

January 29, 2004

Press Release No-080/04

MARTYRS' DAY TO BE OBSERVED IN THE STATE

Shillong, January 29, 2004: In memory of those who gave their lives in the struggle for India freedom, two minutes silence will be observed at 11:00 A.M. on January 30, 2004. For this, silence will be observed and work and movement stopped for two minutes throughout the State, signal will be sounded at the said time on the sounding of which all persons should stand up and observe the silence, all workshops and factories should stop work where practicable, the All India Radio should stop broadcasting and traffic on the road should come to a stand still.

The commencement and termination of the two minutes silence will be indicated to the citizens by sounding of army guns (where available) and sirens. To indicate the commencement of the two minutes silence, sirens will be sounded from 10:50 A.M. till 11:00 A.M. and after the two minutes silence is over, "all clear" sirens will again be sounded from 11:02 A.M.

Press Release No-081/04

VANDE MATARAM MEETING TO BE HELD

Shillong, January 29, 2004: In connection to the launching of "Vande Mataram", a meeting will be held on January 30, 2004, in the Office Chamber of the Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong at 11:00 A.M.

Practicing Gyneecologist/Obstreticians affiliated to the Federation of Obstreticians Gyneecologist Society of India are requested to attend the meeting positively for successful implementation of the new programme.

TAYENG REVIEWS POLL PREPARATIONS, IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEMES IN GARO HILLS

Shillong, January 29, 2004: The Chief Secretary of Meghalaya, Mr. Jomin Tayeng, reviewed the preparedness of Election of Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC), and implementation of various developmental schemes in Garo Hills at the Conference Hall of the Commissioner of Divisions, Dakopgre, Tura, on January 28, 2004. All Heads of the Offices of 3 Districts were present at the review meeting.

After hearing the reports of the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of the 3 Districts of Garo Hills, Mr. Tayeng observed that the election process in the region has been progressing satisfactorily and urged the Officers concerned to promptly inform the State authorities if they come across any problem during the process.

While dwelling on militancy problem of the State, the Chief Secretary asserted that this problem cannot be tackled by paramilitary forces alone but also through involvement of social groups. Stating that Garo Hills have some very strong NGOs, Mr. Tayeng said that these social groups can play effective role by starting movements against insurgency. It was with the view to contained this problem that a series of Development Melas were organised last year in the State, to find out the peoples' grievances, and how soon the development can take place and meet the aspirations, he said. He also suggested that the DCs can meet small group of Officers and discuss what can be done to help these people and urged them to organise more intensive Development Melas, which according to him, can be more effective in tackling the problem of militancy.

While reviewing the implementation of schemes of the Development Departments, Mr. Tayeng was particularly unhappy with the performance of Agriculture, AH & Vety, Irrigation, Fisheries, saying that the Government cannot go on pumping money if the Departments cannot produced any positive results. Stating that even after 30 years of Statehood, Garo Hills have fallen behind in every development indices compared to the rest of the State, Mr. Tayeng advised the Officers to try and find out the ground reality as to why development pace in Garo Hills was very slow.

Among others who spoke on the occasion included the Commissioner of Divisions for Garo Hills, Mr. Peter W Ingty, DIG Western Range, Mr. L B Sangma and DRDA Project Director, West Garo Hills, Mrs. I R Sangma.

NATIONAL MATERNITY SCHEME

Shillong, January 29, 2004: Under the National Maternity Scheme, maternity benefit will provide a lumpsum cash assistance to women of households below the poverty line, provided they meet the following criteria: -i) The maternity benefit will be restricted to pregnant women for upto the first two live births provided they are of 19 years of age and above; ii) The beneficiary should belong to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India, iii) The ceiling on the amount of the benefit for purposes of claiming Central assistance will be Rs. 500/- , iv. The ceiling on the total number of maternity benefits for purposes of claiming Central assistance will be as specified for the States/UTs in Table I.

The maternity benefit will be disbursed in one installment 12-8 weeks prior to the delivery. However, the benefit can be made even after the delivery of the child subject to the sanctioning authority being satisfied about the genuineness of the case. It is desirable that the child receives one dose of oral polio and BCG vaccination at birth and the first dose of DPT & polio in the sixth week.

The sanctioning authority shall have the right to stop/recover payments made on the basis of false or mistaken information about eligibility. For further details are all the DHMO in the State can be contacted.

NOTIFICATION

Shillong, January 29, 2004: The Government of Meghalaya has declared that all Offices and all Revenue and Magisterial Courts in Meghalaya will remain open on January 31, February 14 and 28, 2004. However, in compensation such Offices and Courts shall be closed on the December 28, 29 and 31, 2004.