

NE

FOR FREE PUBLIC CIRCULATION

NEWSLETTER

Vol. XV, No. 01, January, 2013

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

A Monthly Newsletter on the North Eastern Region of India

Also available on Internet at : www.mha.nic.in



"We want infinite energy, infinite zeal, infinite courage and infinite patience; then only will great things be achieved" .

Swami Vivekananda

CONTENTS

- DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION
- ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMME BY CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES
- 64th REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATED WITH ENTHUSIASM IN THE NORTH EASTERN STATES
- ARUNACHAL CM MEETS CENTRAL MINISTERS AND ARMY CHIEF
- NORTH EAST ATTRACTS PEOPLE FROM ACROSS COUNTRY WHO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH
- MANIPUR HOSTS A SERIES OF SPORTING EVENTS
- CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME HELD AT NAGAHUI VILLAGE IN (AWANGKASOM), CHINGAI BLOCK UKHRUL DISTRICT, MANIPUR
- WHITE REVOLUTION IN NAGALAND
- READERS COLUMN
- LETTERS TO EDITOR

EDITORIAL BOARD

CHIEF EDITOR
SHAMBHU SINGH

EDITORS
DR. M.C. MEHANATHAN
J.P.N. SINGH
B.R. DHIMAN

DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION

1. On 23.1.2013, Union Home Secretary reviewed the Security Situation in North East in the wake of ensuing assembly elections in the States of Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland. The meeting was attended by ADGMO and senior officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Defence.
2. The 4th meeting between the Home Ministers of India and Bangladesh was held on 28-29th January, 2013 at Dhaka. The Indian Delegation was led by Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde, Home Minister, Government of India and the Bangladesh delegation was led by Dr. Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. The main points made and decisions taken are as follows:-
 - (i) Both the Home Ministers expressed their satisfaction over signing of the Extradition Treaty and the Revised Travel Arrangements (RTA) between the two countries, expressed their belief that the Extradition Treaty will help to increase the cooperation among law enforcing agencies of the two countries, curb criminal activities, ease the visa obtaining procedure and promote people-to-people contact.
 - (ii) Indian Home Minister conveyed the appreciation of the Government of India to the Government of Bangladesh for extending cooperation for addressing the security concerns of India, particularly in dealing with the Indian Insurgent Groups. Both sides reiterated their commitment to act against the elements inimical to both countries, expressed satisfaction at the smooth operation of the Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) and agreed to increase Joint patrolling with a view to curb criminal activities along the border, expressed confidence that increased coordinated patrolling would enhance cooperation between the border guarding forces, enable them to manage the identified vulnerable areas with a view to preventing criminal activities, illegal movement, acts of violence and loss of lives along the border area, allow development work within 150 yards of zero line and to immediately

start consultations between the District Commissioner and District Magistrate of border districts for resolving local issues.

- (iii) Both sides agreed to further intensify the activities of the nodal points, regular interaction of bilateral mechanisms, including Home Secretary level talks, BGB/BSF DG level Conference, DG level meetings between DNC and DNB etc. and noted that these regular exchanges would help to enhance understanding and resolve issues for mutual satisfaction.
- (iv) Both sides agreed to extend cooperation for apprehension of wanted criminals and fugitives.
- (v) Both sides noted that the implementation of three

agreements (Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Agreement of Transfer of Sentenced Persons and Combating Terrorism, organized crime and illicit drug trafficking) signed during the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in 2010 has been satisfactory. Both sides agreed to take immediate measures for repatriation of released prisoners and victims of trafficking.

