

D.O.No.18/NCPCR/2008-09/North-East October 10, 2008

Dear

A team from National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), headed by me, visited the States of Assam and Tripura in the first week of September 2008.

2. I would like to bring to your notice our concerns regarding the status of children in relief camps in Tripura and Assam which the NCPCR noted during its visit. We were shocked by the living conditions of these displaced people and more so, their predicament of being in a permanent temporary displaced position. A new generation has been born, totally deprived of all their entitlements, causing undue damage to their psyche and self esteem.

Unfortunately, being denied education opportunities in a full time formal school, these children have been forced to enter into the net of criminal activity and drug addiction.

3. We strongly feel that rescuing these children and ensuring that they are free from hunger, malnutrition and enjoying their right to education would bring stability to these children and in turn, their families. The argument that they do not belong to the State should not be used as an excuse to deprive them of their basic amenities.

4. It has been brought to our notice that the responsibility of providing relief and rehabilitation to these people lies with the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, there is a disconnect between the amounts allocated by the Ministry and the actual needs of these people (i.e. they are starving and we have heard reports of 39 infant deaths in the month of August, 2008 in a camp in Tripura).

5. I am sending you the correspondence which articulates the specific issues identified during our visits to the camps and our recommendations to resolve the same. I shall be grateful if you look into the matter personally and direct the officials concerned to do the needful immediately.

6. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With

Yours sincerely,

(Shantha Sinha)

Shri Madhukar Gupta,

Secretary (Home),

Ministry of Home Affairs,

North Block, New Delhi.

Encls. Copies of letters addressed by Chairperson, NCPCR to State Governments of Assam

and Tripura after visit of NCPCR team to the respective States.
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5. I am sending you the correspondence which articulates the specific issues identified during our visits to the camps and our recommendations to resolve the same. I shall be grateful if you look into the matter personally and direct the officials concerned to do the needful in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs, if deemed fit, immediately.

6. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With

Yours sincerely,

(Shantha Sinha)

Smt. Veena Sreeram Rao,

Secretary,

Ministry of Development of North-East Region,

R.No.233-A, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi.

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D.O.No.18/NCPCR/2008-09/North-East October 10, 2008

Dear

We are grateful to you for giving us time during our meeting with you on Tuesday, the 7th October 2008. We feel reassured by your support.

2. As mentioned, we would like to submit our concerns regarding the status of children in relief camps in Tripura and Assam. We were shocked by the living conditions of these displaced people and more so, their predicament of being in a permanent temporary displaced position. A new generation has been born, totally deprived of all their entitlements, causing undue damage to their psyche and self esteem. Unfortunately, being denied education opportunities in a full time formal school, these children have been forced to enter into the net of criminal activity and drug addiction.

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5. As requested by you, we are sending you the correspondence which articulates the specific issues identified during our visits to the camps and our recommendations to resolve the same. We seek your support to direct us to an officer from the PMO, with whom we can work to follow up on the issues with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the States concerned.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

With

Yours sincerely,

(Shantha Sinha)

Dr. Manmohan Singh,

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,

Prime Minister's Office,

7, Race Course, New Delhi.

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and Tripura after visit of NCPCR team to the respective States.