



## **Child Labour Situation in Coal Mines, Pits & Rat Holes of Jaintia Hills, MEGHALAYA**

**Also Visit of NCPCR Team to the Health Centre and Anganwadi Centre in Jaintia Hills and the Children Home-cum Observation Home for Girls in Shillong (from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2012)**



*Visit Report By:*

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## **Background of the Visit:**

The issue of child labour in the coal mines area of Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya has been in the news, posing serious concerns and challenges for the State as well as the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). The Commission came to know about the presence of large-scale child labour engaged in the coal mines area of Rymbai and Khliehriat of Jaintia Hills district in Meghalaya from numerous news reports and complaints received from various stakeholders including IMPULSE NGO Network. Being concerned the NCPCR felt a strong need to visit the area in 2009 (August 8-11) and constituted a team headed by Dr. Shantha Sinha (Chairperson, NCPCR) with Ms Dipa Dixit (Member, NCPCR), Dr. J. M. Lyngdoh (Ex-Chief Election Commissioner of India), Ms Enakshi Ganguly (Child Rights Expert from HAQ Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi) and Dr. Ramanath Nayak (Consultant, NCPCR) to inquire into the ground reality on children engaged as labour. Based on this visit to the field areas the Commission had made certain recommendations to the State Government to take proactive steps to address the problems related to various issues, such as child labour, the right to education, healthcare, ICDS, etc. both on short term and long term basis.

However, since no response was received from the State Government, the Commission being concerned dispatched another team led by its Registrar (Shri B.K. Sahu) with Dr. Ramanath Nayak (Consultant, NCPCR) and Shri V.P. Khatri (PPS, NCPCR) as members, who visited Meghalaya on 27th – 31st January 2011. The team was accompanied by the complainant NGO- IMPULSE NGO Network and received inputs from various NGOs/CSOs working in the areas of child rights. After the visit to the coalmines and depot areas of Rymbai, the team had a meeting with the District Administration, Jaintia Hills, wherein the DC assured to constitute a District Level Task Force under his chairmanship for making proactive intervention on the issue of child labour in the coal mines. In Shillong the team had a briefing/feedback from the concerned NGOs/civil society organizations on the issues at stake and met the State Government of Meghalaya under the Chairpersonship of the Principal Secretary, Social Welfare, wherein the Department of Social Welfare, Health, School Education, Police, Labour and Mines were present.



On non-receipt of any tangible response from the State Government the Commission being still concerned on such seriousness of the issues had dispatched yet another team to Meghalaya led by one of its members Dr. Yogesh Dube, accompanied by Dr. Ramanath Nayak (Consultant, NCPCR) to engage the State Government through its Chief Secretary, other Principal Secretaries of various departments and other stakeholders on 16 - 18 October 2011. The State Government of Meghalaya finally had assured to evolve appropriate remedial measures for promoting child rights and evolve an action plan for the Jaintia Hills district.

Yet again due to the inordinate delay in receipt of the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) from the State of Meghalaya for more than six months, the Commission decided to dispatch again a team of three members to visit Meghalaya on 17th - 20th May 2012 comprising the following:

1. Dr. Yogesh Dube– Member, NCPCR
2. Mr. Vinod Kumar Tikoo – Member, NCPCR
3. Dr. Ramanath Nayak – Sr. Consultant, NCPCR

## Few Facts about the Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya

Jaintia Hills is an administrative district in the state of Meghalaya in India, was created in 22 February 1972 and occupies an area of 3819 km. It has a population of 392,852 (as of 2011), of which a vast majority is rural. The district headquarters are located at Jowai. The district is part of the Meghalaya subtropical forests eco-region.

For the tribal division into twelve *elaka* (provinces), each under a *dolloi*, tributary to the Raja of Jaintiapur. Agriculture and mining are the dominant economic activities. The district has large reserves of coal and is the largest producer of coal within Meghalaya.

### **Mineral Resources in Jaintia Hills**

Jaintia Hills is rich in minerals. The occurrence of rich Coal and Limestone deposits is a great boon to those who wish to start any industrial venture based on these two minerals such as the manufacture of Portland cement. Besides coal and limestone deposits, deposits of other minerals like clay, shale, phosphate have also been detected in the District.