- (vi) Both sides discussed the ratification of the LBA-1974 by the Government of India and the protocol signed in 2011 and noted that early ratification of the same would pave the way for implementation of the provisions of the agreement and resolve the long pending boundary related issues.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMME BY CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES

(A) Programmes undertaken by Assam Rifles

1. Medical/Veterinary Camp.

- (i) 24-Assam Rifles organized a medical camp at Tegnoupal village on 1st Jan 2013. About 75 people were given medical treatment during the camp.
- (ii) 42-Assam Rifles organized a medical camp at Chandel village on 4th Jan 2013. About 125 people received medical treatment during the camp.
- (iii) 20-Assam Rifles organized a medical camp at village Ngwalwa, Peren District, Nagaland on 4th Jan 2013. About 440 people received medical treatment during the camp.
- (iv) 9-Sector Assam Rifles organized a medical camp at village Samurao, Imphal West. About 900 persons

received medical treatment and were provided free medicines.

- (v) 6-Assam Rifles organized a medical camp at the local church ground, in the border village of Lungwa, Mon District, Nagaland. About 358 persons received medical treatment and were provided medicines.
- (vi) 27-Assam Rifles organized a veterinary camp at Sugnu (Serou village) in Thoubal District, Manipur on 18th Jan, 2013. Approximately 700 animals received medical treatment.
- (vii) 27-Assam Rifles organized a multi-specialty medical, dental-cum-career counseling camp at Kakching Khunao in Thoubal District, Manipur on 20th Jan, 2013. The medical camp had the facility of specialists of Eye, ENT, Skin, Gynecology, Surgery, Dental and Pediatrics etc.



Medical camps organized by Assam Rifles

(viii) Pulse Polio Programme.

Sectors and Units under HQ IGAR (South) in association with the state health department organized Pulse Polio immunization programme on 20th Jan, 2013 at their respective locations. 40-Assam Rifles administered oral polio drops to 1650 children under the age of 5 years at Keithelmanbi, Singjamei, Canchipur, Lilong and Andro; 44-Assam Rifles conducted pulse polio immunization camp at Kamjong and Chassad villages of Kamjong sub division,



Ukhrul District, Manipur and 27-Assam Rifles organized Pulse Polio immunization programme at Kakching. About 384 children were immunized during the camps.

2. Solar lanterns distributed.

20-Assam Rifles distributed 95 solar lanterns to the villagers of Lalmati, Keruphema I and Keruphema II of Peren District, Nagaland on 4th Jan, 2013 as part of Civic Action Programme.

3. National Integration Tour.

(i) 40 Assam Rifles organized a national integration tour



National Integration tour organized by Assam Rifles

(ii) 44-Assam Rifles organized a national integration tour from Chassad/Kamjong, Manipur to Hyderabad. The tour was flagged off on 14th Jan, 2013 for 21 school children and three teachers hailing from Kamjong Sub-Division, Ukhrul District. The participants visited a number of historical as well as contemporary places like Charminar, Golconda Fort, Archaeological Museum, Husein Sagar Lake and Ramoji Film City.

4. Sports Events

9-Assam Rifles organised 'Moreh Football Cup-2013' from 20th Jan to 25th Jan 2013 at football ground, eastern shine school, Moreh in Chandel district of Manipur. Ten teams including a team from Tamu, Myanmar participated in the tournament. The tournament was organized to strengthen the bond of mutual trust and harmony between India & Myanmar.



Assistance by Assam Rifles

(iii) The newly constructed dormitory having one girl's and one boy's toilet in the Orphanage Home at Peren village, Peren district, Nagaland by 32-

from Imphal to Kolkata and Odisha for 23 students, three teachers and two Meira Paibies from the remote areas of Imphal West district of Manipur. The tour was flagged off from Imphal on 1st Jan, 2013. The students met various dignitaries which included the Governor of Odisha. The students also visited various places of interest in Kolkata and Bhubaneswar.



5. Encouraging IT Literacy

7. Assam Rifles provided computers to Lacham (Shilloi), Ziphu, Matikhru and Kanjang villages, Phek district, Nagaland. A public address system was handed over to Pokhungri village, Kiphire district, Nagaland.

6. Assistance by Assam Rifles

(i) 29-Assam Rifles provided computers, TV sets, books, school uniforms, stationery, bicycles and other household items to Ebenezer Orphanage Home, Dimapur on 5th Jan, 2013.

