

The Chakma Voice



Published by: Mizoram Chakma Development Forum

C3/441, Second Floor, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58, INDIA

www.mcdf.wordpress.com ; Email: chakmavoice@gmail.com

New Year Special Issue

New Delhi, December 2009

Volume I , Issue No. 2

Contributory price: Rs 20/-



Let's plant communal harmony and peace in the world

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SPECIAL ARTICLE: BADP in Mizoram: Implementation sans development	2
It's Official—No Rehabilitation Scheme coming yet.....	6
Latest list of fencing compensation beneficiaries	7
NHRC: The poor man's Court.....	8
Try writing in Chaklish by Victor Chakma	9
Praise for The Chakma Voice...	10
News in Brief.....	10

Editorial

The overwhelming response received from all quarters (see page 10) greatly encouraged us to work hard to bring out this New Year Special issue on time. In keeping with its stated objectives, MCDF wishes to promote 'informed and rational' debate on issues concerning the Chakma society, and therefore, encourages all readers to participate by writing articles, letters to the editor, comments etc. *The Chakma Voice* offers an alternative medium to all concerned persons, including any dissenting voice, to freely express his or her ideas/views as a responsible citizen of this globe. As Voltaire, a French writer, has said, "I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it". MCDF agrees with Voltaire.

This Issue has highlighted the lack of development in the Chakma inhabited areas along the India-Bangladesh international borders despite the fact that the Government of India has pumped in millions of rupees since 1993 under Border Area Development Programme (BADP). To be accurate, the Central government has so far released Rs 158.37 crores to Mizoram state from 1993 to 2008. This is not a small amount but the saddest part is that the BADP funds are not reaching the targeted population, that is, "people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border".

The greatest irony, however, is that the state government has been submitting utilization reports to the Central government claiming that all the funds are being spent. The lack of development and the poor human development index of the border people reflect the fact that there is something wrong in the implementation process. There is certainly misuse of the BADP funds as stated by then Mizoram Chief Secretary Vanhela Pachuau on 26 May 2009 (see "BADP in Mizoram: Implementation sans development"). But it will need a major effort to understand the magnitude of the problem.

A new year is about to dawn. Let the new year begin with enlightened thoughts, demands for accountability, transparency and justice. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010.

YCA General Conference, 2009

On 16-18 December 2009, the Young Chakma Association (YCA) held its General Conference at Tipperaghat village in Lunglei district, Mizoram. The Conference which evoked much enthusiasm among the general Chakma public saw participation of over 800 delegates from across the state of Mizoram. Chakma political, social and student leaders participated in the Conference. Mr John Rotluangliana, Deputy Speaker of Mizoram Legislative Assembly was the Chief Guest on the inaugural day. He appealed to the people to work together for the harmonious development of Mizoram. The Chakmas showcased their colourful dances and other cultural shows, and deliberated on the theme "The Role of YCA in socio, economic and educational development of the Chakmas in Mizoram".

SPECIAL ARTICLE

BADP in Mizoram: Implementation sans development**1. Introduction**

On 26 May 2009, then Mizoram Chief Secretary Vanhela Pachuau expressed concern over gross misappropriation of Border Area Development Programme (BADP) funds and warned that “Anybody found misusing the BADP fund will not be spared”. Mr Pachuau admitted that “There is a number of cases where the contractors have drawn 60 per cent of the fund in advance, but failed to carry out the works in Lawngtlai and Saiha districts”. What the then Chief Secretary has revealed could only be the tip of the iceberg.

The Border Area Development Programme (BADP) had been implemented in Mizoram since 1993-94. Initially it only covered four Rural Development blocks along the India-Bangladesh border inhabited by the Chakmas. In 1997-1998, the BADP was extended to the Mizoram-Myanmar border.

2. Objectives of BADP

The BADP is a 100% centrally funded programme, which means that all the money spent on the programme come from the Central government. The main objective of the BADP is “*to meet the special developmental needs of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near the international border and to saturate the border areas with the entire essential infrastructure through convergence of Central/State/ BADP/Local schemes and participatory approach*”.

3. Schemes/projects permissible under BADP

Various schemes/projects that can be taken up under BADP sectors are given below:

A. Education:

- (i) Primary/Middle/Secondary/Higher secondary school buildings (including additional rooms)
- (ii) Development of play fields
- (iii) Construction of hostels/dormitories

- (iv) Public libraries and reading rooms

B. Health

- (i) Building infrastructure (PHC/CHC/SHC)
- (ii) Provision of medical equipments of basic/elementary Type. X-Ray, ECG machines, equipment for dental clinic, pathological labs. etc. can also be purchased.
- (iii) Setting up of mobile dispensaries/ambulance in rural areas by Govt./ Panchayati Raj Institutions including Tele medicine.

C. Agriculture and allied sectors

- (i) Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- (ii) Pisciculture
- (iii) Sericulture
- (iv) Poultry farming/Fishery/Pig/Goat/Sheep farming.
- (v) Farm forestry, horticulture/floriculture.
- (vi) Public drainage facilities.
- (vii) Construction of irrigation embankments, or lift irrigation or water table recharging facilities(including minor irrigation works).
- (viii) Water conservation programmes
- (ix) Soil conservation- protection of erosion-flood protection.
- (x) Social Forestry, JFM, parks, gardens in government and community lands or other surrendered lands including pasturing yards.
- (xi) Use of improved seeds, fertilizers and improved technology
- (xii) Veterinary aid Centres, artificial insemination Centres and breeding Centres.
- (xiii) Area specific approach keeping in view the economy of Scale – Backward-Forward integration.

D. Infrastructure

(i) Construction and strengthening of approach roads, link roads (including culverts & bridges)

(ii) Industries – Small Scale with local inputs viz handloom, handicraft, furniture making, tiny units, black smith works etc. and food processing industry

(iii) Provisions of civic amenities like electricity, water, pathways, ropeways, foot bridges, hanging bridges, public toilets in slum areas and in SC/ST habitations and at tourist centers, bus stands etc.

