

## Documents reveal huge amount of fund misappropriation at SCERT

By- Chingkhei Luwang  
Imphal, June 1,

Documents available with the Imphal Times revealed that huge amount of fund sanctioned for taking up various activities of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Government of Manipur, are being misappropriated. As per the documents, Imphal Times reporter query to the concern SCERT officials for clarification from their side went in vain as they did not give direct reply on where the fund had been utilized. A sum of Rs. 13, 50,000/- and another amount of Rs. 10, 38, 000/- (ten lakhs thirty eight thousands) was sanctioned on March 22, 2018 for the

publications of annual report and for conduct of study tours for 9 (nine) DIET centres. As per report, annual report for Senapati DIET centre was recently published recently, amidst the investigation period by Imphal Times reporter and his colleague reporter of another daily newspaper. However, there are no clues of any publications of any annual reports of the DIET centres.

Total amount sanctioned for both the activities is Rs. 23,88,000/-.

Interestingly the sum of Rs. 10, 38, 000/- was sanctioned for conducting study tour for the 9 (nine) DIET centres, but amount which had to be sanctioned for Imphal East DIET centre is being held on the ground that it has no 2<sup>nd</sup> year course. A document shown to Imphal Times reporter shows that the amount sanctioned for study tour of the 9 DIET centres have been sanctioned for 8 (eight) DIET centres without deducting the amount which has to be released for the Imphal East DIET centre.

As per information with the Imphal Times the share of amount that the Imphal East DIET center should get is Rs. 1.15 lakhs.

When the fund seems to be lost somewhere without having any physical proof of utilizations another sanction order has been released on March 14, 2019.

Imphal Times reporter and his colleague contacted the Joint Secretary and the Director of the SCERT but took some three-four days to meet them. First meeting was with the Joint Secretary Jim Golden

Thingujam who is also the DDO, but his clarification fails to clarify on the allegations of fund misappropriation by the SCERT. Imphal Times reporter could not contact the Director of SCERT, Meenakumari, but clarified from her side on the investigation being carried out by our reporter and his team. But her clarification failed to convince that there is no fund misappropriation of fund. Besides this two case which the Imphal Times have all the documents there are also reported cases of fund misappropriation. A reliable source said that an amount of Rs 1.5 lakh for school visit and monitoring at Imphal East DIET was never reached to Imphal East DIET Centre, Keikol.

Documents showed that the Principal of Imphal East had written to SCERT Director for release fund meant for Imphal East DIET Centre. The letter, dated on 22nd February, 2019 stated that a sum of Rs. 17, 000,00/- (seventeen lakhs) each for all the 9 (nine) DIET centres have been released by Government during the financial year 2017- 2018 and the same has been sanctioned and credited to the DDO account on March 31 2018.

Special Secretary of SCERT S. Kohli's Larho further directed the Director to release fund in respect to Imphal East DIET centre on 1st March. But till now no fund was released to the specific centre.

Joint Secretary Jim while talking to Imphal Times reporter said that there wasn't any misappropriation of funds. He clarified that there were some lapses in putting up the files up regarding the

annual tour. The external tour should be carried out only for the 2nd year and Imphal East DIET centre being in its initial stage doesn't have any 2nd year in the previous year, so the amount regarding the external excursion was not disbursed to them. He added that a new sanction was ordered and they were all ready to disburse for the external excursion. Jim further clarified that the said unutilized amount will be returned back to the government. This fails to convince our reporter as the total amount sanctioned for the 9 (nine) DIET centres has already been sanctioned for 8 (eight) DIET centres.

His clarification regarding the publications of the annual report saying that the process for publication still is underway as many DIET Centres still are yet to submit their report as it can be published anytime do not suggest any logical explanation

The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Government of Manipur, was established by amalgamating the erstwhile State Institute of Education (S.I.E.) and State Institute of Educational Technology (SIET) and some other units from the Directorate of School Education in the month of February, 1989. The SCERT has since then been working for upliftment of the quality of education in the elementary stage of education as well as for achieving the goal of Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE).

## RIMS crisis:

### Non-teaching staffs agitation gaining momentum; All gates including OPD, A-Block locked but later open by police



IT News  
Imphal, June 1,

Crisis at RIMS sparked by the agitations of the Non Teaching Employees Welfare Association is gaining momentum as more bodies of the institution extended support to their demand. Yesterday Nurses' body of RIMS had stated that they extend full support to the agitation of the non teaching staffs. Today another body of the institution Teachers' and Medical Officers' Association (TAMOA) extended moral support to their agitation.

A statement of the association said that they will lend moral support to the cause of the non teaching staffs in the interest of them and the institution.

