

Editorial

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

Insertion of a clause or assent to Manipur peoples' Bill will be a painful joke

It seems that no force will be strong enough to stand against the passing of the CAB, 2019. Union cabinet has made a clean passage for the Bill and it is certain that the Bill is passed in the Lok Sabha in the next few days. MANPAC among other opposition groups from the north East States have been nearly calm down by the Union Home Minister assuring insertion of a clause or exempting some of the areas which comes under the sixth schedule or tribal states.

What will be that shield for the state of Manipur that was reportedly assured by the Home Minister Amit Shah to the MANPAC team is a matter to wait and watch? But literally insertion of a clause to the Bill will be a painful joke.

It is also not sure on whether a bill like "The Manipur People's (Protection) Bill, 2018", that is pending with the President of India will be able to stand against CAB is also yet to find out as the people still did not have a discourse in it.

As per the view of this newspaper The Manipur People's (Protection) Bill, 2018 is not going to be a shield behind which Manipur can hide. It does not stop anyone who will visit Manipur with identity cards or such other documents to prove the person as bona fide citizen of India.

In this context, additional population from India's neighbouring countries could take advantage of the Citizenship Bill to look for opportunities across India including Manipur.

The Bill will only empower the State authorities to register non-Manipur People visiting the State and issue pass accordingly to regulate their entry and exit.

A pass with a cost to discourage dumping of population may be considered. Nevertheless, identifying the bona fide citizen of India will remain a loophole as forgery and backdoor channels are common.

Passing of the Citizenship Bill means more people coming to Northeast India and acceptance of those already living there.

The Centre has failed to implement the Foreigners Act, 1946 and Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 to detect and deport a large number of illegal immigrants living in the country.

The Citizenship Bill will take a U-turn instead. It is a well known fact that demographic threat has been driving political movements in Northeast India including insurgency.

Both the Union and the State government's position on the Citizenship Bill is an insult to the indigenous peoples' movements in Northeast India.

It questions the sanctity and rationale of the 1985 Assam Accord and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). It makes a mockery of the demand for a permit system in Manipur as well.

Happy-go-lucky attitude of the government is a major setback for the state and the region as a whole.

What is unfortunate for the state of Manipur is that instead of opposing the controversial Bill, the government is referring to mere apprehension in the minds of the people about the State getting flooded with a large number of illegal immigrants and foreigners from neighbouring countries. In fact, the issue of illegal immigrants is a reality we have seen in Northeast India, not just an apprehension.

Moreover, official corruption and vote bank politics are rampant in the State itself. The Citizenship Bill will put more pressure on land and resources in Northeast India.

Even in states where land rights are restricted only to the native peoples, the extra population will add more burdens as far as economic activities and employment opportunities are concerned.

More candidates competing for jobs will cost the ethnic minorities.

The People's Bill merely prohibits non-Manipur people acquiring of land in Manipur without the consent and sanction of the State government authorities. In October 2018, speaking at the India Today Conclave East 2018, Chief Minister Biren rightly said that it will not bar anybody from buying property or settling down in the State.

With President of India's assent, the Bill will help the State government regulate (or facilitate) land ownership by non-Manipur people or Multinational Corporation. It clarifies that the People's Bill is not a defensive shield against the Citizenship Bill.

In search of a mechanism to shield Manipur from the existing socio-political challenges, the Government of Manipur must add more teeth to the People's Bill and stand firm against the Citizenship Bill.

Climate Change & Agricultural hurdles in Manipur



By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwar Singh Faculty, NIELIT, Imphal, Atampat.

Manipur is one of the mega biodiversity hotspots in the World and has a treasure trove of various flora and fauna. Manipur has abundant natural resources viz, soil, water, forest etc. The environmental sustainability Index (ESI) is very high and was ranked 2nd in India during 2011. Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in N-E India is located in Manipur. There are four major river basins namely, Barak river basin (9041 Sq.km catchment area) in the west, the Yu river basin in the east, the Manipur river basin (6332 Sq. km catchment area) in the center part and a portion of Linyi river basin in north. The total water body in the state covers approximately 56.46 thousand hectares. However the hydrological system has been altered due to climate change and human pressure. An area of 1699.40 thousands hectares is under forest cover with seven types of forest class viz; tropical; semi evergreen; moist deciduous; east Himalayan wet temperate; Sub-Alpine; Grassy Blanks; bamboo brakes & cane brakes forest. However, the state is vulnerable to soil erosion due to its undulating topography, steep slope and high rainfall. Approximately 2190 thousand hectares have been classified as eroded area. Deforestation and practices of Jhum cultivation accelerated erosion. It

was reported that about 1189 thousand hectares of the state comes under different soil loss classes under water erosion, 2232 thousand hectares area come under degraded and wasteland category and 1597 thousand hectares is affected by soil acidity.

