

Plea For NE Regional Office Of UGC

13/7/81 Assam Tribune

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, July 12.—The Education Minister Sri S B Chavan told a ten member deputation of the All Assam Students Union and the All Tribal Students Union (Ad Hoc) that he would soon depute the Chairman of the University Grants Commission to study the feasibility of establishment of a regional office of the University Grants Commission in the North Eastern region to look into the educational needs of the region and for taking steps accordingly.

The deputation submitted a memorandum detailing the educational deficiency in the region. They argued that because of the distance the University Grants Commission could not of the educational institutions properly realise the difficulties of the region and money allotted for the purpose often reached

them when it is too late. The deputationists pointed out that the UGC should formulate schemes for the development of technical education on the basis of the resources available in the region.

Specific references were made to the status of the Jorhat Science College and the Gauhati Textile Institute. It was pointed out that the Science College at Jorhat has not been able to contribute much in the field of the scientific education. It was suggested that if the objective of the college is to be achieved it should be raised to the level of the Indian Institute of Technology.

The Assam Textile Institute is the only institution of the kind in the whole country. Nowhere certificates and diplomas are now given. All such institutions in the rest of the country produce graduates. The upgrading of this institute has been further necessi-

tated for producing personnel to manage the various units of the Bongaigaon polyester Fibre unit of the Bongaigaon Petrochemicals.

The also referred to the present financial crisis of the Gauhati University which is facing closure for want of funds. The deputationists requested the Education Minister to immediately look into it and meet the necessary financial requirements. It was also pointed out that the allocation of Rs 40 lakhs per year for meeting the increasing expenditures of the University by the Government was not enough. This should be increased to at least one crore of rupees a year.

The two representatives of the All Assam Tribal Students Union referred to the return of Rs 20 lakhs meant for scholarships to tribal students by the Assam Government. They demanded that this should be given back to the Assam Government for utilisation for the purpose for which it was meant.

The deputation consisted of Sri P. K. Mahanta President Sri Bhrigu Kumar Phukan General Secretary Sri Joy Nath Sarma Sri Lalit Raikhowa Sri Nagen Sarma Sri Deba Bora Sri Naren Tanti Sri Nuruti Hussain of the All Assam Students Union and Sri Raikishore Doley and Durgadas Boro of the AATSU (ad hoc).

Mikirs Will Be Known

As Karbis

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, July 12 — Mikirs will henceforth be known as Karbis. The district earlier known as Mikir Hills has already been changed into Karbi Anglong.

The Chief Executive member of the Karbi Anglong District Council, Sri Biren Singh Engti, a former MP met the Prime Minister Sm. Indira Gandhi, Home Minister Sri Zail Singh and the Law Minister Sri Shiv Shanker and discussed with them the proposed change in the name of the tribe. They have agreed to it in principle and said that a Notification would be necessary to bring in the change which they said would not create any problem.

Sri Engti also informed the Home Minister that the District Council feels that the difference between the plains and hills tribals should be retained for some more time. A proposal for abolition of the difference and making tribals of both hills and plains into one was made by the Plains Tribal Council of Assam. The Karbi Anglong District Council felt that there was still a big gap in the economic, social and educational development of the plains and hills tribals. Hence some difference would have to be maintained till the hills tribals came upto the level of the plains tribals. The Home Ministry asked for comments from the two District Councils of the proposal of the PTCA.

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