(iv) Development of infrastructure for weekly haats/bazaars and also for cultural activities etc. in border areas.

(v) Construction of buildings for recognized District or State Sports Associations and for Cultural and Sport Activities or for hospitals (provision of multi-gym facilities in gymnastic centers, sports association, physical education training institutions, etc.)

(vi) Construction of houses for officials engaged in education sector and health sector in remote border areas.

(vii) Tourism/Sports/Adventure Sports Scheme – creation of world class infrastructure for tourism and sports in border block where ever feasible- like rock climbing, mountaineering, river rafting, forest trekking, skiing and safaris (car/bike race, camel safaris, yak riding, boating in Rann of Kutchh).

(viii) Creation of new tourist centers.

(ix) Construction of mini open stadium/ indoor stadium./ auditoriums.

(xiv) New & Renewable electricity- Bio gas/Biomass gasification, Solar & Wind energy and Mini Hydel Projects - systems/devices for community use and related activities.

E. Social Sector

(i) Construction of community centers

(ii) Construction of Anganwadis.

(iii) Rural Sanitation blocks.

(iv) Cultural Centres /Community Halls

(v) Construction of common shelters for the old or Handicapped

(vi) Capacity building programme by way of vocational studies & training for youth for self employment and skill up gradation of artisans and weavers.

F. Miscellaneous:

i) Development of Model villages in border areas.

ii) E-chaupals/agri-shops/mobile media vans/market yards.

iii) Cluster approach wherever feasible.

“There is a number of cases where the contractors have drawn 60 per cent of the fund in advance, but failed to carry out the works in Lawngtlai and Saiha districts. Anybody found misusing the BADP fund will not be spared” - then Mizoram Chief

Secretary Vanhela Pachuau, 26 May 2009

4. Funds sanctioned to Mizoram by Centre

The BADP has been in implementation in Mizoram from 1993-1994. In the initial years up to 1996-1997, only four Rural Development Blocks along Indo-Bangladesh border were covered. During this period of three years (1993-1996), a total of Rs 11.55 crores were allocated to Mizoram only to develop the India-Bangladesh border which is predominantly inhabited by the Chakma tribals.

The year-wise allocations during 1993-1996 were as follows:

Year	Funds sanctioned to Mizoram
1993-94	Rs 2.84 crore
1994-95	Rs 3.25 crore
1995-96	Rs 2.73 crore
1996-97	Rs 2.73 crore
Total	Rs 11.55 crores

In 1997, the programme was extended on the eastern side of Mizoram bordering Myanmar.

Presently, BADP scheme is implemented in 16 Rural Development (RD) Blocks whose geographical area totals 12665.09 sq.kms. Of these, 11 R.D Blocks are situated along the Indo-Myanmar border and the rest five R.D Blocks are along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

A total of Rs 146.82 crore have been released to the state of Mizoram under BADP to develop the border areas from 1997 to 2008 as given under:

Year	Funds sanctioned to Mizoram government
1997-98	Rs 6.73 crore
1998-99	Rs 6.82 crore
1999-2000	Rs 8.00 crore
2000-01	Rs 12.32 crore
2001-02	Rs 16.08 crore
2002-03	Rs 16.32 crore
2003-04	Rs 12.48 crore
2004-05	Rs 15.56 crore
2005-06	Rs 9.03 crore
2006-07	Rs 22.62 crore
2007-08	Rs 20.86 crore
Total	Rs 146.82 crore

Hence, a grand total of Rs 158.37 crore (Rs 11.55 crores + Rs 146.82 crore) have been released to the state of Mizoram from 1993 to 2008. Yet, there is no semblance of development along the India-Bangladesh border areas inhabited by the Chakma tribals.

5. Where BADP is being implemented

The BADP is being implemented in 16 Rural Development blocks in six districts. These are Champhai, Ngopa, Khawzawl, and Khawbung in Champhai District; Lungar "E" in Serchip District; Hnahthial, Bunglemun, and Lungsen in Lunglei District; Lawngtlai, Sangau, Bungtlang and Chawngte in Saiha District; West Phaileng and Zawnuam in Mamit district.

6. Absence of development: Is leakage of BADP funds taking place?

The BADP is a complete package for wholesome development of the border areas and the people living near-

est to the international borders. The BADP must meet the "immediate needs of the border population" like education, health care, safe drinking water, rural roads, creation of self employment for youths and women, among others and the Central government provides funds to the Mizoram government to provide these basic facilities to the people living near the international border.

As we have seen above, BADP provides all the facilities the border Chakmas of Mizoram need. Yet, Chakmas and other border people have been living miserable lives without access to basic amenities, although the Central government is spending millions of rupees.

If there is misuse of funds as suggested by the former Chief Secretary, it will need a major effort to understand the magnitude of the misuse of BADP funds in Mizoram. The Mizoram government has consistently stated that it has fully utilized the funds every year except an amount of Rs 991.83 lakhs which it did not utilize during 2006-07 (position as on 13.02.2008). Even the non-utilization of Rs 991.83 lakhs during 2006-07, as has been admitted by the state government, is itself a criminal act given the fact that the border inhabitants are in dire need of basic facilities. For example, every year hundreds of people, mostly children, die due to lack of basic medical care in the border villages.

There is little evaluation or monitoring of how the funds are being spent. Mizoram is a "better performing state" in terms of implementation of BADP but surely there is huge gap between the implementation and the actual living condition of the Chakmas and other communities living along the border. The border people are forced to live in pathetic conditions due to lack of development, and lack of basic facilities such as health care, education, drinking water, road connectivity, and more importantly, livelihood sources.



A Chakma woman resting at her dilapidated house

In short, the BADP funds are not reaching the targeted population. It reminds us of the famous statement of

former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1985 when he had said, “Of every rupee spent by the government, only 17 paise reached the intended beneficiary.” The problem of leakage of Central funds assumes greater significance from the recent findings of the Planning Commission that only 16 paise out of a rupee earmarked for the Public Distribution System was reaching the targeted poor. On 13 October 2009, Planning Commission deputy chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia suggested that 1% of every scheme money be earmarked for monitoring and evaluation.

