

MHA sanctions Rs 2.43 cr to Mizo govt for repatriation of Brus

New Delhi, May 19: Asian Commission for Human Rights (ACHR) today said Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sanctioned an amount of Rs 2.43 crore to the Mizoram government for repatriation of Bru families which is set to begin on May 21.

The Bru Coordination Committee had submitted its demands for rehabilitation to the rights body in February earlier this year and the Ministry requested the latter to convince Bru families to return to Mizoram from Tripura.

"The Ministry and the Committee could not sit for dialogue due to some differences and we were approached," ACHR director Suhas Chakma told UNI.

Many people of the Bru community were allegedly displaced from Mizoram in November, 2009 and fled to Tripura.

The director also said the ACHR was beginning the repatriation process after being assured by the Ministry about the security of the returnee Brus.

To rehabilitate the displaced families, the Mizoram government would provide housing assistance at the rate of Rs 38,500 per Bru family whose huts were burnt.

They would also be given free ration for nine months and cost of transportation.

Besides, assistance includes cost of preparation of land for Jhum cultivation to those families who did not flee to Tripura, household kits and implements and for meeting cost of construction of barracks and sentry posts for state Police who would be deployed in relevant areas to facilitate the process.

Chakma said, "In the first phase, 210 Bru families will be rehabilitated from May 21 to May 26." The repatriation could not start on the scheduled date of May 11 as the Mizoram government had failed to provide transportation facilities, he claimed.

The transportation facilities were now being organised by the Mizoram government with assistance from Tripura government.

"The first phase of repatriation should build necessary confidence to start the stalled dialogue for resolving the disputes surrounding the Brus," Chakma believed.

"We encourage both the Mizoram government and the Bru Coordination Committee to avail this opportunity," he added and said since 1997, more than 35,000 Brus displaced from Mizoram have been living in the six makeshift camps in Kanchanpur area of Tripura. (UNI)