#### **Mineral Resources**

Mineral	Locality	Area ( Sq.Km)	Estimated Reserve ( Million Tons)
Coal	Bapung	12.00	34.00
	Lakadong	3.00	1.50
	Sutnga	0.16	0.65
	Jarain	2.80	1.10
	Musiang Lamare	2.30	1.10
	Ioksi	3.60	1.25
	<b>Total</b>	<b>23.86</b>	<b>39.60</b>
Limestone	Lumshnong	76.80	652.00
	Sutnga	0.07	2.00
	Nongkhlieh Ridge	4.01	400.00
	Tangnub-Tongseng	-	-
	Tongseng-Shnongrim	-	-
	Shnongrim-Molasngi	-	-
	Daistong	-	-
	Syndai	2.08	95.85

	<b>Total</b>	<b>82.96</b>	<b>1149.85</b>
Kaolin	Thadlaskein	4.00	0.34
	Shangpung	2.40	0.50
	Mynsngat	1.70	0.30
	Mulieh	-	0.80
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8.10</b>	<b>1.94</b>
Clay	Larnai	1.00	95.85
Shale	Tongseng, Lumshnong	-	-
Phosphate	Maskut, Sung Valley	-	-
Bauxite Clay	Lumkynthong	-	-

### Purpose of the Visit

The objectives of NCPCR team was to visit the coalmines area for reviewing the child labour situation in the Jaintia Hills District of the State; to interact with the representatives of the civil society organisations to seek a feedback on the persisting issues for a total ban of engagement of children in the coalmines. The team was also expected to interact with the State Level functionaries to work out a sustainable solution to the much discussed issues of child labour practice and its linkage with the trafficking. With these broad objectives the team revisited the State and undertook the following activities:

1. Field visit to the Coal Depots, Mine Pits, Rat Holes to examine first hand experience and review the child labour situation;
2. Visit the health centre, anganwadi centre in Jaintia Hills;
3. Visit the Children Home-cum Observation Homes for Girls in Shillong;
4. Meeting with the Chief Secretary; Principal Secretaries- Home, Labour, Social Welfare, Education; Commissioner & Secretary- Health; Director- Mineral Resources and Additional Deputy Commissioner- Jaintia Hills District among others; and
5. Interaction with the representatives of civil society organizations to elicit the feedback on child rights issues and also with the media to highlight the issues to attract the attention of all stakeholders.

## VISIT TO JAINTIA HILLS DISTRICT OF MEGHALAYA:

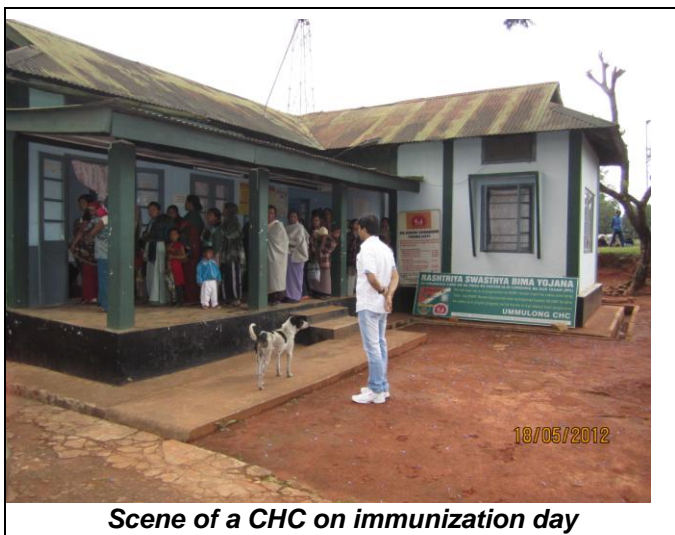
### a. Mukunder Village:

On way to the mining areas of Jaintia Hills, the NCPCR team could see children working in the road construction activities near the Mukunder village. Observing young children engaged in the activities, the two members of the Commission asked the officials from the labour department accompanying them to stop the vehicle and take cognizance of the child engaged in road construction. The members desired that the Deputy Labour Commissioner (HQ) accompanying the members should take necessary action against the Contractor and the Department concerned for engaging child labour.



