

Insurgency in North East India

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I. INTRODUCTION:-

North East India consists of eight states, viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. It is connected to the mainland India only by a 21 km. long Siliguri Corridor popularly known as the "Chicken Neck" and therefore feels isolated from the rest of the country. North East India was also known as the "land of Seven Sisters" before the inclusion of Sikkim in 2002. All the seven states of North East India except Sikkim faces the problems of insurgency. North East India is bounded by five foreign countries viz. Nepal, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh. North East India provides a gateway to the South East Asian countries. There are also several ethnic groups in North East India who have their own ethnic identity like cultures, customs, language, religions and traditions, etc. Regionalism and regional tensions have eased off in the late 1980s, but insurgency still continues to be a dominant issue. North East India is an insurgency prone area. The insurgency status in North East India is classified as very active. Different insurgent group have different demands.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:-

North East India has fell to the victims of insurgency since 1947 and the problems of insurgency has taken deep roots in North East India. The Naga National Council (NNC) led by Z.A. Phizo was the first group to dissent in 1947 and in 1956, they went underground. The NNC under the leadership of Z.A. Phizo declared independence of Nagaland on 14th August 1947. Generally, we see three types of movement in North East India.

(I) Demand for regional autonomy:- Ethnic identity, language and region are the grounds on which people claim to have separate states.

(II) Secessionist Movement:- There are some groups which demands complete separation or secession from India like ULFA, NDFB, NSCN, etc.

(III) Movement against the outsiders:- The Assam Movement from 1979 to 1985 is the best example of movement against the outsiders. The Assamese suspected that there were many illegal Bengali speaking immigrants from Bangladesh. They felt that unless those foreign nationals are detected and deported, they would reduce the indigenous Assamese into a minority. The illegal immigration process has also given rise to the formation of ULFA and other anti-peace organisations, who are disturbing the peace, stability and development of the region.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-

- (I) To know about the causes of insurgency in North East India.
- (II) To know about the demands of various insurgent groups.
- (III) To find out ways to solve the problems of insurgency in North East India.
- (IV)

IV. SCOPE OF THE STUDY:-

The scope of the study is very wide. North East India has been facing the problems of insurgency since 1947. The Nagas were the first group to dissent in 1947 and in 1956, they went underground. The Nagas under the leadership of Z.A. Phizo declared independence of Nagaland on 14th August 1947. India imposed the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) to deal with the problems of insurgencies. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) was imposed for the first time in 1958 in the princely state of Manipur. At present there are about 40-50 insurgent groups operating in North East India. Some groups demand regional autonomy, some for separate statehoods, while some extreme groups demand complete independence. North East India is a insurgency prone area. The insurgency in North East India is classified as very active. It has posed a very serious threat to the safety and security as well as created law and order problems and internal disturbances in the state. It is mainly due to the

negligence of the centre, that the problems of insurgency in North East India is still pending. It seems to be a very serious issue at present. Several scholars have suggested in finding out the ways and means to solve the problems of insurgency. However due to the lack of the Centre's attitude, the problems of insurgency remains unresolved. At present insurgency is a very serious issue in North East India and it is badly affecting the peace and security of the region. The problems of insurgency in North East India still awaits a final resolution.

V. HYPOTHESES:-

- (I) Porous border has helped growth of insurgency in North East India.
- (II) Passive attitude of the Central government towards the people of North East India has helped growth of insurgency in North East India.

VI. METHODOLOGY:-

The researcher took various methodology to collect the data from various sources. The methodology is adopted according to the need and objective of the study. The present study is for tentative purpose and it is based only on the secondary data collection. It is collected from various books only. The topic is studied in detail through secondary sources only and the design of the research studies is also based only on secondary sources like internet, magazines, journals, books, articles, newspapers, seminar papers, print media and so on. No sources of primary data has been collected or used.

CHAPTERISATION:-

- Chapter 1: Introduction.
- Chapter 2: Review of the related literature.
- Chapter 3: Causes of insurgency in North East India.
- Chapter 4: Insurgency and its impacts in the security of the region.
- Chapter 5: Conclusion.

VII. REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE:-

Dhananjay Biswas (2014) in his book "Contemporary Political Issues" has mentioned that there are a number of historical, political, economic and social causes that motivate the ethnic groups of North East India to involve in terrorism.

H. Srikanth (2011) in his book "Ethnicity and Ethnic Identities in North East India" has mentioned that ethnic identity is the pivot around

which many of the politics of North East India revolves.

Hiren Gohain (1985) has highlighted the book "Assam: A burning question." He has also pointed out the role of the colonial state not only in replacing Assamese by Bengali; but also in opening up the region to immigration.

Ionee Basumatary (2014) in her book "Politics in North East India" has mentioned that migration is a very old phenomenon in Assam. Almost all of the tribes and communities of the present Assam or the North Eastern area are said to have migrated into the region at different point of time. The trace of migration is found to be more in Assam, than that of the other North Eastern areas.