(ii) HQ IGAR (South), Mantripukhri presented chairs, computer tables, office tables, stationery, books on Manipur culture and dictionaries to the students of St Joseph school, Carmel Jyoti and Christ Jyoti school.



Assam Rifles was inaugurated on 8th Jan 2013. The orphanage was also provided with ration and daily needs.

(iv) 34-Assam Rifles imparted vocational training in weaving to 30 women of village Ganganagar, District Dhalai, Tripura on 10th Jan 2013 and distributed 11 weaving



machines.

(v) On 6th Jan 2013, 2-Assam Rifles distributed 24 sewing machines at Taidu, District Gomti, Tripura.



Assam Rifles distributed weaving machines and sewing machines

(B) Programmes undertaken by Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

Sashastra Seema Bal, Guwahati Frontier is working for the development of the people residing near Indo-Bhutan border through its various civic action programmes (CAP) and community welfare programmes (CWP). Units deployed for the border guarding duties are also executing the schemes for development of remote villages thus strengthening their relation with the local residents.

There are various schemes for youths, farmers and development of micro-infrastructure planned by the units and accordingly funds have been allocated by Frontier Hqrs under CWP and CAP. Implementations of the schemes are under way in a number of villages.

During the month of January, 2013, a community welfare programme was conducted at Village Khusurabari Habi on 31st January, 2013 by AO Udalguri. Units deployed on Indo-Bhutan border are also providing regularly free medical and veterinary services to the residents through camps in remote villages. During these camps officers and personnel interact with the people and plan and execute various micro developmental works by way of shramdan and distribution of various items under the schemes.

During the month under veterinary section of civic action, 32 villages were covered and 5313 animals received medical treatment. 2200 persons received medical treatment in 108 villages under medical civic action and 277 persons in 88 villages received medical treatment through Homeopathic camps.

(C) Programmes undertaken by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

(i) 2nd Half Marathon organized by 36 Bn CRPF Khonsa, District Tirap, Arunachal Pradesh.

On 11th December, 2012, 2nd half marathon with the theme of "Tirap Runs Against Opium" was organized by the Tirap district administration to create awareness on the evil effects of opium. The personnel of 36 Bn CRPF actively participated in making this event a success. Elaborate arrangements were made for the event. About 1000 participants including civilians, professionals, amateur runners and personnel of the Army, Assam Rifle and CRPF took part in the marathon. The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh flagged off the half marathon. 53 personnel of 36 Bn CRPF participated in the marathon. CT/GD Yogeshwar Choudhary of 36 Bn CRPF won the prize. People of Tirap district and local administration appreciated the efforts put forth by CRPF in making the event a success.

(ii) Pre-recruitment training and awareness programme by 175 Bn CRPF, Rani industrial area, district Kamrup, Assam.

On 22nd December, 2012, a pre-recruitment training and awareness programme was organized by 175 Bn CRPF at Bn Hqr. Rani Industrial Area, P.O-Azara, District- Kamrup, Assam with the objective of better representation of men and women from North Eastern States in the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and to build confidence and good relation with local public. The trainers in CRPF imparted training to the participants. The locals/participants were also briefed by CRPF personnel about the benefits of joining CAPF as well as eligibility conditions, selection process and various recruitment tests for the post of Constable (General Duty) conducted by Staff Selection Commission. The local people and Kamrup district administrations appreciated the event.

64th REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATED WITH ENTHUSIASM IN THE NORTH EASTERN STATES

India celebrated its 64th Republic Day with gaiety and enthusiasm. The events organized showcased tabloids of various cultures prevailing in the states along with the country's defence capabilities and technological advancements.

In Manipur, residents defied boycott call by militants and participated with enthusiasm in the celebrations. The Governor of Manipur unfurled the tri-colour. 81 contingents, including those of security forces, schools, colleges, band platoons and other agencies, participated in the Republic Day parade. People from all walks of life in large numbers participated in the celebrations. Kanchan, a local resident in Imphal said, "I am not at all concerned about the boycott. I want to be part of this celebration and proud to be an Indian and I am happy to celebrate Republic day".