***A child engaged in road construction work***

### b. Ummulong Community Health Centre:



***Scene of a CHC on immunization day***

Just 10 kilometers before approaching Jowai, the team visited the Community Health Centre, Ummulong. The CHC with a 30 bedded facility has 2 regular MBBS Doctors, 1 Ayush Doctor and one Dental Doctor. The centre had had only one institutional delivery reported during April and the total number of institutional deliveries for the past one year was reported to be 66. The critical cases were referred to the Civil Hospital Jowai, which is about 10 km from the centre. The

visiting team found from the DOTS Centre record of the CHC that there were 10 patients in the category- I, and 3 in category- II, who were receiving intensive phase (IP) and continuation phase (CP) pack. Though the CHC has been provided with one Ambulance, the same is not in functional condition. In case of emergency, the pregnant women are force to take a private taxi as there is no pick up facility. The

CHC requires advanced pathology and x-ray facility on priority basis. There is no water supply available in the CHC, as a result the staff often have to carry water in buckets from the nearby habitations for the patients admitted there. However, considering lack of water supply, the complex was kept comparatively clean. The supply of medicines was reported to be regular, however, the centre needs additional MBBS doctors to cater to the patient requirements. Ambulance is required on an urgent basis. The tracking of institutional deliveries is also not taking place.

### **c. Coal Depot at Phramer (Shohshrieh) Village**

The visiting team on the way to the coalmines areas of Rymbai region of Jaintia Hills, accompanied by the officials of State Government and District administration, while approaching Khliehriat block of the Jaintia Hills District, could see the coal depots on both sides of the road. The members of the Commission could see children working in the coal depots, but whenever they tried to stop the vehicle the children disappeared. The team members stopped all the vehicles, and returned about half a kilometer, where they found a child (Master Mandai Dkhar, aged about 13 years) working in



***A child working in coal depot***

one of the coal depots. On enquiry the child admitted that he has been working and sometimes attends the evening school. Another man who was also working there claimed that he is the elder brother of the child. According to him they were working for the depot owner Mr. Wanbait Lyngdoh.

The visiting team immediately called the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Headquarters and the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Jowai to initiate necessary proceedings under relevant labour laws. The Labour Department too were not sure what to do as it appeared that they had not dealt with such issues in past. One of the doctors from Khliehriat CHC who arrived on the spot verbally certified that the age of the child could be about 17 years, even though the child looked about 12 to 13 years of age.

#### d. Crusher at Byndihati

On the way to the coal mines of Rymbai road area, the team could not find any children working on the road side coal depots. When the team approached the depot, the children were reportedly sent away to the jungle area. In one of the coal crushers at Byndihati the manager



informed the team that he was being directed by the District administration to send all the children as some inspection team was expected. He stated that all the children engaged in the crusher are sent to the nearby jungle. The NCPDR team was surprised to know the fact that the District administration is colluding to promote the child labour instead of curbing the same.

#### e. Rat Hole on Rymbai Road

The NCPDR team along with the accompanied State Government and District

Administration officials visited coalmines area of the Rymbai road. As one of the members of the team was eager to experience the process of going inside the deep pit and extracting the coal, the officials took them to the nearby mine pit. There was a make shift ladder, built by using tree trunks, leading to the pit which looked very risky. One of the members of NCPDR (Dr. Yogesh Dube) went inside the pit to have a first hand experience of being in the coal pit. He tried to go inside the well along with a person from Door Darshan on a crane. The well was



*Makeshift ladder using Tree Trunks used to send down the child labour*

about 200 feet and after going down halfway, Dr. Dube felt suffocated and instructed the person accompanying to climb back. Mr. Vinod Kumar Tikoo, Member, NCPDR who entered a rat hole enquired with the Mine Engineer if he has ever entered a rat



hole on the side ways of the coal mine wherein gas, fumes were emanating and it was too dark and eerie. The response was in negative. The member even offered incentives to the Mine Engineer but he refused saying that it was too dangerous. Then he was asked how did his department allow the pits to operate without any safety measures risking the lives of children to extreme risks. The gaseous fumes even affect the respiratory system of the body and that explained the increased number of medical emergencies in the area.

