

Few lines of Answer to Questionnaire on the Protected Areas and Conversation of the Indigenous (Tribal's) Land of Manipur, Northeast India.

The indigenous tribal lands in Manipur province of India are at stake as the general people having political upper hand played sinister design policy to encroach such lands by means of governance.

There was distinct different administration between the indigenous tribals of Manipur and its valley general people ever since the colonial British rule due to the varied differences on their customs and traditions pertaining to especially on their land ownership system.

Thus, even so at time of Manipur attaining its statehood in 1972 after India's independence from British rulers which was in 1947, a special constitutional amendment Manipur tribals.

Quote:- "Article 371C, Special provision with respect to the state of Manipur:

(1) Notwithstanding anything in this constitution, the President may, by order made with respect to the State of Manipur, provide for the constitution and functions of a committee of the Legislative Assembly of the State consisting of members of that Assembly elected from the Hills Areas of that State, for the modifications to be made in the rules of business of the Government and in the rules of procedure of the Legislative Assembly of the State and for any special responsibility of the Governor in order to secure the proper functioning of such committee.

(2) The Governor shall annually, or whenever so required by the President, make a report to the President regarding the administration of the Hill Areas in the State of Manipur and the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of directions to the State as to the administration of the said areas.

Explanation:- In this article, the expression "Hill Areas" means such areas as the President may, by order, declare to be Hill Areas".

The Article 371C provides special scheduled status for such Hill Areas with such powers that such tribal legislatures of the scheduled areas are to safeguard and constitutionally of their own interest of determination. However, in due course of years the majority community having higher political decision making has played various political gimmicks to dominate such

lands to make the indigenous Manipur tribal people disown their own rights on their native lands.

The local state government had amended the Manipur Land Revenue (MLR) and Land Reformation (LR) 1960/62 just to implement it in the Hill Areas which was not extended earlier.

Quote: “(1) Short title, extend and commencement:- (1) This Act may be called the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Manipur except the hill areas thereof: Provided that the State Government may, by notification in the official gazette, extend the whole or any part of any section of this Act to any of the hill areas of Manipur also as may be specified in such notification.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may be notification in the Official Gazette, appoint; and different dates may be appointed for different areas and different provisions of the Act.

Notes

Section I:- In sub section (1) the words; ‘the Union Territory of Manipur’ were substituted by the words “State of Manipur” and in sub-section (3) the word “Administrator” was substituted by the words “State Government” by the Manipur (Adaptation of Laws) Order, 1972. Proviso to sub section (2) was inserted by the Manipur Act No. 13 of 1976 published in the Manipur Gazette date 24-5-1976”.

So, this very amendment is a time bomb which may blast anytime but detrimental for the indigenous Manipur tribals.

Again, as this amendment has been unsuccessful as the tribal ministers wisely never consent to append for such gazette notice, the state government had changes its strategy. It had instigated one individual to file Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court of Manipur so as to enable the state government to cover the whole lands and jungles of the indigenous tribals. Subsequently, the High Court of Manipur did pass a verdict in 2018 favouring the arbitrary policy.

Hence, the indigenous tribal lands in Manipur are at the verge of landing to the state government rather than being own by its native people. So far no international intervention has reached this region.

Moreover Indigenous Women and Indigenous persons with disabilities were always deprived of their basic Human Rights such a Information & communication, Health & Education. Issues and the challenges faced were not accepted and recognised as Human rights that we are still invisible in the decision and other policy making platforms till date that in every sectors of life, we are unable to bring up our voices.

Enclosed:- The High Court of Manipur Order 2018.

Kind Regards: T Chuongsin Koireng
Indigenous People & People's with Disability Representatives.