Manipur, one of the eight sisters of north-eastern region of India, is a hill girt state situated at the lower tip of the sub-Himalayan range. Resembling most of the northern states of India, the economy of the state primarily depends on agriculture and allied sector. Though the total land under agriculture is only 6.74% of the total geographical area, it provides livelihood of more than 52% of the total population of the state. Rice being the staple foodcrop, accounts about 95% of the total food grains production and covers about 72% of the total cropped area of the state. Besides rice other cereals such as maize, wheat etc. and pulses along with various kind of fruits and vegetables are also grown in both valley and hilly regions. It is to be noted that permanent cultivation is practiced in all the districts of valley regions whereas terrace cultivation is followed in some parts of hill districts but Jhumming or shifting cultivation is widely adopted in most of the hill districts. Agriculture in Manipur is characterized by rugged terrain, wide variation in slopes and altitudes, community land system and conventional cultivation practices. Agricultural production is mostly rain-fed, monocrop and at subsistence level. Use of local varieties, limited use of agro-chemicals, low moisture retention capacity of upland soil and lack of irrigation facilities along with traditional management practices have resulted in low crop productivity and low cropping intensity. As agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of the state, sufficient growth in this

primary sector is inevitable to boost economic development. Growth in overall economy depends on development of the agricultural sector. So it can be assumed that the growth in farm sector is a necessary pre-condition for economic development. Growth in the agricultural sector could be catalyst for national output growth via its effect on rural incomes and provisions of resources for transformation into Industrial economy.

Manipur has been affected by the changing climate. Trend analysis of weather variables in Imphal under National Innovation on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) revealed that the mean annual maximum temperature (1954-2014) has been increasing (0.1°C per decade). The mean annual minimum temperature has also increased significantly (0.3°C per decade). The total annual rainfall recorded during 1954 to 2014 also increased (23.5mm per decade); however a decreasing trend was observed in February, June, July and November rainfall (-10.8 to -0.1 mm per decade). The mean annual rainy days (1954-2013) showed an increasing trend. Decreasing trend in total monthly rainy days was observed in January, February, and April, June and July. The mean annual maximum Relative Humidity (RH) increased significantly (3.8% per decade) from 1985 to 2013, whereas the mean minimum RH (1985-2013) showed a decreasing trend (-1.6% per decade). The mean monthly maximum RH, increased significantly (3.0 to 5.6 per decade) throughout the year. Similarly decreasing trend was observed in mean monthly minimum RH (-3.2% to -0.6% per decade) for all month except May (1% per decade). The temperature is projected to rise by 1.7°C by the end of 21st century. The southern districts are expected to experience higher temperature than that of northern districts. Total

annual precipitation is expected to increase throughout the state. Extreme precipitation events will cause crop yield variation. Increase in pest and disease incidence as well as erosion and degradation of soil is also expected. Projected increase in evaporation and runoff will decrease the soil moisture recharge. Fresh drinking water could also become scarce. With rise in surface temperature the plant species are expected to move upward. Decrease in microbial population is projected with increase in altitudes. Loss of vegetation could cause top soil erosion. Loss of Bio-diversity and extinction of rare or threatening flora and fauna are also projected. Food grain production and requirement of the state have been estimated to be 77105 and 79323 thousands tones by 2050. Hence Manipur will be in deficit of 2218 thousands tones food grains by 2050.

However, agriculture sector in Manipur is now facing the consequences of climate change which is a reality and an increasing trend in temperature, precipitation and emission of greenhouse gases has been observed in Manipur. A subsistence level farming is coupled with prevalent shifting cultivation, the small and marginal farmers will be most affected due to this climate change. Hence there is an urgent need for devising climate proof plan and climate ready policy for climate compatible agricultural development in Manipur. Location-specific, climate smart technology basket need to be devised or introduced and should be demonstrated through participatory approach for ensuring a climate resilient production system and a climate resilient ecosystem. The interaction between the system's adaptation strategies and mitigation potential should also be given due importance in the action plan for combating climate change.