**f. Jalong Mulang Anganwadi Centre**

On returning from Rymbai Road area the team went to visit Anganwadi centre of the Jalong Mulang Village in the District to assess its functioning. The centre was found functioning in a Community Hall. The CDPO informed the team that the construction of its own building for AWC was already completed and the centre was expected to function from its own building within a month’s time.

While the Anganwadi worker informed that there was no weighing machine in the centre, the CDPO stated that the purchase of the item was being looked into by the Directorate and it would be supplied to the centres shortly. There was no growth chart maintained in the centre as prescribed by the WHO. The visiting team was informed that the kits meant for early childhood care and education (ECCE) has been kept in the house of the Worker because it was not safe to keep the same in the Community Hall. The enrolment record of the ICDS centre revealed the following number of children enrolled to the AWC:

<b>Children enrolled in Jalong Mulang Village AWC during April 2012</b>	
Age Group	No. of Children
1 month to 6 months	13
7 months to 1 year	10
1year to 3 years	49
3 to 6 years	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>

As informed a fresh survey of the children has also been undertaken during April 2012 and results are likely to be tabled shortly.

The visiting NCPCR team expressed their disappointment over the functioning of Jalong Mulang Anganwadi centre as the systems, mechanism and equipments were not in place. Even the growth charts were not maintained properly and there was no

weighing scale and MUAC tape in the AWC. If the condition of the centre recommended by the District Administration was like this then the Anganwadi centres in far off areas could be even worse.

### **General Observations:**

The NCPCR team found children working in hazardous conditions in coal depots and road construction. It was confirmed from the size of rat holes that only children can work and adults cannot enter into it. Visiting the area with widespread coalmines, the team observed that in none of the coalmines, any safety measures were provided for, not to mention the welfare measures, not even a first aid kit could be seen in any of the depots/mines. The coalmine area was bereft of any crèche for working mothers and no anganwadi centre could be seen operational. On account of a message spread by the local administration, as reported by one of the managers of a coal depot, the children working in the area were reportedly sent away to the jungle surrounding these mines. However, the rat holes prevalent in the mines bore the testimony of prevalence of child labour, as it is humanely not possible for an adult to enter those holes to extract the Black Gold- the Coal, and this was concurred by the District Administration and the Deputy Labour Commissioner accompanying the team.

The Commission also observed that the State lacked inter-departmental coordination and no efforts were made to sensitize the field level functionaries on child right issues. In view of the foregoing issues and concerns, the Commission recommended the State Government departments/authorities to initiate immediate action on the issues and concerns and solicited an ATR to ensure the rights and entitlements of the children in Meghalaya.

### **Meeting with the State Government officials at the State Secretariat, Shillong:**

The team from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) shared their observations in a meeting with the State Government based on their visit to the coal mines and coal depot areas of the Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya. The visit included a Community Health Centre, one Anganwadi Centre, coal depots, coalmines and the rat holes. The team expressed concern over the inordinate delay in furnishing the action taken report on Commission's earlier recommendations. They pointed out various gaps and anomalies observed during their field visit to Jaintia Hills District, as there is no proper monitoring mechanism in place.

Responding to the observations of the NCPCR team the Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Labour stated survey of coal mining areas undertaken in

2010 identified 222 children. Of these 80 have been enrolled in schools, 3 have got married, 67 children were migrants and *might have gone back home*, 11 are not traceable because of incorrect addresses and one 18 years boy has joined the College. Further the team was informed that currently there are no Labour Inspectors as all of them have been promoted as Deputy Labour Commissioners. Every DLC has been provided with a vehicle except the DLC of East Khasi Hills District. District Task Force on Child Labour has been constituted and made functional in every District even District level Committees are constituted. Teachers are being identified and designated as Inspectors under section 17 of Child Labour (P&R) Act, 1986.