As declared yesterday by the Non teaching staffs' association, members of the group locked the gate of OPD, A Block, Dental Hospital and others except the casualty of RIMS at around 8.30 am today morning. Many persons / patients who came for treatment at RIMS have to return back disappointedly after seeing the gate locked with placards stating - "Go

Back Director Shanta". A police team however broke the locked and open it on time that is around 9 am but the number of patients was seen less today. Inside the OPD as the non-teaching staffs went on strike doctors faced extreme difficulties in providing their service to the patients. Source said that the Direct and the Medical Superintendent met the non-teaching staffs today afternoon but failed to bring any amicable solution between the two as the demand of the Non Teaching staffs now stands fixed at driving out the Director.

## Dijamani remanded for 10 days in police custody

IT News  
Imphal, June 1,

Naorem Dijamani, the father of internationally acclaimed fashion designer Robert Naorem and the prime suspect behind the murder of Th. Rekha, his wife and mother of Robert was produced to the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate today afternoon. He was granted 10 days remand in police custody as prayed by the police for further investigation.

## World No Tobacco Day

IT News  
Imphal, June 1,

Dental College, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal observed the "World No Tobacco Day" under the theme "Tobacco and lung health" yesterday. The Department of Public Health Denistry took the initiative for the program. On this occasion, posters emphasizing the importance of stopping tobacco consumption and the ill effects of tobacco usage were displayed at the patient waiting area of all the nine departments of the dental college to implement the college premises as a "No Tobacco Zone". The statement added. Educational Pamphlets regarding importance of quitting tobacco and its ill effect on health were distributed.

## Huge quantity of narcotic substances seized from Guwahati bound truck

IT News  
Imphal, June 1,

A team of Narcotics & Affairs of Border Police (NAB) seized huge quantity of narcotic substances from a Guwahati bound truck, bearing registration number NL01AC 7455 at Koirengai area near CRPF camp yesterday evening.

"7 kg of Heroine (No. 4) were seized from the truck when a team of NAB search it after getting specific information", Superintendent of Police, NAB, W Basu said while speaking to media persons.

The truck driver, Fishubam Md Riyaz Khan (25) son of Md Chaoba from Mayang Imphal's Phougakchao Makha Leikai in Imphal West district and his assistant Md Nawaz Khan (25) son of Md Najir Ahamad from Lilong Chingjao were also arrested by the team yesterday evening.

SP NAB W Basu said that seized said narcotic drugs, is worth around Rs. 70 lakhs in local & Rs 7 Crore in



international Market. As revealed by the driver and his assistant the narcotic drugs were lifted from a place at Lilong and they were told to transport the item to Guwahati.

The two arrested persons

were paraded before media persons and the seized drugs were also displayed to the media person. The NAB still is investigating the root of the drug trafficking. A case has been registered under NDPS Act.

IT News  
Imphal, June 1,

For the welfare of those who are defending the nation, changes would be made on Prime Minister Scholarship Scheme under National Defence Fund. Prime Minister has agreed on two changes that were made on the scheme. The amount of scholarship has increased from two thousand to two thousand five hundred rupees for boys and for girls; the amount has increased from two thousand two hundred fifty to three thousand rupees. The scheme will be extended to those from the state police who gave their lives in counter insurgency operation and anti-naxal operations. Five hundred people from the state police forces will benefit under this scheme per year. Home minister will become nodal ministry in

this matter. National Defence Fund (NDF) was started in 1962. Its aim was to encourage those who are defending this country. The fund is now utilised as of now for the army, paramilitary force and railway protection. PM is the chairperson, home ministry and finance ministry of the executive committee which handles the fund. The fund is for the widows of the armies, paramilitary forces, and railway protection forces, both who died/retired. It is also for the technical and post graduate education of the family members of the deceased. The fund is provided to the technical institutes (medical, dental, veterinary, engineering, MBA, MCA and AICTE/UGC-recognised technical courses). Under PMSS, this new scholarship is provided

to 5500 armies under defence ministry, 2000 paramilitary personals in forces under home ministry, and 150 personals in the forces under railway ministry per year. National Defence Fund accepts online voluntary contribution on the website ndf.gov.in Prime Minister addressed the contribution and dedication of our police personal even during festive seasons. As a nation, it is our duty to respect them and their family members. Therefore, Prime Minister has taken this decision to help the youths of their family members to pursue careers in different fields with the help of this scholarship. Prime Minister, Modi had inaugurated a National Police Memorial in his first term. It symbolises the strength and dedication of the police personals.

## Kasturirangan committee submits new draft education policy to HRD Ministry

Agency  
New Delhi June 1,

Former ISRO chief Dr. Kasturirangan led Committee submitted the draft National Educational Policy (NEP) to HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in New Delhi yesterday. The policy draft recommends incorporation of Indian

knowledge systems in the curriculum, constituting a National Education Commission and curbing arbitrary fees hikes by private schools. The expert panel also proposed massive transformation in Teacher Education by moving all teacher preparation and education programmes into large multidisciplinary

universities or colleges. It added that the topics will include Indian contribution to mathematics, astronomy, philosophy, psychology, yoga, architecture, medicine, as well as governance, polity, society, and conservation course on Indian knowledge systems. The existing NEP was framed in 1986 and revised in 1992.