



MEGHALAYA VISIT REPORT

Assessment of Child Labour Situation in the Coal Mines of Jaintia Hills, Education & Other Child Rights issues and Investigation of Children Home in Shillong

**NCPCR Team was led by Dr. Yogesh Dube,
Member NCPCR**

Accompanied by: Dr. Ramanath Nayak, Sr. Consultant, NCPCR



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Abbreviations

ATR -	Action Taken Report
CWC -	Child Welfare Committee
DC -	Deputy Commissioner
ICPS-	Integrated Child Protection of Scheme
JJ Act -	The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000
NCPCR-	National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
NGO -	Non-Governmental Organisation
RTE –	Right to Education
SCPCR-	State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Taking cognizance of various news and complaint received on the alarming issue of child labour in coalmines of Meghalaya in general and Jaintia Hills in particular, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights deputed a team to visit Meghalaya from 16 - 19 October 2011. The team was led by its member Dr. Yogesh Dube, accompanied by Dr. Ramanath Nayak (Senior Consultant). The objective was to discuss and review the child labour situation in Jaintia Hills district with all the stakeholders and investigate into a case of alleged abuse meted on the children of Meghalaya Hindu Mission Orphanage, as formally complained by one Shillong-based NGO.

During the visit the team met the Department of Social Welfare separately to assess the schemes and programmes available for the children, functioning of Anganwadi centres, MDM, childcare institutions, etc. To flag off the issues and concerns of the children in the State, the team had a consultation with NGOs working on the children issue. The team too met and briefed the media about their visit and urged them to be child rights defenders to ensure the overall development of children and make Meghalaya a child labour-free State. Investigating the Hindu Mission Orphanage in Shillong, the team asked the CWC to hand over the enquiry report to the Social Welfare Department, so that appropriate action is initiated against the Orphanage, as per the JJ Act, if any discrepancy found.

Finally the team interacted with the Chief Secretary and other Secretaries of concerned Departments at length to review the situation of the children in the State. Expressing discontent over the dismal situation of children, Dr. Dube urged the State Government to evolve appropriate remedial measures for promoting research and advocacy on child rights and matters relating to children in need of special care and protection. He also recommended for a separate action plan for the Jaintia Hills district.

Visit of NCPCR team to Meghalaya led by Dr. Yogesh Dube (Member) to assess the child labour situation in Coal mines, Education and other child rights issues and investigation of Orphanage run by Meghalaya Hindu Mission, Shillong

From 16th - 19th October 2011.

1. Team Composition

Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) led a team to Meghalaya from 16th - 19th October 2011. He was accompanied by one of the Senior Consultants Dr. Ramanath Nayak.

2. Background and Purpose of the Visit

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been highly concerned about the situation of child labour in the coal mines of Meghalaya in general and Jaintia Hills in particular. Almost all the child labourers engaged in the coalmines and coal depots are the migrant/trafficked children from the neighbouring states as well as Nepal and Bangladesh.

The objective of the visit to Shillong was to discuss and review the child labour situation in Jaintia Hills district, as this has been in news and the Commission has received formal complaints from various agencies. The other objective was to investigate the complaint received from a NGO against the alleged abuse meted on the children of Meghalaya Hindu Mission Orphanage. Also the Commission has received many other complaints from the State on various issues related to child rights violations. The team too intended to put forward the proposal of evolving appropriate remedial measures for promoting research and advocacy on child rights and matters relating to children in need of special care and protection. In its visit to the State the team visualized creating an environment where all the stakeholders, including media who will act as child rights defenders, to ensure the overall development of children and make Meghalaya a child labour-free State.

3. The Tour Itinerary

Visit programme of NCPDR's Team led by Dr. Yogesh Dube, to Shillong from 16 to 19 October 2011.