The Addl. DG of Police, CID stated that efforts were being made to keep a vigil on the both international and State borders by establishing infiltration check posts for detecting movement of people. People found with suspicious movement had been pushed back and some even booked under Foreigners Act. The team was made aware that there are two Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) and two more are in pipelines as sanction of fund is awaited from Ministry of Home Affairs. The department had established Missing Persons' Desk in each Police Station and the sensitization programme was on. As informed the State CID has a cell on missing children and works in collaboration with CHILDLINE to trace out the missing children. SJPU are in place and police officers at police station level have attended the case of missing children and those rescued have been restored to their families. Also the SP of each District has been carrying out the survey/inquiry of placement agencies and only one such agency named "Jobs D" was traced and busted. Police claimed that the exploitation of women and girls by placement agency and middlemen have been prevented effectively because of strict vigilance of State police.

Responding to the observations of the NCPCR team the Director of Mineral Resources stated that the State had unique land ownership system which confers land ownership on a private holding basis by the Tribal Council and the complication is referred to the VI Schedule of the Constitution. However, he assured that the State is making effort to address the problem by building consensus of all stakeholders like NGOs, coal traders, land owners, etc.

Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Social Welfare informed the visiting team that ICDS is operation in the coal mines areas of Jaintia Hills. WCD has agreed for 12 more Anganwadi Centre and he sought the intervention of NCPCR to impress upon the WCD for getting sanction under special considerations. He stated that in light of more than 40% malnutrition cases among children, an MOU has been signed with National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad to map the entire State. Assuring early operation of State Resource Centre, he said that action has been initiated for motivational and awareness programme with the involvement of DPOs, CDPOs, AWCs, ASHA workers and NGOs. Pointing out the move to constitute the SCPCR, it was informed that the National Law School of India University, Bangalore

has been asked to review the draft Rules. Keeping the viability of being a small State in view, the Government is considering operationalising the SCPCR through State Women Commission. This, the team from NCPCR stated would not be legally feasible and the SCPCR be constituted separately to maintain its constitutional autonomy.

With regard to establishment of Children Homes in the State, the Department stated that 14 NGOs that have been identified to run shelter homes are approved by the Central Government and registered under JJ Act, and another 3 State run homes are in operation from rented buildings. The matter also has been brought to the knowledge of Secretary, WCD, who referred the same to DONER. The department processed 5000 applications for recruiting the personnel required for implementation of ICPS and made selection by holding written test and interview with the help of NIPCCD. Four-day training was organized by NIPCCD Guwahati and Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute for the newly recruited personnel under ICPS.

The Commissioner and Secretary, Health informed the visiting team that there is one Community Health Centre for 40 thousand populations. While there are 481 Sub-Centres in place, 780 more are required and bridging the gap in a phased manner, is expected to realise by the end of 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. The State was successful in achieving universal coverage of Meningitis immunization during 2009-10, except the Garo Hills as it was not required. He claimed that there are 6400 ASHA workers who are incentivized by the State with a matching grant given by NRHM. The department is having referral transport system and ambulatory service with "108 Services" for transporting the pregnant women. The women taxi drivers in East Khasi Hills and Ri Bhoi Districts are trained to transport the pregnant women to and fro hospitals, free of cost, who are reimbursed later by the Department.

The Director Education informed that mapping of the schools has been undertaken and 17 clusters of the coalmining areas have been identified. The recent PAB meeting has approved the transport and escort allowance, but the proposal for 2 residential schools for the migrant children in Jaintia Hills has been rejected by the Ministry. The GIS mapping identified 12794 schools in the State. The survey found 8852 children including the migrant children out of school. It is proposed to do a third party survey with 5% random sampling to verify the figures.