Defying the call by insurgent outfits, people across Assam participated in various programmes and community celebrations commemorating the 64th Republic Day. Governor of Assam unfurled the National Flag at Khanapara Veterinary College playground in

Guwahati. The event was marked by march-pasts by the State Police and Central Security Forces and cultural programmes by different groups of Assam. Addressing the gathering, the Governor said that the counter insurgency operations against the insurgents 'have yielded positive results'. He further added "I take this opportunity and I appeal to all the people of Assam irrespective of caste, creed and religion to work for peace, prosperity and harmony among the different communities and also for over-all development of the state".

Governor of Arunachal Pradesh unfurled the national tri-colour in Itanagar and expressed his desire of a vibrant, prosperous and peaceful Arunachal Pradesh.

In other North Eastern States, including Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim and Meghalaya, a similar spirit and enthusiasm was visible in the Republic day celebration. Cultural dances by various tribes, march past by Army contingents, award distributions and tableaux depicting development in their state were the highlights of the 64th Republic Day celebrations in the respective states.

ARUNACHAL CM MEETS CENTRAL MINISTERS AND ARMY CHIEF

Union Minister for Rural Development Shri Jairam Ramesh on 21.1.2013 approved in principle the construction of two roads in Arunachal Pradesh, namely a road from Bameng to Lada (55 kms) and another road from Miao to Vijaynagar (157 kms) under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Lada, a remote circle headquarter in East Kameng district, is yet to be connected by a road. Due to lack of road communication majority of the inhabitants of the area - mostly Sajalongs and Puroiks - have migrated to the foothills of East Kameng and West Kameng.

Likewise, Vijaynagar, also a circle headquarter in Changlang district, has been facing myriad problems due to non-completion of the Miao-Vijaynagar road. Though the road has reached Vijaynagar from Miao, it remains closed or unfit for vehicular movement during most parts of the year.

Chief Minister Shri Nabam Tuki, who visited Lada on October 16th and Vijaynagar on December 23rd last year, had assured the people at both places that he would earnestly take up the road connectivity issue with the Central Government and see that next time he comes visiting by road.

Shri Jairam Ramesh conveyed Central Government's approved for both roads to Shri Tuki who met him on 21.1.2013 to discuss various matters relating to the rural development sector in the state. Taking the opportunity, Shri Tuki invited Shri Jairam Ramesh to lay the foundation stones of both roads. Shri Jairam Ramesh agreed to visit Arunachal Pradesh from February 18 to 20. During the meeting which lasted for nearly an hour, the Union Minister for Rural Development reiterated the commitment of his ministry towards development of the frontier state.

Shri Tuki apprised that he would convene an extensive review meeting of the RWD/PMGSY Schemes during Union Minister's visit to the state in February. He also called on Union Petroleum Minister, Shri Veerappa Moily and appealed to him for increasing the allocation of number of petrol pumps in the state for the benefit of the people from remote areas.

Shri Moily assured that he would take up the matter with the PSUs under his Ministry at the earliest. Shri Tuki also called on Union Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde and Chief of Army Staff General Bikram Singh to discuss various security matters related to the state.

NORTH EAST ATTRACTS PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY WHO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH

People from across the country, be they former freedom fighters, teachers, or from the media, are making their presence felt in India's north east through their socio-economic contributions.

Take the example of Shri Natwar Thakkar, a freedom fighter, social worker and a Gandhian. Shri Thakkar has dedicated his life to the cause of national integration. Born to Gujarati parents at Dahanu, a small town on

the western coast of Maharashtra, he volunteered to go to Nagaland at the age of 19.

