

May 26, 2004

Press Release No 318/04

P. R KYNDIAH TO BE FELICITATED

Shillong, May 26, 2004: The Government of Meghalaya is organising a Public Reception to felicitate Mr. P R. Kyndiah on his assumption to the post of Union Cabinet Minister in charge of Tribal Affairs and DONER.

The function, which will be organised at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on May 28, 2004 from 11:00 AM onwards, will comprise of presentation of traditional turban to Mr. P R Kyndiah, speeches and addresses by prominent citizens from across the spectrum of our society, cultural presentations and final addresses by the Meghalaya Chief Minister, Mr. D. D Lapang and the Chief Guest of the occasion, Union Cabinet Minister, Mr P R Kyndiah.

As a part of the programme, a musical concert would be presented after the function to entrain the crowd.

All are cordially invited to attend the public function.

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UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE FOR BPL PERSONS LAUNCHED

Shillong, May 26, 2004: The DRDA, West Garo Hills, Tura, has launched the Group Universal Health Insurance scheme for 2004-2005 with a view to provide assistance to the rural people belonging to the Below the Poverty Line (BPL) group and has opened an account with United India Insurance Company Ltd., Tura Branch for the purpose.

The scheme target is 10 beneficiaries per GS circle during the current year and nominations shall be received from self-help groups. The insurance is available to persons between the age of 5-65 years. The policy covers reimbursement of hospitalization expenses for illness, diseases contracted or injury sustained by insured person. In the event any claim becoming admissible under the policy, the company through TPA will pay to the hospital up to Rs. 15, 000 and during the period of insurance all claims shall not exceed Rs. 30, 000 per person.

In any event which may give rise of claim under this policy, notice with full particulars will be sent to the company through DRDA with in 24 hours of hospitalization. Supporting documents such as original bills, receipts and other documents upon which claim is based, and in case of death of earning member of the family due to accident , a post-mortem report must be submitted along with other documents of proof of death.

A certificate as proof that a person belongs to a BPL family must be issued by Block Development Officer or Officer of DRDA.

Applicants may contact the Tura Branch of United Insurance Company Ltd. for further details.

**REVIEW MEETING OF MEGHALAYA CHIEF MINISTER WITH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
HELD**

Shillong, May 26, 2004: Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. D D Lapang, today reviewed the functioning of the Education Department in a well attended meeting held at the Secretariat Conference Room where Mr. M Suchiang, Minister, Higher & Technical Education, Mr. K K Dkhar, Minister, Elementary & Mass Education, Mr. P J Bazeley, Chief Secretary and Mr. L Roy, Commissioner & Secretary, Education Department were present.

Addressing the Officers of Education Department, Dr. Lapang lamented the fact that, Education Department is afflicted with many ills and expressed the need to adopt a vigorous and positive approach to rectify matters. Congratulating the newly promoted Officers of the Department, the Chief Minister stated that promotion is not an end in itself but rather the beginning of better things not only for the Officers but also for the Department as a whole.

Emphasizing the need to speed up payment of salaries to teachers, he urged upon the Department to spare no effort to ensure this and also to redress the grievances of the teachers in time. Stressing the need for quality education, Dr. Lapang further stated that, there should be no compromise on quality, especially when it comes to appointment of teachers. He called upon the Deputy Inspector of Schools to maintain integrity, sincerity and transparency in all their dealings and to have a good public image.

Delivering his brief speech, Minister Higher & Technical Education expressed the need to provide assistance to the schoolless villages and stressed that DIs are a link between the public and the Government and they should remember that role. Inspection and monitoring of schools is the backbone for promoting quality education and students and this system should be rejuvenated, he emphasized.

Mr. K K Dkhar, Minister, Elementary & Mass Education, stated that the DI of schools are the cutting edge in the Education Department. Mr. P J Bazeley also addressed the meeting and emphasized the need for inspection of schools.

Earlier, Mr. B Dkhar, Director, Higher & Technical Education, delivered the welcome address while vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. L R Sangma, Director, Elementary & Mass Education. The meeting was presided over by Mr. L Roy, Commissioner & Secretary, Education Department.

NEC PROJECT ON TURMERIC CULTIVATION LAUNCHED

Shillong, May 26, 2004: The NEC Project on "*Area Expansion under Turmeric Cultivation*" 2003-04 was launched today at Mawpun village, Bhoirymbong, by the Meghalaya Minister for Horticulture, Mr. H D R Lyngdoh in the presence of Meghalaya Minister of State for Forest, Mr. Stanleywiss Rymbai who is also the local MLA of the area.

The project is one of the three schemes provided by NEC under the 10th Plan. It aims at covering 436 hectares of cultivable land in Jaintia Hills and Ri Bhoi District for the cultivation of Lakadong or RCT-1, a high-yielding variety of turmeric. The first phase will cover 45 hectares, 15 hectares in Ri Bhoi District and 30 hectares in Jaintia Hills District.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Lyngdoh said that the farmers of Mawpun village are lucky to get the scheme. He informed that the Government is trying its best to promote the welfare of the farmers and another such scheme would be launched at Umsiang village for the cultivation of orange.

Mr. Rymbai, speaking on the occasion, said that the farmers should develop modern methods of farming to increase their productions. He urged the beneficiaries to use the scheme in a proper way for their own benefits.

Dr. B Singh, Adviser Horticulture, NEC, said that Meghalaya has a good agro-climatic condition and therefore encouraged the farmers to concentrate on marketability of their crops. He felt that marketing facility is necessary for agriculture to prosper in the State.

Others speaking on the occasion were Mr. H K Marak, Director Agriculture and Dr. R B Dympep, Deputy Director, Agriculture.