The team was informed that RTE Rules were notified on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 and position of Joint Director for each district has been created to ensure the implementation of RTE as there is no panchayati system in the State. Assured full implementation of RTE by 2013. The State currently has 2 KGBVs and 8 are proposed, 3900 stand-alone LP schools, besides the SSA funded 2882 LP and 2248 UP schools. The department faces lots of mismatch in State law and RTE. Earlier (as per 2004 State rule) class 12<sup>th</sup> pass were appointed as teachers, but now efforts are on to appoint only trained and qualified teachers to comply with the RTE norms.

The visiting NCPCR team expressed concern over the pollution in Jaintia Hills in particular and entire State in general and urged to take up the matter with the Central Pollution Control Board. After listening to each department, the NCPCR team recommended department-wise to address the issues and concerns on priority basis and intimate the Commission within one month.

### **Meeting with the NGOs:**

On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012 the NCPCR team interacted with the civil society organizations/NGOs working in the areas various child rights and solicited their inputs on various issues, concerns, gaps and anomalies in the functioning of programmes/ schemes and acts/ laws. According to them the State is listed as 5<sup>th</sup> grade seismic zone and extraction of coal might pose serious risk. They urged the Government to undertake a survey to identify the child labour in the coalmines as it is not accepting the figures quoted by the NGOs. After identification steps should be take to rescue and rehabilitate them and enroll them into mainstream day schools. Besides child labour problem in the coalmine areas they brought to the notice that there are irregularities in supply of MDM, PDS and implementation of the RTE Act. There is no effort at all by the government to constitute the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) and expedite the implementation of Integrated Child Protection of Scheme (ICPS).

The NCPCR Members thanked all the representatives of the civil society groups for flagging the issues and concerns on child labour and other child rights issues and urged them to be in touch with the Commission to ensure due entitlements under child rights in the State. The members also appealed the CSOs/NGOs to work in close collaboration with the administration at Block/District and State level in various areas and plug all the possible gaps in ensuring entitlements to children in various child rights issues, be it education, healthcare and other developmental fields.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA:**

The NCPCR team members were deeply concerned about the rampant child labour reported in the coal mines areas and dismal status on ensuring all the entitlements due to children in the State. Expressing its displeasure over excessive delay in addressing the issues and concerns relating to rights and entitlements of the children, Commission recommended the following to the respective departments/authorities:

#### **Department of Labour:**

- (i) Undertake mapping of the vulnerable/sensitive areas where child labour is rampant;

- (ii) Ensure mapping of the child labour in the State and also expedite and share the report on the survey on child labour by TISS in the coalmines areas of Jaintia Hills;
- (iii) Furnish a detailed report of 222 children identified in the coal mines area during the 2010 survey and ensure their production before the Child Welfare Committee, identification of their parents, rehabilitation and actions initiated against the erring employers (the uncertain contention that some might have gone back was not acceptable to the Commission);
- (iv) Organize training /orientation programme for the labour officials on various labour laws and the procedures, ensure regular field visits, monitoring, conduct surprise raids, etc. and training/orientation of the teachers who are designated as labour inspectors;
- (v) Organize Awareness among all stakeholders including the mine owners /labour contractors, warning them of the consequence if they flout the laws;
- (vi) Strengthen the District level Task Force on Child Labour to monitor the identification of child labour, pre-rescue planning, rescue operation, interim care, repatriation, rehabilitation/social reintegration and follow up and prosecution of employers/violators under all relevant laws. The minutes of the Task Force shall be sent to the Commission regularly;
- (vii) Ensure tracking/tracing of missing children; keep a vigil on placement agencies/ middlemen/ movement of person with suspicious identity;
- (viii) Ensure medical and safety measures at the site of mines;
- (ix) Organize interaction with coal traders, mine owners, land owners, middlemen/ labour contractors to address the issues;

#### **Department of Home/ Police:**

- (i) Conduct vulnerability-mapping of areas prone to child Trafficking;
- (ii) Publicize the “Missing Person Desk” set up at the police station level and orient the officials to document missing children in collaboration with the CHILDLINE;
- (iii) Ensure formation and strengthening of anti-infiltration check posts at international as well as State borders;
- (iv) Ensure coordination between the anti-infiltration check post and BSF outpost to keep vigil on the inflow of migrant labourers and child trafficking;
- (v) Strengthen the Anti-Human Trafficking Units and ensure setting up and strengthening of special juvenile police units (SJPU) in each district;
- (vi) Ensure verification of and vigilance on Job Placement Agencies to cross check their antecedents as preemptive measure against human trafficking;