Kripesh Chandra Paul (2011) in his book "Politics in India since independence" has mentioned that the large scale migration into the North East gave rise to a unique problem i.e. the local people pitted against the outsiders or migrants. In many states of North East local people started political and social movements against the outsiders (illegal Bengali speaking Muslim settlers from Bangladesh) because outsiders not only affect their culture but also exploit the natural resources for their benefits.

Parag Deka (2015) in his book "Contemporary Political Issues and Ideologies" has mentioned that the immigration process has helped in the development of the problems of terrorism in North East India. In some cases it has been found that the indigenous people resort to terrorism or insurgency in the fear of losing their identity. The North East India has already witnessed several insurgency movement based on this migration issue.

Prashant Agarwal (2006) in his book "South Asia: Peace and Development" has mentioned that North East India as a region is a land lock in which different social groups belonging to various racialist origins have migrated from time to time through the history making the region itself into a conglomerate mass of inter-ethnic group interaction and ultimately leading to multi-ethnic, multilingual and multi-cultural region.

N.S. Narahani (2002) in his book "Security Threats to North East India" has mentioned that the earliest known migration was of Austeriods, and some Dravidians around 5000 B.C. These were the earliest known inhabitants. This was followed by waves of migrations of Mongoloid stocks from Southern China and Tibet. The progeny are the

present day Bodos, Mishings, Raj Banshis, Akas, Daflas and Abors.

Renu Mishra (2013) in the book "State Politics in India" highlighted to focus the party system in India.

Sanjib Baruah(2014) has highlighted the nation building in multi-ethnic policy to focus the insurgency in Assam.

S.R. Thoring (2010) in his book "Violence and Identity in North East India, Naga-Kuki conflict" has mentioned that the first settlers of North East India are the mongoloid stock of people who first occupied the barren and abandoned land of the North East region then it was followed by the Aryans, and other people belonging to different racialist origin. In this long period of history, the history of the indigenous people of India has been in constant struggle against the civilization and the colonizers for the existence as a different cultural identity.

SubirBhaumik (2012) in his book "Tripura: Ethnic Conflict, Militancy and

Counterinsurgency" has mentioned that the partition of India and the merger of Tripura with the Indian Union in 1949 opened the floodgates of Bengali migration from East Pakistan that forever changed the demography of the state.

Sujata Miri (2007) in the book "North East India" explains the Assamese people's sociocultural identity. Sukanta Sarkar in his book "Tribal vs Bengali Conflict in Tripura: Causes and

Government Initiatives" has mentioned that Illegal Bangladeshi Muslim migration is a serious problem in North Eastern part of India. Assam and Tripura are badly affected for it.

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Utpal Kumar De (2014) in his book "Ethnic Conflict in India's North-East" has mentioned that the important factors, which led to the rise in conflict specially in North East India is the continuous influx of people from Bangladesh even after the independence (due to the communal riots in former East Pakistan and later on after the formation of Bangladesh) and continued till today.

VIII. CONCLUSION:-

North East India has been facing the problems of insurgency since the last seven

decades. Insurgency is one of the major issues in North East India. Regional or regional aspirations have eased off in the late 1980s, but insurgency still continues to be a dominant issue. The insurgency problems in North East India is classified as very active. At present situation in the insurgency prone areas of North East India is considered to be uncertain with chaos, disorder and confusion. It is posing a major threat to the peace and security of the region.

There are mainly four reasons for which the terrorist creates terror.

(I) Firstly, to force the government to fulfill their economic, political and social demands.

(II) Secondly, they are basically paid for it by their group or organisation.

(III) Thirdly, to attract the attention of the people of other countries and media.

(IV) Fourthly, to make democracy ineffective because they do not have any faith in democracy.

IX. SUGGESTION:-

(I) Through the help of more education, rationale and scientific outlook, we can stop terrorism.

(II) Short term political and material benefit would encourage the terrorist.

(III) Political knowledge should be given to the terrorist.

(IV) Government should help the terrorist through financially and by giving employment, because most of the terrorist are educated persons.

(V) There ought to be a commission of Assamese and other ethnic people constituted with leading Jurists, Political Scientists, Economists to go into all aspects of the question. They ought to shift the facts carefully, taking evidence from all sections of the society.

(VI) The cultures, customs, languages, traditions and religions of the indigenous people should be protected.

(VII) The government should take effective measures to stop the problems of insurgency in North East India.

(VIII) The government should take effective measures to stop the process of illegal immigration.

(IX) The government should take measures to solve the problems of unemployment and job scarcities.

(X) Foreigners Issue should be given topmost priority in Assam.

(XI) New Industries and Factories should be introduced, atleast in each district for the provision of economic employment, to abolish educated unemployment and to discourage the no work culture and earn money at gun point.

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