Travel Itinerary

Date	Travel Plan/Activity
16.10.2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure from New Delhi at 07.10 a.m. (By AI-889) • Arrival at Guwahati at 09.15 a.m. and left for Shillong by road. • Arrival and Night stay at Shillong.
17.10.2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.00 a.m. –Meeting with Director, Social Welfare. • 11.00 a.m. – Consultation with NGOs on child labour in North-East (facilitated by Social Welfare Deptt, Govt. of Meghalaya Welfare). • 12.30 p.m. – Meeting with Media Persons. • 01.30 p.m. – Investigation of a complaint of alleged abuse meted to the children at Hindu Mission Orphanage in Shillong.
18.10.2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.00 a.m. – Meeting with the Chief Secretary and the Secretaries/Commissioners of the Deptt. of Social Welfare, Labour, School Education, Home, Mines & Minerals, DGP/IGP (Crime/Anti-trafficking), Labour Commissioner, SPD (SSA), Director School Education and the Deputy Commissioner (Jaintia Hills) in attendance on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The review of actions taken for abolition/eradication of child labour in the coal mines of Jaintia Hills District; ➤ Review of the actions taken by the State Government on the complaints received from the State by NCPDR and referred to the State Govt/concerned Dy. Commissioner(s) relating to violation/deprivation of child rights; ➤ The need for promoting awareness, advocacy and research by the State Government on child rights, such as, right to survival, right to development and education (RTE), right to protection and right to participation. • 01.00 p.m. – Departure for Guwahati by Road.

4. Meeting with the Director Social Welfare and his team

As part of courtesy-call the Director Social Welfare came to meet the visiting Member of NCPCR. The Director along with few of his team members gave an update on the operation of Anganwadi centres, additional demand raised, number of NGO-run children homes registered under JJ Act among other issues. The department has sent a proposal to Government of India for 80 Anganwadi centres which includes Anganwadi centre on demand and Mini-Anganwadi centre. It was informed that the copy of the proposal has been shared with the NCPCR. They informed that UNICEF is located at Guwahati and recently it has extended its support for two programmes. It has collaborated with the department on Sabla exposure programme and capacity building of ICPS. The Director informed to the visiting team that the Principal Secretary, Social Welfare is also holding the additional charge of Principal Secretary, Labour. So the Social Welfare Department is making every effort to rescue and rehabilitate the child labour in the coal mines of Jaintia Hills.

5. Meeting with representatives of civil society group

Meeting with the Representatives of Civil Society Group of Meghalaya on the issue of Child Labour in coalmines at Hotel Pinewood, Shillong on 17.10.2011, 11.30 a.m.

Sl. No.	Name & Designation	Address	Phone & E-mail
1.	Rev. Reuben Project Manager,	Reach shilling Ministries, Lungbhalang, Nongthymmai, Shillong	9436703760 reuben.gilbert@gmail.com
2.	Smt. I. Lyngdoh Symen	Bosco Reach-our, CHILDLINE, Nongshillong, Nongthymmai, Shillong	986306351
3.	Smt. Candila Kharsyntiero	Nongribah, Laitumkhrah, Shillong- 793003	9612168593
4.	Smt. Ganga Kanwar	Bosco Reach-our, CHILDLINE, Nongshillong, Nongthymmai, Shillong	9863113737
5.	Smt. Ages Kharshiing	Civil Society Women's Organisation, Shillong	09436118164 cswoshillong@gmail.com

6.	Ms. Rosanna Lyngdoh Project Manager	Impulse NGO Network, Near Horse Shoe Building Lower Lachumiere, Shillong- 793001	9436700860, 0364- 2503140 rosanna2@rediffmail.com
7.	Ms. L. Lambei City Childline Coordinator	Impulse NGO Network, Near Horse Shoe Building Lower Lachumiere, Shillong- 793001	ingon@rediffmail.com
8.	Ms. Hasina Kharbhih	Impulse NGO Network Ranee's Abode, Near Horse Shoe Building Lower Lachumiere, Shillong – 793001	9436101108 hkharbhih@rediffmail
9.	Ms. Satrupa Bhattacharjee, Advocate	The Legal Rights Forum, Shillong	9774009722 satrupab@gmail.com
10	Ms. Rebina Subba Advocate,	The Legal Rights Forum, Shillong	09863065255 rebi123@rediffmail.com
11	Smt. Theilai Phanbih General Secy.- SCCW & VP- ICCCW	Meghalaya State Council for Child Welfare	9863114975



Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR in a meeting with the representatives of civil society groups in Shillong to discuss on child rights situation.

