

Governor Najma Heptulla urges to allot fund on developmental index

IT News
Imphal, July 16,

The just completed first session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) meeting held at Shillong is likely to bring many changes in the field of development of the state with Governor of Manipur Dr. Najma Heptulla drawing attention for allotment of fund should be based on development index. Talking to media persons yesterday at Raj Bhavan, Najma Heptulla said that during the first session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) meeting, action-taken plan report on the 64th plenary and approval of the draft annual plan of NEC for 2018-19 was discussed. The meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh discussed some of the major issues such as transformation of several districts in the region, strengthening livelihood programmes, water resources management, catchment area treatment through afforestation, doubling farmers' income by 2022, road connectivity. "The money distribution should not be based on the size and population of the states because we cannot match Assam. The parameter

for the distribution of the money should be based on developmental index", she drew the attention of the session but said that they have taken to extent but not to her satisfaction. The Governor said that she took the responsibility of representing the state since both the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary were not able to attend due to the prevailing situation in the state. She added that she was very vocal about the issues of the state and as result NEC who were in the point of abandoning some projects of the state, decided to improve the infrastructures by approving 29 projects for the state. She further states that the Home Minister chairing the meeting was very significant because the North East region has border and security issues, and NEC was always under the Home Ministry and now it has become much stronger. Saying that her focus is on the issues of development because the state has suffered a lot due to blockades and bandhs. The state was not given a good share of money and she asked for more within the NEC. Among the eight states in the NE region, seven are small and faces similar problems. That was why she



drew the attention for distribution of money on developmental index. During the briefing, the governor also brought up issue of a dying Loktak Lake, which is a thing to be concerned about as tourism of the state is dependent on Loktak. And more focus should be given on infrastructures and roads because the state is landlocked and added that she is going to pursue on more and more issues related with our landlocked state. She said that without proper availability of petroleum products, black marketing would flourish. The central government should focus more on the NE region. About

the plans of any upcoming projects in the state, the Governor said that we should first finish the projects here because leaving them incomplete will not be useful and further projects will come up as per the priority given by the state government. She further added that the vendors of Ima Markets in the state are not aware of Central Schemes like pension, insurance and health which were announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the first year of his tenure. She said that all the Central Government Schemes be translated into local dialects so that all the people in the state can be aware about the schemes meant for them.

NSCN-IM says the cease fire between the GoI is without territorial limit; condemn Wakka shoot out

IT News
Imphal, July 16,

Reiterating that the Cease Fire between the NSCN and the GoI is without territorial limit. Ministry of Information and Publicity, Government of Nagalim in a statement strongly condemns Assam Rifles claim regarding July 12 incident.

The 16th Assam Rifles under the command of Major KB Singh of the Wakka outpost with the NSCN cadres which resulted in the inhuman torture and cold blooded murder of two unarmed NSCN members, namely, Mr. Tenwang Wangsa from Senua Noksa village and Mr. Acham Wangsu from Longphong village (both were Razou Peyus) at Senua Noksa village of Longding district in Wancho Region of the GPRN in full view of the villagers who were just returning from the Church at around 9 PM on 11th July, 2018, the statement said.

It further added that the Assam Rifles personnel entered the village and captured the two men after overpowering and killing them at the residence of the deputy village chief. The dead bodies were kept in the custody of the Assam Rifles personnel who kept firing point blanks the whole night to mislead the villagers that the two were killed in encounter. The dead bodies were handed over to the family and villagers after 3 PM the next day on 12th July, 2018.

"The Assam Rifles personnel went to the extent of piercing and shredding the lifeless bodies with knives in total disregard to the dead. The inhuman action of the Assam Rifles personnel has crossed all human ethics and imaginations", the statement said and added that the modus operandi of the Assam Rifles was that it sent two decoys (impersonators) in civvies as NSCN members on the fateful day at the residence of Mr. Ganwang, the Hamsa Wangham of the village (the deputy Chief of the village).