MCDF apprehends leakage of BADP funds earmarked for development of the international border areas in Mizoram and this needs to be properly investigated.

The *prima facie* evidence of leakage of funds is the absolute lack of development in the areas closest to the international border. Because the state government has been submitting utilization reports claiming full utilization of the BADP funds, the primary question is: *Where are the money flowing since there is little improvement in the living condition of the border people?*

The Congress government led by Chief Minister Pu Lalthanhawla must be praised for its expressed commitment to fight corruption with strong determination and provide clean and efficient administration. Surely, only this can lead to “Better Mizoram” where every community can live in peace and prosperity. MCDF is of the opinion that “peace” does not only mean absence of any armed conflict. It also means people have the basic necessities, all are treated well and have equitable access to resources and they march towards development. Hence, Mizoram Chief Minister must give special attention to development of the international border areas.

7. Revised BADP Guidelines of 2009

It seems that the Central government is critically aware of the fact that the BADP funds are not reaching to the targeted population and has therefore tried to further strengthen the programme by issuing revised BADP guidelines in February 2009.

The Revised 2009 BADP Guidelines have asked the state governments to utilize the BADP funds only in those villages of the blocks, which are located “within 0-10 km” from the international border. The 2009 Guidelines stated:

“The border block will be the spatial unit within which the State Government shall arrange to utilize the BADP funds only in those villages of the blocks, which are located ‘within 0-10 km’ from the international border. Those villages, which are located nearer to the international border will get first prior-

ity. After saturating these villages with basic infrastructure, the next set of villages located within 0-15 km and 0-20 km need to be taken up. If the first village in a block is located at a far away location from the international border, the first village/hamlet in the block may be taken as “0” km distance village for drawing the priority list.”

The 2009 Guidelines will naturally benefit the Chakmas as most of the Chakma villages are located within 0-15 km radius from the international border. Mizoram government should scrupulously follow the 2009 Guidelines and give first and foremost priority of development to the villages nearest to the international borders.

The BADP Guidelines also provide that “a baseline survey shall be carried out in border villages in order to assess the gaps in basic physical and social infrastructure. Preparation of a village-wise plan shall be ensured duly indicating the projects/funding through State Plan Schemes/The Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)/Flagship Schemes of Government of India and the BADP.”

8. Recommendations:

To the Government of India:

1. Earmark at least 1% of the BADP funds for monitoring and evaluation as suggested by the Planning Commission;
2. Make provision for participation of the concerned civil society groups in addition to the Autonomous councils/Local Bodies/Village Councils in both base line survey of the proposed villages, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes in Mizoram;
3. Conduct social audit of the implementation of BADP in Mizoram; and
4. Undertake at least one on-the-spot visit by a High Level Central team to take stock of the conditions of the people living along the international borders.

To the Government of Mizoram:

1. Ensure strict implementation of the 2009 Revised Guidelines on BADP and take stern legal action against any official found to be guilty of misuse/non-use/diversion of BADP funds;
2. Conduct a baseline survey in each border villages in order to assess the gaps in basic physical and social infrastructure and prepare a village-wise plan with the participation of representatives from the concerned Village Council and civil society organizations who are well-informed about the problems of the concerned villages/areas; and
3. Maintain a website exclusively dedicated to the implementation of BADP in order to ensure full transparency and accountability. □

It's official now—No rehabilitation scheme for the fencing affected victims yet!

In reply to a query under the Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005 filed by a member of MCDF as to whether any Rehabilitation Scheme has been prepared by the Government of India or Government of Mizoram to rehabilitate the Chakma victims affected by the India-Bangladesh border fencing project, the Ministry of Home Affairs (Border Management), Government of India in its reply (No. 11013/52/2009-BM.III) dated 16th December, 2009 stated that:

“Neither this Ministry has prepared any plan for rehabilitation nor any proposal has been received in this Ministry from Govt. of Mizoram”.

This is a clear indication that the state government of Mizoram and the Government of India are not doing enough to rehabilitate over 35,000 Chakmas from 5,790 families in 49 villages affected by the India-Bangladesh border fencing. (For more, read the November 2009 Issue). The MHA's response has also totally demolished the claims made by some political leaders that the state government of Mizoram is doing all it can to help the Chakmas. It is evident that the state of Mizoram has failed to abide by the National R & R Policy 2007 of India that requires the state authorities to prepare a scheme or plan for the rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families after consultation with the affected people.

What does the National Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2007 say?

The National R&R Policy of 2007 states that *“There is imperative need to recognise rehabilitation and resettlement issues as intrinsic to the development process formulated with the active participation of the affected persons, rather than as externally-imposed requirements. Additional benefits beyond monetary compensation have to be provided to the families affected adversely by involuntary displacement. The plight of those who do not have legal or recognised rights over the land on which they are critically dependent for their subsistence is even worse. This calls for a broader concerted effort on the part of the planners to include in the displacement, rehabilitation and resettlement process framework not only those*



who directly lose land and other assets but also those who are affected by such acquisition of assets. The displacement process often poses problems that make it difficult for the affected persons to continue their earlier livelihood activities after resettlement. This requires a careful assessment of the economic disadvantages and social impact of displacement. There must also be a holistic effort aimed at improving the all round living standards of the affected people.” (Para 1.2)

Wherever there is displacement of more than two hundred families *en masse* in tribal or hilly areas, or Sixth Schedule areas due to acquisition of land, the state government shall declare, by notification in the Official Gazette, that area of villages or localities as an “affected area”. Then the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement (who shall be an officer not below the rank of District Commissioner) shall undertake a baseline survey and census for identification of the affected persons and families. After completion of baseline survey and census of the affected families and assessment of the requirement of land for resettlement, the Administrator for Rehabilitation and Resettlement shall prepare a draft scheme or plan for the rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected families after consultation with the representatives of the affected families including women. (Paragraph of 6.14.1 of the National R&R Policy, 2007)

The state of Mizoram must look into the displacement of over 35,000 Chakmas with sympathy as well as a state obligation, and prepare a sound Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan with free, prior and informed consent of the representatives of the affected people. The fencing affected people are Mizoram's own people and the state is duty bound to protect their interests and ensure their better future. □

Fencing Compensation: The latest list of beneficiaries

In November 2009, the state government of Mizoram submitted the following list to the Ministry of Home Affairs (Border Management) for award of compensation. This list is exclusively available with MCDF, obtained by RTI Act.