The members of various civil society groups actively working on the child rights issue brought various issues, concerns, gaps and anomalies in the functioning of programmes/ schemes and acts/ laws. They were of the view that if Government does not want to accept the figures quoted by the NGOs then it should initiate their own

survey to identify the child labour in the coalmines, followed by their rescue and rehabilitation. To them there has always been crisis of data with Government. The civil society group is going slow in terms of rescue of child labour in coalmines and other sectors as cases are generally not registered and culprits go scot-free. Also neither there is any shelter homes to keep the rescued children nor any rehabilitation package for the rescued children. They also brought to the notice of the NCPCR visiting team that there are irregularities in supply of MDM, PDS and implementation of the RTE Act. There is no effort at all to constitute the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) and setting up of Integrated Child Protection of Scheme (ICPS). The representative of civil society group urged the Commission to direct the Social Welfare Department to verify and issue licenses to the NGOs who have applied for the registration of Homes under the JJ Act and carry out routine as well as surprise checking. They all demanded their involvement in various activities of the Government to maintain transparency.

With regard to the child labour in coalmines of Rymbai area in Jaintia Hills district, the civil society groups stated that it is an open secret and government wants to save its face by concealing and suppressing the facts and figures . The team leader and founder of Impulse NGO Network happened to be the complainant on the issue of child labour in the coalmines of Jaintia Hills. She reiterated that the report and the figures presented are the outcome of the intensive study/research and GIS study by the IPULSE in collaboration with other agencies like Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Human Right Now (Japan), cross border issue of UN Programme, etc. She also cited that the survey report of Health Department puts the figure as more than 70,000 children as well as the Census report 2001 of the Lad Rymbai region. She stated that they have done the mapping of five thousand mines. She also made it clear that her organisation does not want to discredit the State or Government rather wants to co-operate them to address the burning issue for the betterment of the children.

Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR thanked all the representatives of the civil society groups for flagging off the issues and concerns on child labour and other child rights

issues. He urged them to inform the Commission on issues relating to child rights violations continuously and promised that Commission would take it to its logical conclusion for the betterment of the children in the State. He assured that the issues raised by them would be brought to the attention of the Government in the meeting with Chief Secretary scheduled for next day. He also said that Meghalaya is a fit State to hold a public hearing on the issue of child rights violations, where the civil society can facilitate filing petitions to the concerned departments/authorities of Government and NCPCR would summon the Government officials to respond on the same.

6. Meeting with Media persons

Interacting the media persons Dr. Yogesh Dube, who led the NCPCR team to Meghalaya, stated that the objective of the visit to Shillong was to discuss and review the child labour situation in Jaintia Hills district and to investigate the complaint received from a NGO against the alleged abuse meted on the children of Meghalaya Hindu Mission Orphanage. He said to the Media that he is here to review various complaints received from the State and would put forward the proposal of appropriate remedial measures for promoting research and advocacy on child rights and matters relating to children in need of special care and protection. Urging the media to act as child rights defenders, Dr. Dube invited all of them to turn up next day for a briefing on the issues and concerns discussed with the Chief Secretary and other departments of Meghalaya State.

7. Investigation of the Orphanage run by Meghalaya Hindu Mission, Shillong

Besides reviewing the situation of child labour in the coal mines area of Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya, the NCPCR team led by its member Dr. Yogesh Dube investigated on a complaint received from a NGO against the abuse meted on the children of Meghalaya Hindu Mission Orphanage. While the team went to investigate the Orphanage, the

Director (Social Welfare), District Social Welfare Officer and Child Welfare Committee Chairperson and members also accompanied. So the team felt that the investigation should be carried out by the CWC itself. Based on the CWC report Social Welfare can look into the matter and verify if the orphanage qualifies to be children home as prescribed under Juvenile Justice Act. The team interacted with the Secretary (Mr. P.K. Das), Executive Members (Mrs. Jyotsna Dutt Roy & Mr. Deepak Deb), Superintendent (Ms. Anjali Chanda) and many more staff and teachers of the Orphanage.



Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR visiting the Meghalaya Hindu Mission Orphanage

Mr. P.K. Das, Secretary of the Orphanage gave a brief about the orphanage, which was established in 1926 in the name of Assam Hindu Mission. After creation of Meghalaya State, the name has been changed to Meghalaya Hindu Mission. The record showed 19 children present in the Orphanage, but they are getting scholarship for 21 children from the Government at the rate of Rs. 225 per month per child. As informed to the investigating team the Orphanage entertains the orphan children or needy children with single parent in the Orphanage who are Hindu or from the tribal community.