#### **Mining Department:**

- (i) Ensure mapping of the mines and mining areas, draw an action plan on mining practices, environmental clearances and the safety standards in the State as applicable to mining under the Mines Act, 1952;

- (ii) Ensure compliance of regulations of the Mines Act, protection of children and record keeping of Mines about employees, including their age, name, and father or husband's name if applicable, and complete information on each employee is required before they begin work and efforts made to ensure safety measures and medical facilities;
- (iii) Expedite the clearance of proposed Mining Policy (2009) which is under process with the Government;
- (iv) Furnish a copy of the investigation and exploration report submitted to the Government by both the GSI and Mining Department;
- (v) Ensure consultation of all stakeholders including the NGOs, coal traders, land/mine owners, etc. to address the problem of child labour in coal mining;

### **Social Welfare:**

- (i) Furnish a report on coverage of ICDS in terms of number of functional Anganwadi Centres, AWC buildings and workers in the State and coalmines areas or Jaintia Hills in particular. Also meeting the additional requirement of ICDS centres as per demands made (list of 12 such centres attached);
- (ii) Send a copy of the survey made along with the Directorate of Health Services on malnutrition in the State and step taken to address the same. Also share a copy of the MOU made with NIN, Hyderabad to conduct the independent survey on malnutrition;
- (iii) Organize motivational and awareness programme with active involvement of DPOs, CDPOs, AWCs, ASHA workers and NGOs to make the programmes/schemes successful;
- (iv) Expedite the formation of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) after obtaining the review report of draft Rules from National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Ensure that the SCPCR is constituted separately and not part of State Women Commission;
- (v) Activate the 14 NGO-run Children Homes approved by the Central Government on priority basis and ensure routine monitoring and minimum infrastructure and personnel;
- (vi) Orient the staff of the children homes and carry out monitoring and inspections on a regular basis;
- (vii) Ensure coordination between the Child Welfare Committee and District Child Protection Units to take action against the employees engaging child labour in any sector and ensure child rights;
- (viii) Involve media people through workshop/consultation to sensitise them on child issues;

### **Health Department:**

- (i) Furnish status report on School Health Programme and Immunization initiative in the State;

- (ii) Ensure minimum food security, nutritional support and preventive measures for the children with special needs so as to ensure better education, counseling and non-discrimination;
- (iii) Strengthen the referral transport and ambulatory service system “108 Services” for transportation of pregnant to and fro hospitals;
- (iv) To ensure medical and nursing staff in CHCs are adequately posted, to cope up on the pressures of medical care;

**Education:**

- (i) Undertake mapping of schools in the coalmine and coal depot areas of Rymbai Road in Jaintia Hills district, consider the relocation of schools and speed up the enrolment drive to ensure that all children between 6 and 14 years of age effectively realize their Right to Education (RTE) in age appropriate class and not work in coal mines;
- (ii) Expedite the implementation of the transport and escort allowance as decided by the State Government [@ Rs. 3000 per child per annum];
- (iii) Activate the two residential schools sanctioned for the Jaintia Hills District at the earliest;
- (iv) Popularize the RTE Act and Rules through the Joint Directors and ensure adequate infrastructure at the earliest in compliance with the norms of the Act and Rules;
- (v) Ensure the constitution of school management committees (SMCs) and the orientation of the members;
- (vi) Accelerate the third party audit of the figures on out-of-school children as revealed by the DISE through household survey;
- (vii) Ensure coordination with the ICPS to track the missing children, assess their educational status/learning level and other needs, admission to age appropriate class, provision of textbooks/notebooks/guidebooks, stationeries, school bags, uniforms and free tuitions; and
- (viii) Ensure that the Government Notification on putting ban on screening test and corporal punishment is popularized and implemented in letter and spirit.

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