"the Cease Fire between the NSCN and the GoI is without territorial limit. Despite the Cease Fire Ground Rules Review Committee meeting of the NSCN and GoI on June 8, 2018 at Chumukedima, the Indian Army continues to play the spoilsport", - MIP NSCN-IM

He unsuspectingly invited the two victims at his residence upon the request of the two decoys. The victims upon reaching the residence of the deputy village chief were overpowered by the Assam Rifles personnel who had already surrounded the village. The rest of what unfolded is for the world to judge.

The NSCN-IM statement said that the question of encounter or the Assam Rifles personnel coming under fire from the victims or weapons captured from the victims are baseless, ridiculous and highly malicious. Civil functionaries of GPRN normally don't wear camouflage and are unarmed except for the higher functionaries who are entitled to small arms for protection. "The Assam Rifles claim is merely a hog wash. (L) Sergeant Pangang Gangsa (a Naga Army) of Wakka village was killed right in front of his wife by the same 16th Assam Rifles personnel on May 25, 2018. The following day, the Assam Rifles proudly claimed in the media to have killed him in encounter", the statement said called the act a ghastly incident showing the desperation and frustration of the Indian Army.

"The NSCN in its sincere quest for peace has instead become a victim of the Cease Fire. The NSCN has lost more members during the Cease Fire period beginning from August 1997 till date when compared to the

number of casualties during the non-Cease Fire period. Is this the price the Nagas have to pay for demanding peace and unity from the GoI? The Nagas showing more maturity than the Indians has remain patient for too long like a sitting duck while the Indian Army personnel continues to run amok in Nagalim and went on rampage against the Naga national workers reaping self-glory and medals after medals from the Indian Government with total disregard to the ongoing Indo-Naga peace process". The statement also reminded the meeting with the former Indian Prime Minister, AB Vajpayee with the NSCN-Im leaders in 2002 at Osaka, Japan where he said that, "Where there is a fighting, there will be cease fire, as per the agreement signed on June 14, 2001 at Bangkok".

Therefore, that agreement still stands and the Cease Fire between the NSCN and the GoI is without territorial limit. Despite the Cease Fire Ground Rules Review Committee meeting of the NSCN and GoI on June 8, 2018 at Chumukedima, the Indian Army continues to play the spoilsport. Perhaps, the Assam Rifles is trying to destroy the peace process initiated by the Government of India and face the worst consequences, the statement added.

Will take 'extreme' steps if Naga deal hurts Manipur's interests, says CM Biren Singh

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If the solution does not lead to a change in boundaries, which was your bottom line, what is the problem?

Manipur wants development and equality. That's why we are taking up many development works in the tribal-dominated hill areas. Since our government came into power, with the Centre's support, we could do a lot of work in the hills. There are changes on the ground. We cannot allow someone else to come and develop on their own. There is a state government. Whatever has to be taken up must be through the state government.

So an autonomous territorial council or cultural body could undermine the state government?

I don't want to pinpoint particular issues. Autonomous councils are already there. We can give more funds. We can discuss what we can do within the state. But for a larger change, I need the support of the assembly.

Is the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) caught in a trap? At the Centre, it wants to solve the Naga issue and leave a legacy. It is in government in Nagaland and wants to show progress. But in Imphal, you are CM from the party and are concerned about the deal.

(Laughs) A solution has to be there. The BJP at the Centre is trying to solve the problem with peaceful means. We also want it. But the differences between the states have to be resolved. A way out will be there.

Does status quo suit you then? You should see the change. In the hills, even Naga-inhabited areas, people are happy. If I am allowed to continue, then

these demands for Greater Nagaland will not be there. I can assure you. The division will be totally solved.

So the division between the valley and the hills is healing? Indeed, it is a God-gifted miracle. During the campaign, our PM, Union ministers, party president, said that we would do in 15 months what Congress could not do in 15 years. After swearing-in, my only concern was how to achieve this. I wondered what to do. There was a reception for me. And when my turn came, I almost instantly, automatically, said go to the hills. We went to the hills, announced packages and schemes. In Ukhrul, where the NSCN is active, a big crowd received me. There was a big public gathering. There were two spots on the stage for me to speak. One was a bulletproof screen. But I decided to speak from the open space. If trust is there, there is no need for bulletproof screen. That was a turning point.