He established the Nagaland Gandhi Ashram in 1955 in Mokokchung, Nagaland. Over the years, the ashram has undertaken works like vocational training for school dropouts and physically handicapped youth. Shri Thakkar has helped bring in reforms in many walks of life, including education, health, village level industries, dairy, sericulture, and bee-keeping. "Being a youthful person, I said that I could not play any role in winning freedom for India, but let me play some role in national integration, emotional integration of India, and that is how I chose the northeast, mainly the Naga Hills, and I am there," Shri Thakkar said.

Shri Thakkar is supported by his Naga wife Lentina, who herself is the first ever Naga person to be trained as a Gandhian worker at Sarania, an ashram in Guwahati, which was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi. Shri Thakkar continues his mission of service with single-minded devotion. "Common man is gradually becoming aware that ours is a good system and there is nothing wrong. Our own people are governing ourselves, our own people can work, our young men and women can have a place in the government. They can occupy the highest positions. So, it means their misunderstanding is decreasing," he opines.

Mrs. Aniamma Abraham, a native of Trichur in Kerala, continues her bid to bring social upliftment through education in the northeast. She first came to Dimapur in 1970 along

with her husband Shri K S Abraham and established three schools. In 1973, they shifted to Assam and set up the Edith Douglas Higher Secondary School in Golaghat and Mariani to impart quality education to the residents of the area.

The school provided free education to students coming from economically weaker families. "This place - where we are now there was not even a single person. This land was empty. So we got the land and constructed the building in 1977. We faced a lot of hardship in the initial phase but people helped us financially and lent us their moral support. I feel that Assam is my home," said Abraham.

Mrs. Aniamma's husband died in 2004, but she continues to work for the betterment of society in Assam. "All my relatives are settled abroad. I am the only person in India. I feel that working for the people here is more satisfying than going to foreign country," she says.

Guwahati, the commercial hub of the northeast has attracted many entrepreneurs from all across the country. Shri G L Agarwala, whose ancestors migrated to Assam from Rajasthan, runs G L Publications, a conglomerate with newspapers in many languages like - Amar Asom in Assamese, Northeast Times and Meghalaya Guardian in English, and Purvanchal Prahari in Hindi. "I am an Assamese. I know the Assamese language. I write and read Assamese. I am the President of the reception committee of Assam Sahitya Sabha, the apex literary body of Assam," Shri Aggarwala says.

MANIPUR HOSTS A SERIES OF SPORTING EVENTS

In an endeavour to motivate youth to take up sports, Manipur recently hosted a number of sporting events, including a football tournament and an equestrian event. The 56th edition of Sir Churachand Singh KCSI, CBE memorial football tournament was organised by the All Manipur Football Association. It is the biggest and much awaited football event in the Northeast. The tournament was instituted in 1950 in the memory of late maharajah of Manipur Sir Churachand Singh. A total of 27 teams took part in the event.

North Eastern Re-Organising Cultural Association Club (NEROCA) of Sangakpham, the defending champions, retained the coveted title after a pulsating penalty-shoot against Assam Regimental Centre (ARC), Shillong. "Through this competition the players from Manipur showcased their talent. Sports lovers also enjoyed watching football. Young football stars also develop their skills by watching a good

game," said L Ranjit Roy, General Secretary, AMFA.

The state also hosted the 10th edition of the Director General Assam Rifles Cup State Equestrian Championship at the Polo Ground in Imphal. The DGAR Cup was instituted in 2003 and over the years, it has turned into an annual mega event keenly contested by equestrian enthusiasts from all across Manipur.

Twelve clubs, with more than 100 riders in junior, senior and girls' category, participated in the championship. The championship is aimed at encouraging the game of Polo. "It is going good. Number of riders are increasing year by year. Now there are more than 100 riders as compared to earlier when there were 20 to 30," said Dr. S. Joykumar Singh. The youth of the region are increasingly opting for sports as a career as more and more opportunities emerge.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM HELD AT NAGAHUI VILLAGE IN (AWANGKASOM), CHINGAI BLOCK UKHRUL DISTRICT, MANIPUR

The Border Areas Villages Association (BAVA) organized First Cultural Exchange Program with Burmese neighbouring

Villages from 15th – 17th December, 2012 at Ngahui (Awangkasm), Chingai Block, Ukhrul District under the

theme "Know Your Culture". On the occasion a Myanmar cultural troupe also participated in the event.