Khojorsury

SI No.	NAME	AMOUNT						
1	Amullyo Rolon	132358	34	Joy Kumar	75937	77	Mongalmon	66799
2	Sava Rotton	88387	35	Jagadish	60015	78	Krisna	100987
3	Santosh	87945	36	Torrisonen	75937	79	Bobrubohan	101142
4	Doyal Kumar	52027	37	Lokki Dhon	75937	80	Promod Kanti	144887
5	Suresh Kumar	52027	38	Dhormo Dhan	75937	81	Santi Kumar	63199
6	Bimoleshwar	52027	39	Udoy Kumar	65599	82	Bogirot	104142
7	Kamala Kanti	52027	40	Lokki Kanto	65599	83	Arei Seing	63199
8	Borondo Kumar	44924	41	Niguti Ronjon	65599	84	Nagor Chand	73999
9	Hiran Kanti	74737	42	Joboraj	65599	85	Uday Ronjon	63199
10	Malachand	185255	43	Kamini Ronjon	65599	86	Primary School	137049
11	Gana Jyoti	63211	44	Gov.t P/S Lakhisury	203223	87	Buddhist Temple	175115
12	Probat Kumar	65599	45	Kandra	63199	88	Pottor Munni	84904
13	Chitto Ronjon	102713	46	Ananda Bihon	65603	89	Sotyia Jit	72199
14	Joymola	60430	47	Anobinder	65603	90	Hongodosh	79999
15	Sattyo Jibon	65599	48	Dorma Mohan	65603	91	Maya Kumar	64399
16	Ragoni Mohan	171487	49	Indu Kumar	65603	92	Morakaji	82537
17	Priyo Ronjon	65599	50	Ali Chand	69203	93	Chigonis	84337
18	Jattara Mohan	65599	51	Bonabushan	69203	94	Prodip	64399
19	Bikkananda	71784	52	Borot Chondro	75939	95	Anil Kumar	72199
20	Assotama	71285	53	Rajendra	65599	96	Biro Bahu	95142
21	Niron Joy	56828	54	Adeidhon	80737	97	Nilo Dosh	81304
22	Sigon Chand	64699	55	Kusumia	128657	98	Amullyo Roton	85146
23	Mildon	78337	56	Silmuni	65599	99	Aroti Bala	63199
24	Kima Kumar	66799	57	Melon	73434	100	Donon Joy	168471
25	Akkoy singh	75937	58	Subahu	90677	101	Bimal Kanti	100308
26	Basok Chondro	75937	59	Angara	77137	102	Mintu	100308
27	Doyal Kumar	53729	60	Bannuamuni	78937	103	Surosen	95416
28	Udongo Muni	54428	61	Dhar Muni	81337	104	Rogoni Chondro	102108
29	Sorot Chondro	53228	62	Ashok Kumar	82537	105	Joy Sen	102108
30	Ormil Chondro	53228	63	Bimalesor	77737	106	Krisno Rotan	102108
31	Juddo Ronjon	75937	64	Prosenjit	65599	107	Ronjon	95698
32	Ranjit Kumar	75937	65	Jagadish	65599	108	Chandron Lal	126857
33	Giana Ratton	75937	66	Tilok Mon	70399	109	Monu Ronjon	96016
			67	Protul Chondro	63199	110	Bhatnot Chandro	102108
			68	Milisban	93337	111	Santi Bushan	102108
			69	Nioti Ranjon	70399	112	Namo Ratno	102108
			70	Aroti	141958	113	Gunosingho	102108
			71	Susil Jibon	65599	114	Monisongho	118550
			72	Chitrosen	74599			
			73	Kusum Kanti	137657			
			74	Proti Moy	141058			
			75	Robbi Soshi	66799			
			76	Adei Dhan	143758			

Continued in page 11

NHRC of India: The poor man's Court

NHRC recommends Rs 6.5 lakh relief to Chakma victims of BSF firing

On 15 April 2006 (on the day of Bizu festival), the personnel of Border Security Force (BSF) opened indiscriminate firing upon the simple Chakma tribal villagers at Bulongsuri under Lunglei district in Mizoram when the Chakmas protested against manhandling of a Buddhist monk by the BSF.

In the firing, a poor Chakma villager named Gobalya Chakma was killed on the spot and seven others were injured.

The injured persons and the nature of injuries are as follows:

1. Mr Juddo Moni Chakma, 23 years. Bullet hit in his thigh
2. Mr Satyo Priyo Chakma, 27 years. Bullets hit at knee and calf
3. Mr Lakkhi Kumar Chakma, 19 years. Bullet hit at hand
4. Mr Vijoy Kanti Chakma, 20 years. Bullet hit at arm
5. Mr Gyana Baran Chakma, 18 years. Cut on the head and neck
6. Mr Shanti Baran Chakma, 12 years. Received injuries in the head
7. Mr Eganya Chakma, 70 years. He was brutally beaten, kicked and hit with rifle butts. His jaw broken.

On 19 April 2006, Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR), an NGO having Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), filed a complaint before the NHRC (case No.3/16/2006-2007-PF). The NHRC directed the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to investigate the matter. Subsequently, all the BSF personnel involved in the incident were tried by General Security Force Court (GSFC) on the 12th January, 2007. The GSFC awarded punishments to Umed Singh Mehta, Assistant Commandant for forfeiture of 10 years' past service for the purpose of his pension and Inspector N B Bhat was awarded sentence for forfeiture of 3 years' of service for the purpose of promotion.

