



'Only 5,097 Chakmas, Hajongs have voting rights'

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

ARUNACHAL Pradesh has 65,875 Chakmas and Hajongs but only 5,097 of them have voting rights, the state's BJP government said on Wednesday.

The figures emerged after a survey by deputy commissioners of Changlang, Namsai and Papum Pare districts in 2015-16. According to another survey held in 2012, Chakma and Hajong population was stated to

be 54,203.

The Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists while the Hajongs are largely Hindus. They were among the earliest persecuted groups to have fled the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and arrived in India during 1964-69. In Arunachal, they are settled at Changlang and Papum Pare districts. They are also found in Tripura and Mizoram.

Chief Minister Pema Khan-

du has informed the Assembly that the matter of citizenship for Chakmas and Hajongs was sub-judice. He said the state government had submitted a special leave petition in the apex court on September 14, 2016 which was accepted.

Rights activist Suhas Chakma asserted the "debate" reflected "xenophobia" against Chakmas and Hajongs. "Even though thousands were settled by the government in then

NEFA (Arunachal and parts of Northeast) along with the Chakmas and Hajongs to boost security following the 1962 India-China War, only our issue is raised while the rest continue to enjoy all rights as citizens."

Contrary to Khandu's claim, Suhas claimed that the matter of the Chakmas and Hajongs was not sub-judice as the SC had dismissed the review petition filed with respect to the case of NHRC Vs State of Arunachal Pradesh.



Police don't care much for rights bodies

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IN A COUNTRY like India, access to the criminal justice system is often determined by how much money, power, and influence the complainant has, suggests the latest crime data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). Who the complainant is able to approach to register her complaint, therefore, becomes important.

According to the 2018 report, a person has the best chance of getting a complaint registered as an FIR if she is able to go to the police station with an order from a court. Ninety-nine per cent of complaints that are routed through a court are registered as FIRs, the data show. As many as 1,09,392 of the 1,10,338 complaints that were forwarded by courts to police were registered as FIRs in 2018.

According to the data, a written complaint sent to the officer in charge of a police station has a 72% chance of being converted into an FIR. In 2018, of the 37,46,600 complaints sent to SHOs, 2,68,812 were converted into FIRs.

A written complaint has a better chance of being registered than a verbal complaint, in which the duty officer takes down details. The data show that 53% of written complaints were

registered, while only 5% of oral complaints saw legal action by police. Complaints made through Dial 100 had only a 1% success rate.

Complaints filed online, a new initiative by police in some states such as Delhi and UP, too have a very slim chance. In 2018, only 3% of complaints filed online were converted to FIRs.

"While it is true that people with influence and contacts have better chances of get-

ting their complaints registered, many complaints are not converted into FIRs because they are either not worth investigating or are found patently false on verification. But burking is a problem across all police forces. Often the uneducated and unlettered are unable to get their complaints registered," a senior police officer from UP said.

The data also show how toothless central

commissions are in dealing with complaints of human rights abuses and atrocities on women, children, and Dalits.

According to the data, only 4% of complaints sent to the National Human Rights Commission or State Human Rights Commissions ended up being converted into FIRs. Of the 24,343 complaints lodged with the NHRC in 2018 only 1,002 were converted into FIRs.

The Commissions for Scheduled Castes (both in the states and at the Centre) fare no better. Only 7% of complaints registered with them were converted into FIRs. Of the 5,766 complaints received by them, only 413 became FIRs. For the Commissions for Scheduled Tribes, the number was worse — only 5%. In 2018, a total 880 complaints were received by these Commissions, but only 48 were converted into FIRs.

Only 5% of complaints received by National and State Commissions for Women were converted into FIRs in 2018. Children Welfare Boards/Commission had a success rate of 20%.

In contrast, complaints of which police took *suo motu* cognizance had a success rate of 80%. Overall, complaints sent to police through various sources had a success rate (of turning into an FIR) of just 26%.

COMPLAINTS ROUTED THROUGH COURTS CARRY MOST HEFT

WHAT GETS CONVERTED

TYPE	TOTAL COMPLAINTS	FIRs	PROPORTION
Oral	1,04,61,581	5,52,954	5.28%
Written	80,71,288	42,60,815	52.79%
Total	1,85,32,869	48,13,769	25.97%

Written complaints converted into FIRs

Court complaints	99%	Scheduled Tribes panel	5%
To OC or SHO	72%	Commission for women	5%
Child welfare panel	20%	Human rights panel	4%
Scheduled Castes panel	7%	Electronic form	3%