The secretary and the staff present in the orphanage stated that they run the orphanage voluntarily from the public contributions. They have huge space which is rented out to the public for various social and cultural functions. There is no privacy for the children living over there as most of the time the open space is rented out for various social functions. The orphanage engages the children in cleaning their hostel rooms, campus and the gardening as part of disciplining process. The children clean their clothes on the holidays.



The backyard view of the Orphanage

The main gate in the front side of the Orphanage is closed and it is open from the backside. As there is a huge space and rented out to the public for social functions, everybody has access to it. There are adolescent girls staying in this hostel and the public has direct access to the premises inside. The backyard of the hostel is in dilapidated condition and all old furniture is dumped there.



There is a cowshed and there are large number of dogs and pigeons (*as seen in the picture*) in the backyard. The Lady Superintendent stays near the boy's hostel.

Investigating on a complaint received from one of the NGOs against the abuse meted on three children of Meghalaya Hindu Mission Orphanage, Dr. Yogesh Dube (Member NCPCR) asked the secretary of the orphanage to give their version of story on the incidence. The secretary stated that complain was addressed to the president of the orphanage and not to him and he got the complaint letter only after one week when the president referred to him. Also he informed that he was in Patna during that time. After his arrival the secretary convened a meeting of the Executive Members immediately.

The Director, Social Welfare and CWC team were present during the investigation on the Orphanage. So the NCPCR team asked them to inquire into the complaint against the Orphanage and ensure that the homes run by the NGOs are duly registered with the Government [as required under Section 34(3) of JJ Act] and are monitored regularly to ensure that the homes meet the minimum criteria in terms of infrastructure and personnel.

8. Meeting with the Chief Secretary and representatives of various Departments /Authorities

**Meeting with the Government of Meghalaya on Child Rights
At State Secretariat, Shillong on 18.10.2011 at 10.00 a.m.**

Attendance

S.No.	Name & Designation	Contact Detail including Mobile and Email
1.	Dr. Yogesh Dube Member, NCPCR	NCPCR New Delhi
2.	Mr. WMS Pariat, Chief Secretary,	Government of Meghalaya, Secretariat, Shillong cs-meghalaya@nic.in
3.	Dr. Ramanath Nayak Sr. Consultant	NCPCR New Delhi
4.	Mr. K. S. Kropfa Principal Secretary	Department of Home, Government of Meghalaya 09402196384
5.	Mr. J.P. Prakash Principal Secretary	Department of Mine, Government of Meghalaya
6.	Mr. K.L. Tasiang Secretary	Department of Labour, Government of Meghalaya

S.No.	Name & Designation	Contact Detail including Mobile and Email
7.	Mr. C.C.M. Mihisiil Director, SW	Department of Social Welfare, Government of Meghalaya
8.	Mr. B. R. Rana IGP (CID)	9436165377 br-rana@rediffmail.com
9.	T. Dkhar DC, Jaintia Hills	O/O the DC, Jowai, Jaintia Hills
10.	Smt. L. R. Sangma Secretary	Secretary Education, Government of Meghalaya
11.	Mr. J. D. Sangma Director	School Education and Literacy, Government of Meghalaya
12.	Smt. M. N. Nampui Labour Commissioner	Labour Commissioner, Government of Meghalaya
13.	Mr. K.C. Chyne Jt. Labour Commissioner	Jt. Labour Commissioner, Government of Meghalaya
14.	Smt. L. N. Jyrwa, Addl. Director, SW	Department of Social Welfare, Government of Meghalaya
15.	Mr. Sangma Inspector	CID Organisation, Shillong
16.	Mr. V. Syiem Addl. SP (Crime)	East Khasi Hills



Dr. Yogesh Dube, Member, NCPCR in the meeting with the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya along with representatives of other Departments/Authorities.

Welcoming the NCPCR visiting team, the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya briefed about the efforts and initiatives of his government in protecting the rights of the children. He called for the issues and concerns of the Commission on which his team

members from various departments can focus. The visiting team drew the attention of the Government on: (i) engagement of child labour in coal mines of Jaintia Hills, and (ii) condition of Children's Homes and Orphanages in the State.

The visiting team was discontented over the presence of large number of child labours in the coal mines areas, though there is no consensus over the figure. Dr. Dube stated that figure is immaterial for the Commission but the objective shall be total abolition of child labour in all forms not only in coalmines but also in other sectors like hotels, restaurants and market places.