The NHRC in its order dated 12 November 2009 ordered the Ministry of Home Affairs to pay a compensation of Rs 300,000 (Three Lakhs) to the family of late Gobalya Chakma and Rs 50,000 to each of the 7 injured persons.

The MCDF has contacted the victims and their family members. It came to know that at least four of the injured victims did not get any financial help. A victim namely Juddo Moni Chakma is still undergoing treatment of the bullet injury in the thigh and has to walk with the help of crutch. He has lost his job of teacher as he remained absent for a long time from duty during receiving of treatment. He is poor and now he has no income to feed his wife and a son. Gyanabaran Chakma, son of deceased Gopalya Chakma had been given a job as "Safai Karamchari" (cleaner) with the BSF but he left the job in protest. He is an educated person (studied up to Class VIII) and therefore demanded that he be recruited as a soldier. The MCDF is presently helping to connect the hapless victims to the ACHR.

What is NHRC?

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was established on 12 October 1993 to protect and promote human rights. "Human Rights" has been defined in the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (As amended in 2006) as "the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India."

The NHRC has various powers and functions. It can inquire into a complaint either on its own or when filed by a victim (or any person on behalf of the victim). The NHRC can deal with complaints only when violation of human rights has been committed by the state (i.e. public officials). The state can commit violation of human rights in two ways – commission and omission. "Commission" means the state officials take part (directly or through abetment) in the crime. "Omission" means when the state refuses to take action against the accused or omit evidence that helps the accused.

The NHRC has enormous powers. It has the power of a "civil court" while enquiring into any complaint. However, it has limitations too. Among the limitations are: NHRC cannot investigate into complaint which is more than one year old, and if the matter is pending in the court.

The petitioner does not have to pay any fees to file a complaint before the NHRC. Hence, the Commission has been often called "the poor man's court".

For further details, go to <http://www.nhrc.nic.in/>

Second Opinion:

Try writing in Chaklish

By Victor Chakma

The word 'CHAKLISH' means "Chakma + English". It is a very simple way of writing the Chakma language using the English alphabets. It is the new art of writing specially designed for the common people. Keeping in consideration the literacy rate of the Chakmas in Mizoram, it has been found that a good number of Chakma youth attend schools up to the high-school level and can read and write English with great comfort. A person who can read and write the English alphabet from A to Z can write Chaklish. Chaklish is similar to the Mizo language written using the English alphabet. The art of writing is very important for the development of a race or community. One of the most important factors for the development and progress of the Mizo race is its literacy rate. More than 90% of the Mizos know to read and write in English because they use the English alphabet to write the Mizo language. The literacy rate of Mizoram is 90.27%, the second most literate state in India only after Kerela (90.6%). Among the states in the North-east India, Mizoram is the state that has shown the fastest rate of progress. There is definitely a broad connection between the rate of literacy of a state and its progress. Therefore the use of the English alphabet to write the Chakma language is a great idea to popularize the art of writing among the common people and increase the rate of literacy and progress.

Chaklish is the easiest way to write the Chakma language for the modern youth because English is the most popular medium of instruction. Earlier, Bengali was a very popular medium of instruction and therefore the Bengali script was used for writing the Chakma language. Many of the old educated people still use the Bengali script to write letters to family and friends. It was easier for them to write the Chakma language in Bengali script because Bengali was a very popular medium of instruction in schools at that time.

'Chaklish' (Chakma + English) is a way of writing the Chakma language using the English alphabets. For example "*Tor naagan hi?*" (What's your name?)

The writing of a vernacular language using the English alphabet is not a difficult task. The titles of Hindi movies are written using English alphabet. The Pali language is also written using the English alphabet in Buddhist religious books that are circulated all over the world. There are many other vernacular languages that are written

using the English alphabet.

Chaklish is different and separate from the original Chakma script. The Chakma script is our pride and should be preserved and revived. The Chakma script is being taught in schools in the CADC region and similar positive steps should be taken to revive the original Chakma script. Chaklish on the other hand is an art of writing for the modern youth who did not get the opportunity to learn the original Chakma script in schools and are now like old parrots (*buro todek* in Chaklish). Chaklish is a very simple and easy way to write the Chakma language using the English alphabet.

Chaklish is a very powerful tool for the modern youth and should be used for writing letters to friends and can also be used to write e-mails and SMS. Creative folks can also express their talents in the form of poems, poetry, lyrics and even books and novels. Chaklish is very interesting and filled with fun because it helps us to express our emotions in our own language, although we are using the English alphabet. Using Chaklish to write the daily personal diary is a very healthy practice and will also improve one's proficiency in this new art of writing. However, it is advised that very short and simple spelling should be used to write Chaklish. The art of writing the Chakma language in English alphabet is a great idea and need the support of every educated youth to popularize this new art of writing. □

Attention Readers!

Readers are welcome to send their original articles for publication in *The Chakma Voice*. Readers are also encouraged to express their own views/opinions by writing letters to the Editor. The MCDF urges the Chakma student community in particular to bring out their creative talents and inspire the society towards the right path. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for space and clarity.

What they've said about The Chakma Voice

"Congratulations and many thanks for sending the first issue of The Chakma Voice. I greatly enjoyed reading it. You have correctly pinpointed Education as one the most critical issues for communities like ours. It makes perfect sense to emphasise this issue." - **Dr Bhumitra Chakma**, Director, South Asia Project, Department of Politics and International Studies, The University of Hull, **United Kingdom**

"Good luck with your inspiring and necessary work" - **Ms Susan Woldenberg Butler**, President, BODHI, **Australia**

"Excellent. Hoping more bright (prospects) in near future. I forwarded (the Newsletter) to about 40 important persons around the world including Chakma Raja." – **Ven. Pragma Jyoti, Australia**

"Thank you for the newsletter. It was wonderful to read the paper. The paper was long overdue. I hope in future the paper will not only focus on the problem of the Chakmas in Mizoram, it will also focus on the Chakmas in CHT, Arunachal and Tripura. To obtain the broad audience it will also write on problems in employment, commerce, agriculture etc. Thanks again to you and your colleagues for the good effort" – **Kulottam Chakma, Australia**

"I have read a (copy of) Chakma Voice Newsletter which is published by you. I am interested to reading your popular Newsletter. So, sirsend me (the Newsletter) in my mail ID" - **Bijoy Chakma, France**

"It is a noble initiative. Congratulations on your work." - **Kabita Chakma, Australia**

News in brief

Chakma dance at Dilli Haat



A group of Chakma girls, in traditional dress, performing a Chakma dance at famous Dilli Haat, New Delhi on 30 October 2009. A member of MCDF choreographed the dance. The Chakma dance enthralled the entire audience.

