

Activity report of District Cooch Behar on February 2019



Amra Simantabasi and AmraChitmolbasi organized number of meetings with villagers of Indo- Bangladesh villages and erstwhile enclaves. Total 7 meetings with erstwhile enclaves were held at Shibaprasad Mustafi (14.02.2019), Karola (19.02.2019), Nalgram and Jagatber (19.02.2019), Batrigach (20.02.2019), Balapukuri (20.02.2019), 13&14 Dhabalsuti (21.02.2019). Lacunae and improper distribution of land documents was the major issue of discussion. Besides that improper implications of social security schemes are also discussed. Total 9 village level meetings with villagers of bordering villages were held in different parts of this district. On 13.02.2019 at Gitaldaha, on 16.02.2019 at Jagirbalabari, on 17.02.2019 at Khitaperkuthi, on 20.02.2019 at 127 Bhotbari and 104 Fulkadabri, on 21.02.2019 at 56 Hemkumari, on 22.02.2019 at Kurshahat and on 23.02.2019 at

Dighaltari and on 25.02.2019 at Badalgir; these meetings were conducted. Incidents of torture and other restrictions by Border Security Force personnel were major issues for discussion.

On 04.02.2019 MASUM sits with district committee members of Amra Chitmoholbasi and village committee members of Amra Simantabasi at Yuvraj Hotel. The district committee members of Amra Chitmoholbasi narrated the present situation of enclaves and expressed their agony against the distribution of wrong land documents. They also pointed out the access to institutional deliverances and governmental schemes at individual enclaves. In the meeting with Amra Simantabasi only few representatives turned up due to a strike. Participants narrated their regular harassment due to restrictions at bordering areas and Mr. Kirity Roy shared his opinion and planned for future course of actions.

On 05.02.2019 MASUM team visited different governmental departments. Team visited office of District Legal Service Authority and request made for DLSA visit at enclaves and bordering villages and to take up the cases on human rights violations upon erstwhile enclave dwellers and bordering populace. DLSA assured to consider the requests. Then the team visited office of the Superintendent of Police of Coochbehar. The team met with the Assistant Superintendent of Police Mr. Amlan Kusum Ghosh as the SP was absent and one proposal to arrange meeting with

Officers in Charge was made. Team then visited office of the District Magistrate to meet with Additional District Magistrate on Development. The meeting was very fruitful. ADM (D) Mr. Jyotirmoy Tanti made a patient hearing on issues regarding erstwhile enclave dwellers, noted all and assured to settle some of the matters quickly. On 6th February 2019 MASUM sat with Panchayet members of Chowdhuryhat GP. Volunteers of MASUM and Mr. Kirity Roy narrated about suffrage of bordering people at the hands of the BSF personnel every now and then. At the end of the meeting the Panchayet members agreed to raise their voice against BSF and make one written statement against BSF. On 7th February 2019, one meeting with Panchayet members of Bairagirhat at

Mathabhanga was organised. On 8th February MASUM team attended two meetings with Panchayet of Bagdogra Fulkadabri and Kuchlibari.