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Signature campaign to seek speedier trial in Vet's murder case

By Raju Vernekar Mumbai, Dec 4

Even as four accused arrested in connection with the recent rape and murder of the 26-year-old veterinarian girl in Telangana have been remanded to judicial custody for 14 days, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has begun a signature campaign demanding that the trial by the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) be finished within 10 days instead of six months. BJP MLA Mangalprabhat Lodha from Mumbai told this correspondent that a campaign to collect one lakh signatures of citizens has been launched. The signatures will be submitted to all MPs, especially women MPs of Parliament to demand completion of trial within 10 days in the fast track courts. "We will demand that the provision to complete the trial within 6 months be amended to complete the trial within 10 days. A memorandum will also be submitted to the Union Home Minister and BJP President Amit Shah demanding that the trial be

completed expeditiously. We also demand that the accused be "hanged" as early as possible.

The POCSO Act mandates that the investigation in the cases should be completed within two months and trial should be completed in 6 months. One of its key objective is to expedite the trial and disposal of cases involving women and children by setting up Fast Track Special Courts.

NCP MP Supriya Sule said that she agreed that the trial should be expedited and at the most it should be completed within 3 months. "We should have a zero tolerance about such heinous crimes. Over and above this, a social change is the need of the hour because marriages of minor girls are still being conducted in some parts of the country, a dowry is still being demanded. As such there should be drastic change in the mind set of people".

The 26-year-old veterinarian was brutally gangraped and killed by four lorry workers before they burned her body on Wednesday night (27 November) in Telangana's Shamshabad. They revisited the spot to ensure that the body is totally burnt. All the four accused were nabbed from their houses on Friday (29 November) by Cyberabad Police. The four accused- Jollu Naveen, Chintakunta Chennakeshavulu, Jollu Shiva and Mohammad Areef- were sent to judicial custody for 14 days on Saturday (30 November) amid high drama with a large crowd facing off against police. Three cops were suspended on Saturday (30 November) for a delay in registering an FIR in the case. Cyberabad police filed the remand report on Sunday (1



Caption: The accused arrested by police: Jollu Naveen (in blue shirt), Chintakunta Chennakeshavulu (in orange shirt), Jollu Shiva (in white shirt) and Mohammad Areef (in yellow T-shirt).

December) four days after the vet was found with her body burnt under a culvert in Chatanpally on the Hyderabad-Bengaluru national highway. The gruesome rape and murder case, which is being perceived as another 'Nirbhaya', has sparked national outrage. The incidents of rape and gang rape of minor girls below the age of twelve and similar heinous crimes against women continue to raise their heads.

To prevent such crimes, stricter laws were introduced through "the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018". It strengthened the relevant provisions of Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.PC), Evidence Act and Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) and provided for stringent punishment for rape of children and women. The key motive behind introducing harsh punishment was to create deterrence against such crimes. However, it is only possible if the trial in the court is completed within the time frame and justice is delivered expeditiously to the victims. The new 'Women Safety Division' was set up by the Union Home Ministry on May 28, 2018 to strengthen measures for safety of women in the country and instil greater sense of security in them through speedy and effective administration of justice in a holistic manner and by providing a safer environment for women. It is responsible for policy formulation, planning, coordinating, formulating and implementing projects/schemes to assist States/Union Territories to achieve this objective, as also prison reforms, anti human trafficking and related subjects. This, inter-alia, includes increased use of IT and technology in criminal justice system and enabling a supportive ecosystem for forensic sciences and crime & criminal records. However, despite a strong law and policy framework, large number of rape and POCSO Act cases are pending in various courts in the country.

All Jiribam District Jump Rope Association, Manipur

We have decided to register an Association called 'Jump Rope Association Jiribam District (JRAJO) Manipur under Society registration Act. Any persons or individual who want to join or complaint may please inform either the undersigned or the Deputy Registrar, Jiribam, on or before 24th November, 2019. Any complaint after 24th November, 2019 cannot be entertained. A general body meeting for selection of managing committee member shall be held on the 29th November, 2019 at the premises of the organization. The decision of the Committee will be final decision.

Yours Sincerely
Md. Meimujiddin
Convener
Jiribam District Jump Rope Association

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Lost

I, the undersigned, Thokhom Malemnganba Singh, a student of Class XI have lost my registration certificate bearing Registration No. 29295/2019. Issued by COHSEM on the way between Bishnupur Bazar to Nambol. Finders are requested to hand over it to the undersigned. Sd/- Thokhom Malemnganba Singh Toubul Mayai Leikai, Bishnupur District