Chakma leaders in Delhi



MCDF members with Mr Adikanta Tongchongya, Ex-CEM, CADC (second from left) and Mr Nirupam Chakma, MLA (second from right), in Mizoram House, New Delhi in December 2009

CHT Human Rights Report released in South Korea

The Jumma Peoples Network Korea (JPNK) released an investigative report on the human rights situation in CHT, Bangladesh, in a ceremony held on 16 December 2009. Below is a picture of the programme sent to MCDF by JPNK.



Continued from Page 7

Silgur (NPCC)

SI No.	NAME	AMOUNT (Rs)
1	Judha Muni	78255
2	Hongotia	98857
3	Nakobi	150311
4	Purno Devi	63576
5	Chandro Lal	100057
6	Budho Mohan	76688
7	Sita Chakma	100914
8	Manabi Chakma	114714
9	Borsoga Chakma	111714
10	Joy Sada	76688
11	Birash Pudi	91373
12	Utanga Muni	67955
13	Larei Sen	123442
14	Biro Babu	76691
15	Kripa Chandro	115208
16	Puranjan Chakma	100057
17	Kushal Chakma	100657
18	Tora Chandro	105408
19	Mahini Ranjan	95157
20	Baben chakma	101257
21	Brihash Dhan	144126
22	Sakhis Singh	92757
23	Karma Muni	95157
24	Juboraj Chakma	110808
25	Motilal Chakma	110208
26	Ramesh Kanti	111408

Silgur (EPIL)

SI No.	NAME	AMOUNT
1	Buddhist Mandir	282410
2	Chandro Mohan	124553
3	Jointo Kumar	121284
4	Phalkunia	76242
5	Buban Bijoy	182885
6	Akay Muni	118085
7	Santi Boron	130087
8	Udayon Chakma	217886
9	Naion Ronjon	310731
10	Khulomuni	261231
11	Miliasoka	148705
12	Priti Kumar	190374
13	Gunomuni	131034
14	Okay Singh	131158
15	Obilash Chakma	102548

16	Bimol Mitra	268606
17	Ronjon Kumar	50827
18	Kalabi	134303
19	Sundar Muni	104027
20	Gov't Primary	213142
21	Milon Chakma	92094
22	Toroni Mohan	63199
23	Jita Rani	95027
24	Mona	100188
25	Trisubua	116753
26	Amola	117531
27	Sobra Rani	39609
28	Kulungia	100313
29	Boloram Chakma	131158

Nunsury (EPIL)

SI No.	NAME	AMOUNT
1	Purna Kumar	63203
2	Krisna Ronjon	166070
3	Praj Mohan	44325
4	Gyano Roton	91545
5	Puinasen	167871
6	Biroson	81760
7	Ananta	133193
8	Doniaraj	83875
9	Bangla Joy	118553
10	Notun Joy	100314
11	Mala	238364
12	Pritijoy	123353
13	Dharma Joy	102115

Devasora (EPIL)

SI No.	NAME	AMOUNT
1	Jone	59131
2	Monu Bodro	73537
3	G Chandro	73537
4	Primary School	54951
5	Bolu	92525
6	Chandro Kumar	73537
7	Paran Santi	63199
8	Sandro Muni	63199
9	Dono Kumar	83874
10	Chitto Roth	76662
11	Prema Ronjon	81593

12	Chandro Mohan	73537
13	Nilo roth	83874
14	Sundro Kumar	87942
15	Pakki	83874
16	Chandro Lal	74538
17	Niloboron	83874
18	Bissom Bor	87942
19	Notunia	63199
20	Gobi Nath	106588

Bindasora (EPIL)

SI No.	NAME	AMOUNT
1	Promot Kanti	140396
2	Khandor Singh	100313
3	Prosuram	198946
4	Sobno Kumar	209956
5	Laxmi Prasad	149799
6	Santi Bijoy	83034
7	Rabindranath	87945
8	Anil Kanti	102115
9	Phuletsor	201862
10	Zam Zam	135957
11	Botla	87945
12	Rotan Kati	94212
13	Biro Kumar	75062
14	Koneksor	69385
15	Sushil Kanti	102108
16	Santiloda	112685
17	Modom	221549
18	Gumesindu	63203
19	Ram Chandro	156999
20	Babul	153235
21	Sonoko	73538
22	Osuk Kumar	234924
23	Bonga	94389
24	Jugendro	53458
25	Ronjonia	140757
26	Chandro Muni	69203
27	Sodil Kumar	116753
28	Chandromala	125057
29	Gohini	75138
30	Sezokana	87945
31	Komoleni	69385
32	Ghandi	51503
33	Udai Sangbor	134057

Continued from previous page...

