

**Other Burning Issues of NE
CHILD TRAFFICKING FROM NORTH-EAST TO SOUTHERN STATES,
INDOCTRINATION OF BUDDHISTS CHILDREN OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH AND
FLESH TRADE FROM NORTH EAST**

1. It is shocking news that Child trafficking has been taking place from some states of North-east to States in South India. The tribal communities living in the North-Eastern States are deprived of basic facilities and frequent social clashes instigated by anti-social elements has affected the education of their children. The development of the economy of NE States is also adversely affected. The social harmony is disturbed. Fear and panic has engulfed many parts of North-east. A contributory factor for not availability of quality education is that many schools and hostels have been occupied by security and Para military forces.

With a view to mitigate the hardship of tribal children, many voluntary organizations working in this region for welfare and development of Sch. Tribes have come forward to impart education to the tribal children outside the region in a peaceful environment and national integration. It is however, unfortunate that some child traffickers have become active in the garb of religious preachers and social workers who take tribal children outside the North-east on the plea of providing better education. The Kalyan Ashram has received a report of the visit of Taking Jame, a Naga tribal from Autonomous District of North Cachar Hills of Assam who rescued 76 Naga Jame children, all aged between 10 to 16 years, 24 were from different villages of N. Cachar and the rest 42 from villages of Tamenglong district of Manipur. He found that there was an organized gang of criminals, who brought children from Manipur to Haflong headquarters of N. Cachar district and then to Guwahati and from there to an interior place in Kanya Kumari District of Tamil Nadu State. The children were housed under horrible conditions, tortured and not fed properly.

On the first hearing of this case before Supreme Court on the last day of March 2010, the Court directed National Commission for protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to investigate and based on that report ordered on 1st September 2010, that the Ministry of Home Affairs should ensure that schools and hostel buildings occupied by Para military forces engaged in anti-insurgency operations in North-eastern States are vacated within two month and submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) on NCPCR report to the Supreme Court.

The Apex Court bench has also directed Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry to submit a consolidated district wise list of schools and hostels collected from the State Governments, which are currently occupied by the armed forces in NE States, indicating the date from which they have been occupied. The Court has also asked Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka to respond to the NCPCR report.

We are of opinion that the North-eastern States must lay down a simple procedure to be followed by voluntary organizations who propose to take out children from the region for their education.

The voluntary organization must inform the district collector concerned in writing the name of the child, age, complete address together with a letter from the parents/guardian that he/she has no objection to the voluntary organization taking out their child to a place outside the region for assisting him/her to continue their education.

The voluntary organization must also give a report of its activities and complete address of the place where the child will be kept for pursuing his/her education.

2. The tribal people of Arunachal Pradesh were distressed and angry when they came to know about the **activities of a Chinese agent**. It came to their knowledge that nearly 200 children from towns of Tawang, Darang, Bomdila, Jamiri, Thoizmo and villages of Poliz (West Kamang) and Bama (East Kamang) have been trafficked allegedly by a local Chinese agent Wangde of Du Dujong circle to the Phumsing Crowding monastery of Kathmandu in Nepal. This monastery is reported to be sponsored by China with the intention of developing Chinese influence over the inmates of that monastery.

There appears to be a conspiracy to destabilize this region of Arunachal Pradesh bordering Tibet. All concerned should take note of this invisible Chinese designs to get a foothold among the Buddhists of Arunachal Pradesh and see that the Central and Arunachal Pradesh Governments must investigate the Chinese connection in Child trafficking to Nepal and try to bring back these children to AP. The underground network must be demolished and the culprits given exemplarily punishment.

3. A few months before the inaugural of the Common Wealth Games, it was reported that girls from the north-east who were purportedly lured to Delhi with lucrative job offers, were actually to be employed for **flash trade** either as call girls, escorts, etc. The girls from the states of the north-east were 'selected' or hired by various agencies promising jobs in hotels, offices, etc. The Delhi Police arrested 800 girls coming from North-east from the red-light areas. It is necessary that the States concerned and the Central Government take steps to punish these dubious agencies which exploit the girls from the North-East by offering fabulous salaries.

The parents must insist that these registered agencies must enter into an agreement indicating the type of jobs and salaries they offer before permitting their girls to go for far away places from their homes.

4. CONVERSIONS AT GUN POINT-

Christian missionaries and mercenaries are engaged in illegal religious conversions across the country in general and in the northeastern states in particular since last many decades. Conversions by affluement, deceive, force and fear are the common practices. Janjati communities are soft targets for conversions. Incident of 13th May 2010 at Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh is an eye opener for all of us.

One Lingam Hakum Naga alias Lamba Chool Wala claims himself as area commander of NSCN-IM who moves freely with sophisticated lethal weapons along with 24 armed cadre in the villages of Tikhak community of Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh. On 13th May 2010, he called a meeting of all villagers including Gaon Burahs (Village Head) and Zilla Parishad Members of

the villages (1) Putuk I (2) Putuk II (3) Putuk III (4) Putuk IV (5) Wangnong (6) Motongsa (7) Longchang (8) Wintong (9) Rima (10) Machum and other nearby villages. He displayed AK-47 rifle in the meeting and condemned Buddha Dharma. He asked the poor and illiterate villagers that what they had got by following Buddha Dharma from centuries except poverty and sinful life? He declared that if the Buddhist community of that area embraced Christianity within stipulated time, the Lord Jesus Christ would change the entire life of all converted people and they would enjoy the rich life. And all the Christians would get salvation after death. While pointing out his finger at AK-47 placed in front of them, Lingam Hakum Naga cautioned them that no Buddhist would celebrate Buddha Poornima festival on 27th May and all of them must convert into Christianity by 31st May and anybody found opposing Christianity would face dire consequences. In all these incidents, the ugly role of Catholic Priest stationed at Miao Bishop's House is also reported.

No liberal and democratic society can endorse or tolerate such heinous activities. These activities of conversions and attempts of conversions at gunpoint should be strongly condemned such The Alleged Bishop's House must also be asked to clear its role as reported in the media.

The local tribal organization submitted a memorandum to the Hon President and the Prime Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh immediately. This is a matter of relief and satisfaction, that the State Government took necessary action and arrested the suspected culprits immediately.

Let us all appreciate the awareness of local Janajati people and organizations and the prompt action taken by the State Government in the matter. Government of Arunachal Pradesh should also be urged to immediately notify the Rules required to be notified under the decades old Freedom of Religion Act which has become toothless in absence of these Rules.

State and Central Governments should take serious note of such incidents and should take immediate-stern action against the Master Mind behind such heinous incidents. Appeal/urge the Central and State Governments to investigate such cases impartially and Judiciously, expose the nexus between Christian Missionaries and militant organizations and curb the insurgency in the name of Religion as such incidents are not merely religious Conversions but are directly related to the national sovereignty, security and integrity.

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