They were also shocked to learn about the pathetic situation of the street, disable and HIV/AIDS affected children in the State.

The Commission expressed its displeasure over the status of child labours in the State and directed the respective departments/authorities to initiate immediate action on the issues and concerns listed below in order to ensure the rights and entitlements of the children:

Education:

- (i) The Department shall ensure mapping of the schools and survey of the out-of-school children in the State within 3 months and report to the Commission;
- (ii) Undertake mapping of schools in the coalmine and coal depot areas of Lad-Rymbai and Rymbai in Jaintia Hills district and may consider the relocation of schools;
- (iii) The Annual Work Plan under SSA must take into account the gaps in terms of primary school, secondary school etc. in the coal mines areas;
- (iv) Popularize the RTE Act and Rules 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/training of the members;
- (vi) Ensure that all children in the age group of 3-6 are mainstreamed to Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) facilities, children of 6-14 years of age effectively realize their Right to Education (RTE);
- (vii) To achieve the goal ensure assessment of the educational status/learning level and further needs, admission to age appropriate class, provision of textbooks/notebooks/guidebooks, stationeries, school bags, uniforms and tuitions free of cost;
- (viii) Energize the enrolment campaign to ensure that the children below 14 are in the schools and not forced to work in rat hole of coal mines; and
- (ix) Ensure that corporal punishment is not practiced in the schools and furnish a report to the Commission on the ongoing enquiry involving the same.

Health Department:

- (i) Furnish status report on School Health Programme and Immunization initiative in the State within 2 weeks;
- (ii) Develop an action plan for the care and protection of Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Affected/Infected by HIV/AIDS to ensure minimum food security, nutritional support, education, counseling and preventive measures to curb child labour and discrimination;
- (iii) Ensure sensitization of doctors and staff as well as child friendly services, capacity building of doctors at Government hospitals, especially relating to pediatric HIV and free access to quality prevention, treatment, care and support services; and
- (iv) Initiate sensitization of hospital staff to deal with the cases of children affected/infected by HIV/AIDS.

Mining and Geology:

- (i) Undertake a survey /mapping of the mines and mining areas of the State and report to the Commission within 4 weeks;

- (ii) Draw a complete action plan/guidelines on mining practices, environmental clearances and the safety standards in the State as applicable to mining under the Mines Act, 1952;
- (iii) Not undermining the traditional institutions (Sixth Schedule State), issue lease and license to ensure revenue for the State;
- (iv) Ensure regulation of labour in mines, to prohibit employment of children under 18 in mines;
- (v) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986 clearly prohibits employment of children under 14 in mines or any other hazardous processes. The Mines Act of 1952 (updated to 1983) goes further, prohibiting the employment of those under 18 in mines, unless working as an apprentice under the supervision of a manager, in which case they must be 16. The Mines Rules of 1955 also has a similar clause. Ensure compliance of regulations of the Mines Act, protection of children and records 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 may begin work; and
- (vi) Expedite and finalize the proposed Mining Policy (2009) which is under process with the Government.

Police:

- (i) Ensure that the Anti-Human Trafficking Units and police stations are sensitized enough to keep watch on the free movement of labour contractors/agents and trafficking of children in the border and geographically vulnerable areas;
- (ii) Police department must look into the trafficking angle of the child labour engaged in the coal mines areas;
- (iii) Police should be the integral part of all the meetings and committees on the subject of child labour; and
- (iv) Initiate check posts and infiltration of foreign national at the border areas.

Labour:

- (i) Undertake training/orientation of the teachers who are designated as labour inspectors;
- (ii) Submit a status report of the children identified and rescued in the coal mines area and cases filed against the erring employers within two weeks to the Commission;
- (iii) Mapping of the areas of high potential and initiate remedial and preventives measures to make the State a child labour free State in every sector, including hotels, restaurants and market places;
- (iv) Ensure a joint committee of community, panchayat, parents and employers to keep a vigil on the engagement of child labour;
- (v) Come up with a comprehensive convergence plan along with the Education Department for complete elimination of child labour in the State;
- (vi) Action taken by the Director General of Mine Safety in terms of regulation and issue of mining lease;
- (vii) Carry out surprise check and inspections in association with other departments/ CWC and ensure safe interim stay and rehabilitation of the rescued children;
- (viii) Operationalise the Joint Task Force with the bordering States and ensure repatriation of the migrant children to their States/countries of origin after rescue, booking of employers under relevant labour laws and recovery of Rs. 20,000 from the erring employers;
- (ix) Constitute a State Level Core Committee on Child Labour under the leadership of Secretary Labour, along with the Secretaries of Education, Home, Social Welfare and Deputy Commissioners of the vulnerable districts as its members;
- (x) Rejuvenate the District Task Force to monitor all actions for identification, pre-rescue planning, rescue operation, interim care, prosecution of employers/ violators under all relevant laws, including, Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, repatriation, rehabilitation/social reintegration and follow up;