Inaugural session was graced by Deputy Commissioner Ukhrul and Jt. Director, Planning as Chief

Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. BAVA President spoke about the objective of organizing the event. Traditional fire lighting and a trumpet blowing by lighting the flame by the Chief Guest marked the opening of the event.

WHITE REVOLUTION IN NAGALAND

White revolution has made significant inroads in North Eastern Nagaland. People of Nagaland are fast taking to milk products. Thanks to the co-operative movement which has brought milk in the land known for meat consumption. The Dimapur District Co-operative Milk Producers Union Limited (DDCPUL), which markets milk products under the brand name Dimul is catering to dairy requirement of Dimapur and other important bordering towns of Upper Assam like Jorhat, Sibsagar, and Golaghat. The DDCPUL, which is the district level cooperative society, has under it several registered societies. The product portfolio of the co-operative union includes toned milk, lassi, misti dahi (sweetened curd) and ice-cream.

Dimul has a network of retail outlets. Over 350 retail outlets are spread across Assam and Nagaland. Dimul involves around 1911 producers, out of which Scheduled Tribes constitute 90 percent, comprising 1724 farmers and SC/OBC constitute 10 percent with 187 farmers. There are 443 (23 percent) woman members. The Co-operative Union has promoted 13 women dairy cooperative societies out of which 5 are functional.

The project was promoted by the Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandary, Government of Nagaland during 1985-86 initially under Operation Flood II and thereafter under Integrated Dairy Development Programme of Government of India. Dimul was registered in May, 1984 with Kohima district as its area of operation.

Initially, the Co-operative Union had a chilling centre of capacity 2.0 TLPD. Subsequently, during the year 1997 an additional capacity of 10 TLPD was added under Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) by the Government of India. Besides milk (toned milk), the dairy has facilities to produce 600 kg of Dahi, 3000 liters of Lassi and 300 kg of ice cream per day.

Till the year 2001-02, the Co-operative Union had a nominated Board with the majority of members drawn from government departments and with Minister of Veterinary & Animal Husbandary as Chairman. During 2001-02, changes were introduced that paved the way for holding elections and having a farmer as the Chairman of the Union. Now, there are 8 farmer representatives including two women in the Board and 5 nominated official members. The Chief Executive Officer is the administrative head of the union.

Dr Mhasizokho, CEO of Dimul said that during the year 2011-12 the Co-operative Union procured 12.63 lakhs litres

of milk and marketed 15.10 lakhs litres during the same year. As on 31st March, 2012, the Co-operative Union has recorded a sales turnover of Rs. 852.24 lakhs with an increase of 37 percent over the previous year figure of Rs. 621 lakhs.

With the establishment of the Co-operative Milk Union, marketing needs of the dairy farmers based in rural areas have been addressed significantly. Individual dairy farmers have come together to form village level Primary Dairy Cooperative Societies. The Co-operative Union provides logistic and technical support to the affiliated societies which include milk testing equipments, animal health care and vaccination, artificial insemination, fodder cultivation, balanced cattle feed, etc.

Training in areas such as society accounts, artificial insemination, dairy animal management, farmers orientation, clean milk production, fertility camps etc. are provided to societies with a view to professionalize the day to day activities of the societies.

The Co-operative Union also caters to the liquid milk requirement of various military and paramilitary establishments in the state. The milk and milk products are also made available and sold at Dimapur, Lumding and Hojai Railway stations.

The milk collected is ferried in milk cans through milk vans traversing though difficult terrains twice daily. The farmers are now assured of a ready market and remunerative price.

