

Phene Committee Report

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER FOR HILL AREAS

Recommendations of the Committee, set to examine the principles for distribution of Assam's Hill Areas Plan Outlay between Karbi Anglong district and N. C. Hills district and make recommendations.

(Submitted to the Hill Areas Deptt. Of the Govt. Of Assam on 27th July' 1987)

1. The Hill Areas Deptt. Vide Notification No. HAD.184/80/23 dated the 25th August, 1986, constituted a Committee to examine the principles for distribution of the Assam's Hill Areas Plan Outlay between Karbi Anglong district and N.C. Hills district and to make suitable recommendations in this connection. The following is the composition of the Committee:-

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| 1. Shri S.D. Phene, I.A.S
Chairman' Assam Administrative
Tribunal. | ----- Chairman |
| 2. Shri H.N. Das, I.A.S
Director General, Training'
Administrative Staff College' etc. | ----- Member |
| 3. Shri Bhaskar Baruah, I.A.S
Sol. Commissioner & Spl Secretary
Planning & Development Deptt. | ----- Member |
| 4. Shri P.K. Bora, I.A.S
Financial Commissioner | ----- Member |
| 5. Development Commissioner for
Hill Areas of Assam | ----- Convenor |

2.1 All the relevant points of the memoranda received from the two District Councils on invitation from the Committee, and other relevant data/ matters were considered by the Committee.

2.2 The Existing basis of apportionment of the shareable Hill Plan outlay of Assam between Kargi Anglong district and N.C. Hills district is 70:30. The Karbi Anglong District Council has stated that the developmental efforts are essentially meant for upliftment of the people and the area; the financial outlay should be primarily based on the population and the area. Accordingly, there are good grounds to raise the existing ratio of sharing to 75% of the Plan outlay in favour of Karbi Anglong district.

2.3 The Working Group set up by the Planning Commission on the Hill Areas Development Programme for different hill areas of various States/ Union territories in the country for the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) in its report dated June, 1985 submitted to the Planning Commission has recommended, inter alia, that is so far as the apportionment of the special central assistance for the development of hill areas of various States/ Union territories in the country is concerned, 20(twenty) percent of the special central assistance may be for the schemes/programmes, designed exclusively for the ecologically vulnerable areas and the remaining 80(eighty) percent on the basis of areas and population on equal weightage. However, this approach cannot hold good for considering the apportionment between the two hill districts of Assam in respect of the shareable Hill Plan outlay, which is the total financial Plan outlay and is for all the sectors of developmental activities in these two hill districts of Assam.

2.4 It has been stated in the memorandum of the N.C. Hills District Council that compared to Karbi Anglong district, N.C. Hills district is more hilly and consequently, the costs of development there are comparatively high. No precise data are available regarding the extent of the hill areas in each of the two hill districts of Assam. The whole of N.C.Hills district is not hilly and more than half of Karbi Anglong district is hilly. Assuming the whole of N.C. Hills to be hilly and half of Karbi Anglong district to be hilly and giving double weightage for the hilly areas as that for the Plain areas and taking this as a basis in addition to the population of the two districts as the other basis, the apportionment of the shareable Hill Plan outlay would work out as follows:

I. Weightage in the extent of hill areas: Area of K.A.Dist. =10332sq. Km. Area of N.C.Hills Dist. =4890 sq.km

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) Karbi Anglong district} &= \frac{(5166+2 \times 5166)}{(5166+2 \times 5166) + (2 \times 4890)} = 61.3 \\ \text{b) North Cachar Hills dist.} &= \frac{2 \times 4890}{(5166+2 \times 5166) + (2 \times 4890)} = 38.7 \end{aligned}$$

II. Weightage on the population basis (1971 Census) :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) Karbi Anglong Dist.} &= 3.79 \text{ Lakhs (83.3\%)} \\ \text{b) North Cachar Hills Dist} &= 0.76 \text{ Lakhs (16.7\%)} \end{aligned}$$

III. Total overall weightage:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) Karbi Anglong Dist.} &= \frac{(61.3\% + 83.3\%)}{2} = 72.3\% \\ \text{b) North Cachar Hills Dist} &= \frac{38.7\% + 16.7\%}{2} = 27.7\% \end{aligned}$$

2.5 From an appraisal of various parameters of development of the two hill districts, it is found that the pace of development in the two hill districts in the State is, by and large, even. Thus, in the overall consideration of the whole matter, it is recommended by the Committee that the ratio of the apportionment of shareable total Plan outlay between Karbi Anglong district and N.C. Hills district should continue to be on 70:30 (seventy : thirty) basis, as at present, and while finalising the sectoral Plan outlay for a hill district, its specific needs should be taken into account within its respective overall share.

Sd/-

(SHRI S.D. PHENE)
Chairman

Sd/-
(SHRI H.N. DAS)
Member

Sd/-
(SHRI BHASKAR BARUA)
Member

Sd/-
(SHRI P.K. BORA)
Member

Sd/-
(SHRI T. K. KAMILLA)
Convenor