34	Rahul Chandro	190085	80	Rana	145563	36	Biswamitro	63199
35	Private Primary Scho	52860	81	Jetendra	154558	37	Chitoronjon	168871
36	Boli	182885	82	Tridip	86715	38	Badia Roton	170271
37	Arun Kumar	63203	Tablabagh (EPIL)			39	Pvt E M School	173057
38	Kamaletsor	270071	SI			40	Sunil Kumar	63199
39	Anil boron	113513	No.	NAME	AMOUNT	41	Joy Chanron	42524
40	Dono Kumar	102343	1	Proti Ronjon	113566	42	Sobha Mitro	73538
41	Gyono Ronjon	115073	2	Nilo Kumar	208851	43	Santi Priyo	63199
42	Subonaksaw	223525	3	Sneho	150963	44	Jammurua	155655
43	Meyalal	248897	4	Kumar	116285	45	Raj Chondro	120353
44	Gyono Roton	87942	5	Maya Devi	116285	46	Poisaram VICP	237451
45	Jura Choron	145563	6	Nilobi	102115	47	Babunia	479943
46	Priya Ronjon	299940	7	Bokul Muni	210674	48	Bajya chondro	125150
47	Battya	87945	8	Lokhya	116286	49	Kalabua	105138
48	Suboraj	105051	9	Lokhi Chan-	120350	50	Surjo Lal	243231
49	Govinda	109551	10	Sukrosarzyio	186485	51	Muku Chakma	87942
50	Pratap Singh	63203	11	Sneha Ron-	153231	52	Toteha	112685
51	Sanjoy Kanti	75574	12	Devi Singh	163570	53	Mongol Mohan	166071
52	Sneha Kumar	63199	13	Anurodro	153231	54	Anonto	116753
53	Kanjan Kumar	116750	14	Santi Bikash	59931	55	Loksaro	205051
54	Khandora	131158	15	ChittoronJon	116753	56	Puro Mohan	198949
55	Phelabi	86552	16	Badro Singh	63065	57	Daneshwari	85674
56	Biro Singho	65440	17	Porsingh	147785	58	Basu Dep	135657
57	Buddhis Temple	240414	18	Monga Devi	166071	59	Dono	109913
58	Susen	73538	19	Gyano Ron-	122150	60	Babunia	116750
59	Sukrosatzyo	116750	20	Phuleswari	130457	61	Robir Kumar	119150
60	Dormo Roton	63203	21	Bishwanath	145563	62	Sigonja	218792
61	Zabika	145563	22	Kina Ram	102113	63	Behari Lal	167869
62	Natua	152327	23	Chandro	24596	64	Niloni Kanto	153235
63	Subol Kumar	63203	24	Kumar	102113	65	Suresh Mugi	115366
64	Bojaraka	87942	25	Protimoy	102113	66	Bishwa Mitro	120353
65	Joysen	63203	26	Bushan	51499	67	Arun Kumar	103913
66	Akania	105952	27	Nidoria Boli	105713	68	Samdar	73538
67	Sujol Kanti	79174	28	Tridip	248267	69	Bimol Chandro	100308
68	Dilip Kumar	118553	29	Dayamoy	63199	70	Lkala Chand	136785
69	Dosorat	101389	30	Premo Ron-	103313	71	Anganwadi	68525
70	Suro Bola	69385	31	Direndro	198949	72	Dono	34725
71	dona Kumar	238820	32	Nidir	179425	73	Soniram	100313
72	Probhat Chandro	217583	33	Chigon		74	Jorna	116286
73	Hridoy Ronjan	124972	34	Mohan	84199	75	Aboni Ronjon	280279
74	Govt P/S	376199	35	Druno	325424	76	Gulpheda	155027
75	Susangko	82531		Mohan	147963	77	Hengotia	91495
76	Phulin Bikash	186849		Ronjon	115085	78	Anondo Maia	89745
77	Kalapuna	87945		Phulo Kanti	104333	79	Buddha Maji	65003
78	Bimol Kanti	200287		Bijoy Dhor		80	Durno Mohan	38918
79	Rukbanu	112685				81	Kamala Ronjon	64995
						82	Mukto Singh	697562
						83	Retika Chakma	184304

Continued from previous page..

84	Toroni Kanti	241521	130	SSA P/School	42525	30	Gurul Chandro	73537
85	Banuram	122153	131	Osuk Kumar	112685	31	VC Chakma	253317
86	Bazar Shed	202049	132	Bagan Phudi	149635	32	Suparna	80739
87	Sukro Sen	85674	133	Nilo Mugi	103915	33	Pathori Kumar	102116
88	Chito Ronjan	63199	134	Kattya	77137	34	Majangala	78706
89	Manya	100313	135	Anuk Baran	103915	35	Nillo Roton	64429
90	Bokora	87942	136	Bhaghyanidi	95695	36	Niroth Kumar	78337
91	Saralya	171471	137	Dinesh Chondro	151432	37	Krishno	87939
92	Phltara	155031	138	Pavilion (TbLb)	203057	38	Amar Chand	73537
93	Naion Singh	282671	139	Kamini Mohan	154108	39	Nobin Chand	92094
94	Somoti Ronjon	102113				40	Gulpeda	120024
95	Anrati	112133				41	Kala Sela	50828
96	Konungo Singh	102113				42	Raj Kingkor	50996
97	Jotirmoy	236753				43	Subo Kumar	59131
98	Sandbox	103913				44	Nibaron	73537
99	Jotro Sen	100313				45	Bogyo devi	67434
100	Chigon Chand	120353				46	Ugadi	68242
101	Roi Phudi	66799				47	Hemo Bindu	67434
102	Lokona	155199				48	Omar chandro	59131
103	Gurika	77371				49	SSA P School	51834
104	Soriyibon	196463						
105	Martina	126857						
106	Idro Kumar	83874						
107	Kina Ronjon	99616						
108	Graveyard(Tablal)	42525						
109	Santi Ronjon	85674						
110	Buban Bijoy	151702						
111	Dayal	131634						
112	Songkor	27945						
113	Anondo singh	153834						
114	Bijoy Singh	190178						
115	Santi Moy	256313						
116	Ramesh	199708						
117	Begadi	128034						
118	Prodip	68603						
119	Dilip Kumar	68603						
120	Lokhi Loda	133192						
121	Nishi Mohan	100313						
122	Suresh	122150						
123	Preti Moy	145563						
124	Community Hall	230071						
125	Notia	116285						
126	Gyano Ronjon	63199						
127	Chandro Mohan	93345						
128	Lushai Kumar	116285						
129	Siji	100313						

MALSURY (EPIL)

SI No. NAME AMOUNT

1	Buddha Muni	53926
2	Nila Ranjan	145563
3	Biro Lal	138357
4	Pesena Ronjon	145563
5	Hema Mukhi	166069
6	Minky	116750
7	Rupa Kumar	80738
8	Priyo Dhor	105108
9	Chetoranjana	175069
10	Nilo Mony	106100
11	Bushan	
11	Kanti	81203
12	Sur Prakash	80738
13	Toroni Sen	79174
14	Nilo Ronjon	103900
15	Ratna Devi	55103
16	Sudir Moy	138469
17	Chandra	
17	Kela	99940
18	Prema Ronjon	66403
19	Gurul Chandro	173437
20	Bini Moy	140673
21	Bimol Kanti	99945
22	Santi Muni	56316
23	Rosik Dhan	57660
24	Santi Ronjon	80887
25	Dulal Chandro	63232
26	Anil Jibon	122153
27	Proma Ronjon	252036
28	Anonto Kumar	95137
29	Okay Kumar	80984

Tipperaghat (NPCC)

SI No. NAME AMOUNT

42	Trijuk	75574
43	Jornodor	86753
44	Anganwadi Centre	236149
45	Hindu Mandir	149547
46	Nursery School	79845
47	Buddhist Temple	457462
48	Bazar Shed	324082
49	Mohini	135874
50	Shantimoy	83736
51	Rotna Muni	215389
52	Jubonakso	149635
53	Bindu	87945
54	Nirol Kumar	166071
55	V/c House	189550
56	Sitoronjon	
56	Dey	121703
57	Suksaron	116753
58	Biro Singh	145564
59	Modhu Ronjon	135300
60	Umesh Chandro	75574
61	Ojit Kumar	303576

Continued from previous page	109	Lobundro	149799	157	Lokhidon	51499
62 Birongo Kumar	83875	110 Jogodesh	144345	158 Suksagi		100313
63 Punya Phudi	83875	111 Pulin Dey	66799	159 Monoronjon		182504
64 Subasih Bala	73538	112 Amitakomal	75916	160 Lobo Kusum		83874
65 Bisor	76538	113 Lokhidon	128607	161 Anondo Hridoy		73537
66 Jugetsor	131134	114 Prio Ronjon	188779	162 Direndro		105024
67 Santi Raj	100316	115 Manabendro	310683	163 Puspo rani		74412
68 Prema Mohan	83875	116 Gonga	77637	164 Santi Bola		45896
69 Lalbin Kumar	75574	117 Phota Rani	57362	165 Mukto Singh		50828
70 Hriday Ranjon	75574	118 Depangkor	93945	166 Nihar Bindu		91542
71 Bishnu Podha Dutta	67439	119 Anondo Lal	78338	167 Sabasis		50828
72 Ketu Chondro	192717	120 Probaitia	52861	168 Likhi Muni		56678
73 Amrita Kamol	63203	121 Birosen	227596	169 Jotirmoy		100313
74 Konika Devi	87945	122 Boron Bikash	87945	170 Kanchand		97329
75 Okil Chandra	91545	123 Chandro Kumar	273406	171 Binod Bihari		46124
76 Nilo Basdi	100216	124 Hagetsor	99616	172 Chigon Morot		208548
77 Modhu Mongol	163070	125 Surodos	302778	173 Ponondo Mala		74412
78 Nogendra lal	168106	126 Doniram	270070	174 Bikash		83874
79 Sizorsingh	69839	127 Godaram	119046	175 Protul Kumar		135561
80 Mridul Majunder	49426	128 Subhaj Chandro	72953	176 Suksoron		83874
81 Jenny	92275	129 Sudonia	88073	177 Debangshi		277271
82 Bonoban	85574	130 Rabindranath	144628	178 Sunila		116753
83 Mongol Chandro	59130	131 Sumi Ronjon	79783	179 Amrito Kamal		243399
84 Majurdosh	193312	132 Turit Kanti	384469	180 Mono Ronjon		136756
85 Nogendrolal	56460	133 Chitro Kumar	92742	181 Mono Bendro		215701
86 Megadon	186576	134 Binod Kumar	91542			
87 Susangko	307176	135 Langko	104516			
88 Surjoson	34221	136 Saisona	145564			
89 Sodon Kumar	88027	137 Bisitro Bijoy	437609			
90 Bimol Kanti	79174	138 Johna	149633			
91 Dononjoy	333754	139 Kaxmi Sobha	152033			
92 Nirmal Kanti	152035	140 Jugol	73537			
93 Chandrojoy	102352	141 Kriparam	84938			
94 Tonga	58262	142 Niharika	134758			
95 Dibendrolal	114487	143 Broto	77138			
96 Rogoni Mohan	82538	144 Rama Rani	82310			
97 Sunil Kanti	78062	145 Sundro Rekha	103916			
98 Maroti Mohan	202153	146 Prem Nanda	80937			
99 Anondo Mohan	116753	147 Toruna	80506			
100 Nibir	130457	148 Jackson	87473			
101 Sukro Mohan	91545	149 Mujukhia	118805			
102 Tribulini	118079	150 Sonaram	104514			
103 Bupal kantidey	128657	151 YCA Office	163310			
104 Prosenjit	424273	Aalaam Boys				
105 Raj Mohan	84803	Hostel	502057			
106 Bogirat Kumar	87945	152 Omerendro	102114			
107 Tridip	63199	153 Rintobi	118935			
108 Milon Majumder	128657	154 Sunando	78706			
		155 Anondo Lal	87942			

(Note: The list for Tipperaghat is incomplete. Names from Sl. No 1 to 41 are not available with MCDF. MCDF is not responsible for printing error, if any. For clarification contact MCDF)

The Mizoram Chakma Development Forum thanks all those who have contributed towards this Special Edition of *The Chakma Voice*.

Editorial Board

Editor: Poritosh Chakma

Asst. Editor: Victor Chakma

Asst. Editor: Hemanta Chakma

For suggestions/ feedback write to us at: chakmavoic@gmail.com

Visit our website:

www.mcdf.wordpress.com