Several people from the state visit different cities of India and there they have tasted different varieties of the milk products. This too has contributed to the positive change. CEO added, "Consumers have become more aware and dairy movement has become a settled fact in the state."

A delegation of senior officials from the Government of Nagaland visited National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in 2007. Sensing the potential of the region Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) which owns Amul brand of milk and dairy products is planning to set up a unit in Northeast India to increase its penetration in the seven states of North East.

Shri R.S. Sodhi, Managing Director of GCMMF during his visit to region said, "North East India accounts for Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 crore business monthly. The market here is growing at the rate of 20 percent. This year we are targeting sales turnover of over Rs. 50 crore per month".

He added that Northeast India is milk deficit. "We are planning to have a production base in Northeast and for this we will organise the farmers in co-operative society mode. In West Bengal when we started operation there was scepticism that required volume of milk will not be available there. However we are getting 2 lakh litres of good quality milk and have 3 units in West Bengal. North East also has lot of potential."

Amul has 45 plants out of which 13 to 14 are outside Gujarat. Amul has 50 depots across the country of which 7 are in North East. In an International Market Analysis Research and Consulting Group (IMARC) study, the research found that dairy market is one of the most lucrative markets in India and demand for milk is likely to double by the year 2016.

Chief Ministers of North Eastern states during the consultation with Planning Commission on the approach

paper of the 12th plan have underlined, "Given the situation, immediate emphasis is needed to be placed on rapid growth in allied sectors like sericulture, dairy, livestock, horticulture and agro-processing. This would absorb surplus labour from agriculture and would raise productivity in agriculture and result in higher per capita income."

North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi) has commissioned a study of dairy industry in North Eastern region to examine the techno-economic viability of taking up dairy development projects in different locations of the region, to provide basic information together with the location specific data on project parameters to prospective entrepreneurs, investors, financial institutions, government agencies etc. regarding business opportunities in the dairy sector in different States of the region. The study would also provide the information in such a way that it would form the basis for preparation of DPR by Domestic and International Investors.

READERS COLUMN

The NE monthly Newsletter is published in English, Assamese, Bengali and Manipuri and has a circulation of 40,000 copies. Ministry of Home Affairs brings out the publication incorporating important information/developments concerning North Eastern States.

Ministry of Home Affairs, through the Newsletter, requests for inputs for the Newsletter from the State Governments, agencies, institutions and individuals highlighting the area specific issues, problems, special features, potential for tourism, environmental protection or special efforts/achievement in various fields. Views and write-ups from general public are also solicited on specific issues/problems including on measures for resolution thereto in the North East.

Articles should be sent in a hard copy format accompanied by floppy/CD version along with photographs. Articles should be accompanied by an abstract of maximum of 150-200 words. Readers are encouraged to send comments and suggestions (upto 300-400 words) on published articles. All letters should have writer's full name and postal address. The selected articles will be published in the monthly NE Newsletter with due editing.

LETTERS TO EDITOR

I shall be very grateful if you could send a free copy of NE Newsletter at the address given below:-

*Sd/-
Dr. Sunil Kumar,
Junior Scientist-cum-Assistant Professor,
Rice Research Sub Station,
Jhanjharpur (Madhubani),
Bihar-847403*

Please send me a copy of NE Newsletter regularly in English language at following address:-

*Sd/-
Shri S. G. R. Lanong,
Sohkha Shnong Village,
P.O- Dawki,
Jaintia Hills District,
Meghalaya- 793109*

I request you to kindly send me regularly a free copy of NE Newsletter in English at my address below:-

*Sd/-
Bipul Kumar Deka,
Village- Katahbari,
P.O- Paddapar (Tamulpur),
Dist. Baksa (BTAD),
Assam-781367*

MHA requests the readers to send their response through e-mail at: donedc-mha@nic.in

Readers are also requested to e-mail their e-mail address for getting a copy of the N.E. News Letter through e-mail.

Request for free copy of the NE Newsletter indicating language preferred or suggestions, if any, may be sent to the Chief Editor/Editor at the address given below: