

A
MEMORANDUM
TO
SRI THANESWAR BORO
HON'BLE REVENUE MINISTER OF ASSAM
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Respected Sir,

I, on behalf on behalf of the All Assam Garo Sahitya Sobha. have a great pleasure to welcome you for your kind august visit to our All Assam Garo Sahitya Sobha 3rd Annual Conference for a short period of duration. We have also good opportunity to place our grivances before you which the Garos of Assam have been facing in all sphares of life.

The poor Garos living in Assam are generally lagg- ing behind in education It is 40 years passed from the date of achievement of independence. Many tribes and communities have been uplifted into the higher stage of education and economic. But in case of the Garos instead of progressing are gradually turning back to the lower stage of education and economic. Prior to the new govern- ment came to power, we had been submitted innumerable memoranda and ^{num} member of representations had also been sent during the previous regime. But the then govern- ment did not pay any attention and disregarded our prayer and nothing suitable fruit was obtained. There fore the All Assam Garo Sahitya Sobha put forward before

the hon'ble minister with the following demands so that the small sections of the people like us may have an opportunity as other tribals of Assam.

1. Recuring grant for Garo Sahitya Sobha :-

We are highly hoped and believed that the new regional government is in a position to look after the tribals and non-tribals living in Assam to upgrade their standard of Education, economic and Socio-cultural organization to bring up to the equal level with the other developed tribes of Assam. The All Assam Garo Sahitya Sobha wrote many books and undertaken to introduce the scheme of stories, essays, poems etc. But due to lack fund these scemes of works are being kept pending and it seems to be hiddening in the midst of darkness. In this connection the 11 (eleven) members deputation of All Assam Garo Sahitya Sobha met the hon'ble education Minister at Janata Bhavan on 7th Aug 87 and submitted a memorandum demanding financial assistance to Garo Sahitya Sobha. The education Minister assured to the deputationists that a financial assisttance as recuring grant would be considered during the financial year. But it came to our knowledge that no the name of Garo Sahitya Sobha was included in the list of recuring grant.

Therefore we once again urge upon the hon'ble Minister to consider the case of the Garos to sanction recuring grant to the Garo Sahitya Sobha to bring them to the light of education, literature and socio-economic life of the backward Garos of Assam

2 Inclusion of Garos in the list of Seheduled Tribe :-

Whereas the Garos of Assam are not included in the list of Scheduled Tribe they are being deprived from enjoying all facilities since independence. In this regard we had been submitted number of memoranda and many times the representations had been sent to apprise the government to include the Garos of Assam to include in the list of scheduled tribe. But the previous government kent mum disregarding our genuin demand and rather they tried to keep aside to anihilate our nationality. As the fate of the Garos remained unchanyed due to non-inclusion in the list of scheduled tribe that we are not belonged to any one of the categories. However the hon'ble chief Minister of the new government in his visit to our 1st Annual conference held at Vishan-gram in 1986 had given us the assurance that suitable steps would be taken to include the Garos into the list of seheduled tribe. But no successful result had not yet been come till now.

Therefore the All Assam Garo Sahitya Sobha once more presented our grivances to reconsider the case of the Garos to include them in the list of scheduled tribe.

3: Problem of Employment :-

It may not be wrong to say that the government employee from the side of the Garo community is almost nil in the state of Assam. Serving to the government in this own state shows the sign of participation with the government; Though the Garo educated youths applied

for the posts they never got their jobs in any kind of service except as teachership as because L.P. and M. E. Schools are Garo medium. We are deeply felt for such discrimination regarding appointment to any government posts.

Therefore the All Assam Garo Sahitya Sobha put forward before the hon'ble minister to give chance to enjoy the government services in discriminately.

4. Upgradation of High School to Higher secondary :-

Whereas the Garo students of Assam are being deprived in studying for higher education due to non-availability of English medium Higher secondary Schools and Colleges they have to stray away from Assam to Meghalaya for further studies. In that case they have to face many problems, regarding Scholarship migration certificate, financial etc. to solve such problems upgradation of fine English medium provincialised High Schools are necessary. These fine provincialised schools are Nishangram, Derek, Damra Donvosco and Chotipara in Goalpara district and Gohalkona High School in Kamrup district.

5. Converting of English Medium High School to Garo Medium :-

The High Schools in which the Garo students are holding their studies are English medium. The students cannot come out successful with good results in H S L C Exam. If it goes the same direction there will be a great problem and obstacle to the Garo students in future

The three major problems in connection with the above mentioned points are shown below.

a) The students as they are studying in Garo medium originally from L P to M. E. School. When they are admitted to High schools in class VIII (eight) they cannot understand the subject matters of the lessons.

b) As they have to write every subject in English though they know the right thing they cannot express correctly and sufficiently due to lack of language.

c) Most of the students practice cramming system to appear in the examination. Now as the question patterns are set in objective, short answer and very short answer types. The students got puzzled during the examination when their preparations do not appear common to them. In this connection we had a discussion with hon'ble education Minister at Janata Bhavan on 7th Aug/87 and assured to us that a high power education committee would be set up to consider the matter. But no reply from the education department had yet come till now.

We therefore, request you to look into the matter to convert English medium schools to Garo medium with immediate effect.

6. Introduction of Garo language as additional subject in non-Garo medium L. P and M. E. Schools:

The Garos have been originally settling down in each and every districts of Assam. Their children are receiving education through Assamese medium of instruction. So, they are in a position to ^{not} forget their mother tongue ^{learn}

The man belonging to a particular community not procuring the learning of his own language is a matter of great regrettable and Sharmful thing ^{a democratic country} living in an independent state as a citizen is meaningless.

Therefore we request the government to give facility to study Garo language in non-Garo medium L. P. and M. E. schools as additional subject in the schools where the Garo students are fifteen or more in number.

7. Problem of Dudhnai B. T. C. :-

We thank the government for opening the Jr. Basic Training Centre at Dudhnai But entrusting to a single graduate instructor to coverup in numarable difficult subjects is a matter of pretending one to show the partial fulfilment of our long standing demand

Therefore the government should appoint more Garo graduate instructors in Dudhnoi B. T. C. for the trainees of the Garo Primary teachers so as to make them proper trainers.

8: Problem of Venture Schools

There are number of Garo medium Venture L. P. and M. E. Schools in Goalpara Sub-divisions. Those schools have been establised by the poor villagers only to bring the light educations in to their young generations.

But it is a matter of great regret that non of these schools got teacher appointment till now though the schools have been running more than fifteen years privately. The poor villagers cannot continue to run the school as they have no sufficient fund of their own to pay teachers salary.

Therefore we request the government to take up those venture schools and to appoint teachers with immediate effect.

In fine, I, for and on behalf of All Assam Garo Sahitya Sobha wish in the name of our almighty God may bless you last long in your humble services to the people and the Mother land.

JAI HIND

Respectfully submitted by

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General Secretary

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