

AFFECTED CITIZENS OF TEESTA

North Sikkim

PRESS RELEASE

2nd June 2014

The president and the members of the Affected Citizens of Teesta hereby welcome the initiative of the Govt of Sikkim to strengthen Article 371F.

The continued dilution of Article 371F has multi-dimensional causes like socio-economic and political reasons. The effort to bring about a practical way to frame and implement an effective and sustainable mechanism to implement the ACT as enshrined in the Constitution of India requires the support and cooperation of all sections of the society and, at the same time, the responsibility rests with the GOVT to take all concerned, particularly the political parties, civil society groups and other stakeholders on board and after informed consultation take such action as deemed appropriate with broad consensus.

Meanwhile, ACT requests the Govt to carry out the following measures.

1. That, since the large scale land acquisition for various projects, particularly the mega hydro projects, violates the provisions of Article 371F, the entire process should be reviewed.
2. That during the historic hunger strike, the dialogue between the GOVT and ACT failed as the GOVT refused to accept the ACT demand of preventing all people coming to Sikkim with the hydro projects from registering their names in the voters list in Sikkim. It is important that the issue is revisited again and legal ways and means are explored to stop rampant inclusion of non Sikkimese in voters list without fulfilling the legal formalities.
3. The Proclamation 3069 being the most important instrument of protection of people of North Sikkim, it is important that it is implemented in letter and spirit.

Tseten Lepcha

Working President

Affected Citizens of Teesta