Are you in Delhi to warn the Centre against the Naga deal?

This time, we have come in a full team - with all ministers, MLAs, and senior party leaders including the state president. We are about 35 people. We will stay here for four-five days. We are here to request the Centre that we support the peace initiative. But in the meantime, there is a state, there is a constitutional scheme, there is a federal structure, and so if there is any decision, please convey to us in advance so that we can take a decision in the assembly. If not, then all elected members, including me, will be in an extreme position.

You will resign?

We might. The state is very

important. We have a 2,000-year-old history. We got independence on August 14, 1947; India got independence on August 15. We formally merged in 1949. We have a history we cannot ignore. There is a pulse, an emotion of the people we cannot ignore. Maintaining our identity is very important. Of course, nation is also important. All we are saying is please do consult us.

You want a veto power over the deal?

Yes. If the state assembly does not agree, it should not happen.

And if they go ahead, you will resign and rebel?

No alternative. If it hurts the sentiment of the people, involves part and parcel of the state in any way, we might be compelled.

So even administrative reconfiguration is not acceptable?

Even now, the state government does not have power in 90% of the area. Within our total territory, 90% of the area is under the hills. It is already protected under Article 371C, which means no one can settle there. But Meitei people are living in eight percent of the area. There is already a misunderstanding between the communities because of this. If after this, the state government or Meitei people are asked to make sacrifices without consulting them, that is not justice.

When you conveyed this to party leaders, what has been the response?

Most of our leaders have understood Manipur's situation. Earlier, they didn't. They are pleading and putting out facts about Manipur - how it was established, present situation, the future. They are

conveying this to leaders here, including the National Security Advisor. Many Delhi people do not know the situation there. Our assembly has an assembly within the assembly. Twenty tribal members, from the hill areas, are a part of the Hill Areas Committee. If we want to take any decision on the hills, we have to take clearance from them. But no one knows that.

So the party is sympathetic. Is the security establishment pushing it?

Yes... without knowing the ground reality, some people are pushing. But I am trying to convey this politically. This is a political issue. To please one state, you may lose three states. That should not happen.

Have you spoken to the Sangh also?

Yes. We have already apprised them that we are a part of the nation, we want to live together. I have urged the concerned people not to touch Manipur, and that we will do whatever is necessary for development of tribal people. They have listened. One happy point is they have tried to know the reality.

Development is one part. But what about Naga identity within Manipur, because the sense is that the state polity is dominated by Meiteis?

It is a communication gap. The longest-serving CM in Manipur was Naga. There have been two Naga CMs in the 47-year-old history of the state. One of them served for 13 years as the CM, and then served for 10 years in the Rajya Sabha. Vested interests have instigated this... But yes, there has been a problem from our part. There was a failure to redress grievances. If it had happened timely, the situation would not be there.

CNPO demands cancellation of Go to Village prog. scheduled on July 17 at Aimol Khullen

IT News
Chandel, July 16,

While welcoming and appreciating the "6010 Village" mission launched by the Government of Manipur, the Chandel Naga Peoples Organization (CNPO) has expressed strong objection, resentment and condemnation against the invitation/program which has been circulated in social media slated to be held on 17th July, 2018 at Aimol Khullen on 17th July, 2018 Chandel district.

The CNPO demands cancellation of the Go To Village which is to be held on 17th July, 2018 at Aimol

Khullen. A statement said that S. Munthlureng is the elected/mandated President of Aimol Tribe Union declared by the Election Commission on May 6, 2014. Therefore, the inclusion of a self-proclaim President by the name Rt. Akhel in the Go To Village Invitation/program should not be repeated again by the GOM.

The CNPO also oppose creating of Tengnoupal district saying that unless the Tripartite Talks amongst UNC, GOM and GoI is brought to acceptable conclusion, Tengnoupal must remain and written as Sub-Division, not as District at any cost.

"CNPO doesn't recognise Tengnoupal district"

CNPO also condemn the search operation and harassment of general public conducted by commandos in and around Aimol areas especially at the residence of Aimol Tribe Union executive on the pretext of appreciated Go To Village mission.