



Rights and Risks Analysis Group

C-3/441, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, India
Website: www.rightsrisks.org; Email: suhaschakma@rightsrisks.org
Mob:9810893440

28 April 2020

Shri Pema Khandhu
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh
Trough Shri Naresh Kumar, Chief Secretary of Arunachal Pradesh
Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
Itanagar-791111
Arunachal Pradesh
Email: cs-arunachal@nic.in

Subject: Request for high-level inquiry by the Chief Secretary into COVID-19 scam at Diyun-Bordumsa, Changlang district in light of the non-receipt of any food ration by the Chakmas and Hajongs and prevailing hunger and starvation contrary to the claims of an unnamed local official in *The Arunachal Times* today that Chakmas and Hajongs were provided free rations

Dear Hon'ble Chief Minister,

The Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRA) is writing to request Your Honour to order high-level inquiry by the Chief Secretary or any senior official designated by him into COVID-19 scam at Diyun-Bordumsa, Changlang district in light of the non-receipt of any food ration by the Chakmas and Hajongs and prevailing hunger and starvation among them, contrary to the claims of an unnamed local official in *The Arunachal Times* today that Chakmas and Hajongs were provided free rations.

The facts requiring investigation are given below:

1. Yesterday, i.e. 27 April 2020, the Rights and Risks Analysis Group submitted a memorandum to Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi (No. PMOPG/E/2020/0363626) on massive starvation among 65,875 Chakmas and Hajongs of Arunachal Pradesh. In particular, the RRAG stated, under the economic package announced by the State of Arunachal Pradesh on 12.04.2020 those holding ration cards are being provided rice @ Rs 5/kg. On 14.04.2020 while another notice through Additional Deputy Commissioner of Bordumsa, Changlang district, stated that "*any Tea Estates/ Commercial establishments/ individuals*" of Diyun circle can purchase the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) of the rice received from Food Corporation of India at the "*rate of Rs 27.00 per kg for wholesale selling and at the rate of Rs 29 for retail selling price*". On 09.04.2020, the Food Corporation of India was

directed to sell rice @ Rs 22/- “uniformly throughout the country” even for NGOs.

Copy of the order of the ADC, Bardumsa dated 14.04.2020 is appended as **Annexure -1.**

2. Today i.e. 28.04.2020, *The Arunachal Times* reported that unnamed officials of Diyun claimed that “50 quintals of rice have been distributed free of cost to the most needy Chakmas and Hajongs in Diyun area. Another 50 quintals will be distributed this week, free of cost, to the most needy in Diyun”.

Copy of press clipping of *The Arunachal Times* is appended as **ANNEXURE-2.**

3. The said statement of the unnamed local official is false. No Chakma or Hajong ever got any rice from the authorities. Local MLA Mr Somlung Mossang had distributed free rice to those extremely vulnerable once.

It is pertinent to mention that the Extra Assistant Commissioner (EAC), Diyun on numerous occasions asked the Chakma Goanburas and NGOs to submit the list of extremely poor people. On 17 April 2020, a list of 1,544 families of extremely poor Chakmas and Hajongs who were on the verge of starvation as daily labour were provided to the Extra Assistant Commissioner. Another list was sought by the EAC and submitted on 24th April 2020. However, no rice was distributed to any Chakma or Hajongs. This proves that the rice might have been sanctioned by the State government but never reached the beneficiaries indicating a massive scam.

Partial list of needy people only from four villages Dumpani, Dumpather, Jyotipur and Lower Modoideep out of the 20 villages as submitted to the EAC is appended as **ANNEXURE-3 (42 pages).**

Cover letter containing the list of 619 families submitted on 24th April 2020 is appended as **ANNEXURE-4.**

4. As Your Honour may be aware, the price of rice for those Above Poverty Line (APL) in Arunachal Pradesh is Rs 11/per kg at present. Therefore, selling of rice at Rs 29/kg at retail rate to the Chakmas or Hajongs who do not receive any assistance and are not included in any welfare scheme is morally and legally unconscionable.

In the light of these facts and circumstances, the Rights and Risks Analysis Group (RRAG) requests Your Honour to take the following measures:

- Order an inquiry by the Chief Secretary into the free ration scam at Diyun-Bordumsa during national lockdown as no Chakma or Hajong

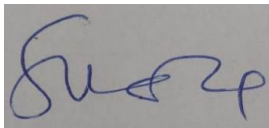
received any free ration contrary to the claims of the unnamed local official that the Chakmas and Hajongs had been provided free ration;

- Direct the Deputy Commissioner of Changlang district to video record the distribution of free rations to those suffering from starvation to prevent pilferage of the rations;
- Issue necessary notification/direction to sell the rice at the Above Poverty Line rate of Rs 11/kg for the all Chakmas and Hajongs till the National Food Security Act of 2013 is implemented in their areas; and
- Take necessary measures to implement the National Food Security Act of 2013 in the Chakma and Hajong inhabited areas.

Looking forward to Your Honour's kind intervention.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely



Suhas Chakma
Director

Encl: As above.