- (xi) Clearly demarcate the roles and responsibilities of all members/departments including voluntary members of the District Task force on child labour and provide an orientation immediately after constitution of the task force; and
- (xii) The DC as Chairperson of the Task Force will ensure a meeting once a month where Deputy Labour Commissioner as Member Secretary will convene the meeting. A copy of minutes of the meeting should be circulated to all members of District Level Task force on Child Labour. A copy of minutes of the monthly meeting of District taskforce on child labour should be forwarded to the State Level Core Committee and NCPCR through Labour Commissioner.

Social Welfare:

- (i) Ensure inter- and intra-departmental coordination while addressing the child issue in the State, which is immensely lacking now;
- (ii) All NGOs/voluntary organizations running children homes, shelter homes, orphanages shall be duly registered with the Government [as required under Section 34(3) of JJ Act] and are monitored regularly to ensure that the homes meet the minimum criteria in terms of infrastructure and personnel;
- (iii) Ensure safety, education and hygienic condition of children in all such homes;
- (iv) Initiate appropriate action against the Meghalaya Hindu Mission Orphanage, based on the report of CWC;
- (v) Expedite the constitution of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) as required under Section 17(1) of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005;
- (vi) Furnish a report to NCPCR within 2 weeks detailing the number of functional Anganwadi Centres, including buildings and workers, and also the additional demand made;
- (vii) Ensure at least one shelter home for children at Shillong at the earliest;
- (viii) Furnish a status report of the CWCs, the status of members and vacancy, if any, their Training (through NIPCCD), personnel, number of sittings and status of pendency cases (as required under Sections 33(1) and 33(3) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000;

- (ix) CWCs are involved in the issue of elimination of child labour in coal mines areas and their educational development;
- (x) Ensure that the CWCs work in coordination with the Welfare Department and are accountable to the Department on day-to-basis;
- (xi) Furnish a status report of the JJBs, the status of members and vacancy, if any, their Training, staffing pattern, number of sittings and status of pendency cases (as required under Sections 14(1) and 14(2) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000;
- (xii) The Child Welfare Committee and DCPU shall take appropriate action against the employees engaging child labour in any sector;
- (xiii) Monitor the MDM and ensure that the food supplied under ICDS is fit for eating (*it was reported that the Noodle has high content of Ajinomoto*);
- (xiv) Organize a workshop of media people to sensitise them on child issues; and
- (xv) Evolve action plans for the street children, disable children and ensure that children do not access to the drug.

District Administration Jaintia Hills:

- (i) Rejuvenate the District level Core Committee for total elimination of child labour in the coal mines and other hazardous sectors;
- (ii) Furnish the minutes of the District level Core Committee meeting;
- (iii) Initiate tracing/tracking of 222 children identified in the coal mines area and ensure their mainstreaming to the educational institutions through age appropriate classes;
- (iv) Develop individual District Action Plan for total elimination of Child Labour in the coal mine areas of Jaintia Hills district and report to the Commission;
- (v) Involve the parents, community and the employers in spreading awareness against employment of children;
- (vi) Ensure involvement of the concerned CWCs and NGO representatives in addressing the issue of child rights;
- (vii) Ensure at least one children home in coal mines area of Jaintia Hills at the earliest; and

(viii) Ensure a Residential School for the migrant children in the coal mines areas and transportation facility in case schools are located far way.

Others:

- (i) There is need for continuous Inter-Departmental interaction and communication and information sharing; and
- (ii) Sensitization of media on child issues in terms of concealing the identities of children affected by HIV/AIDS, etc.

Welcoming the suggestions and foregoing issues and concerns flagged off by the Commission, the Chief Secretary on behalf of his team promised to address on the same and sent an action taken report (ATR) to the Commission.

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