction of projects and allocation / release of funds should be changed for quicker release of money.
5. NLCPR should be 100% grant instead of 90% grant and 10% loan.

CM, Meghalaya

1. Up gradation of States from B to A category.
2. NEC – revitalization. Governor is not directly involved in development; therefore, this issue should be taken care of while deciding the issues of chairmanship of NEC.

Minister, DONER

- Shukla Commission report will be our road map for development of NER.
- In case of Externally Aided projects we have made inroads.
- States should immediately release funds to the executing agencies when they receive them from the Central Government.

Home Minister

1. Steps for Revitalization of NEC would be taken up soon
2. Increasing of funds flow shall be looked into.
3. DPRs should be provided in time for early release of funds.
4. State should send Utilization certificates in time for more fund flow.

5.9.2004

Home Minister's meeting with delegations

All the delegation spoke mainly about the security and law and orders issues. Some them mentioned about problem of unemployment and requested for its solution.

Home Minister's meeting with officers

I attended the meeting of officers (Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, DGP Manipur, General Officer Commanding 57 Mountain Division, DG Assam Rifles, Commander Imphal Sector of Assam Rifles, and Local Commanders of CRPF & BSF. The following points were raised during the meeting.

1. 16,000 – 17,000 troops deployed in Manipur
2. 5,000 troops are on patrol at any point of time.
3. Army & Assam Rifles want clear-cut directions for and result.
4. Issue of Manorama Devi and security related issues were discussed in detail.

The main thrust of the meeting was security and law and order related issues. However, some developmental issues were also raised. Particular emphasis during this meeting was the request to the Government of India for helping them in tackling their financial crisis. The second issue was raised about employment generation and they requested State Government for Rs.500 crore, spread over, 3 years from Government of India.

6.9.2004

Meeting with Member of Parliament

Arunachal MPs

1. NSCN (IM) is present in Arunachal Pradesh. Two parallel Governments are running in Tirap and Changlang districts.
2. In Itanagar also they are collecting money from Ministers / MLAs.
3. Boarder Area Development should be given special emphasis. No development on the border. Chinese are entering Indian boundary by constructing roads, helipads etc.
4. More funds for border area development.
5. Border trade should be developed along India territory.
6. Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh be supplied with extra force

Assam MPs

1. Bodo Accord - Accord signed on 10.2.2003 but Council has not been constituted. Rehabilitation of surrendered insurgents should be made. Development schemes should be taken up soon. Nothing so far done.
2. All clauses of Bodo Accord should be implemented in letter and spirit.
3. Regional imbalances should be removed as early as possible.
4. On Indo-Bangla Border in Dhubri Constituency BSF personnel are behaving like British army. Inhuman activity done by them with local. They unnecessarily harass those people who are with the cattle.
5. Gas Cracker project - nothing has been done. Should be taken up immediately.
6. Security concerns should be dealt with properly.
7. Special package for flood damaged projects be declared.
8. PM packages that is the packages announced by Shri H.D. Devegowda and Shri A.B. Vajpeyi should be implemented.
9. Tea sector should be developed.

10. Forest property is being destroyed and officials are being harassed by NSCN (IM). It should be taken care of.
11. Law & order and unemployment problem be solved.
12. Industrial incentives scheme should be revised to give an edge to the NE states vis- a-vis other states of the country.
13. Peace Bonus should be given to Assam on the pattern of Mizoram, Nagaland.
14. Release of Rs.400 crore excise amount to Assam.
15. East West Corridor should be extended to the eastern parts of Assam.
16. In 2000 NDA Govt. stopped Central Govt. anti erosion schemes to complete 55 anti erosion schemes. They should be taken up.

Meghalaya MP (RS)

Setting up of all party Committee of MPs in the North East for insurgency, development transparency.

MP (LS) Mizoram

- Continue peace bonus.
- Full-fledged development of Mizoram.
- Development of Boarder Areas.
- Border Trade should be made operative and all facilities and environment should be created.
- Railway Line & Railway Zone for North East.
- Force is insufficient to maintain peace & tranquility. Two more battalions of Indian Reserve Police should be given to Mizoram
- For five years their expenditure should be borne by the Central Government in place of 2 years' provision now.
- Tourism industry- R.A.P. should be relaxed to less than 4 persons.

MP Manipur Hills

Withdrawal of AFSPA from peaceful Hill Area.

MP (LS) Sikkim

EFC & SFC procedure to be done away with.

MP (RS) Sikkim

1. Scheme of National identity certificate be implemented at the earliest.
2. Maoists are spreading into Sikkim. Steps should be taken to control their activities.
3. Trade route of Nathula should be considered as recommended by Government of Sikkim.

6.9.2004

Chief Secretaries and Planning Secretaries meeting

NEC

For development of North Eastern Region 6 thrust areas like Roads, Power, Communication, Agriculture, Industry, Human Resource Development should be dealt with on priority.

CS Meghalaya

In Meghalaya 3 power projects are under way for implementation. A 250 MGW Coal based and a 600 MW hydel are main.

CS Tripura

For a 280 MW power project – State needs approval of Government of India.

Transmission network will be needed for feeding the national grid and GOI should plan and implement it immediately.

Home Minister

Small hydel plants are the answer in NE Region.

CS Meghalaya

Malda-Balipara Grid should be strengthened.

CS Nagaland

1. Small & microhydel in Nagaland are being planned.
2. Community based microhydel projects are being planned & implemented.
3. Bamboo festival
4. Communitization is a big success.

CS, Mizoram

1. Bamboo policy is there
2. Bamboo development agency
3. Bamboo flowering & combating scheme/

Mr. Thanga. (Advisor Planning NEC)

- Bamboo based plywood factories should be established.
- Industry – Bamboo Mission, Bamboo Villages, Bamboo Park

- Agro based industry
- Tourism industry

Chairman, NEC

Ethnic tourism is the flavor to be sold.

Home Minister

Electronic industry is most suitable for the area.

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

I had been on tour to Meghalaya and Manipur with the Minister, DONER from 1st September to 6th September, 2004. A note on my tour report is enclosed herewith

(Hari Krishna)
Joint Secretary (I)
18/09/2004

Secretary