

De-recognition of AIR, DD employees' unions opposed

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Sept 21 - Terming the recent de-recognition of all the nine recognised employees' associations of AIR and Doordarshan as illegal, the recognised associations' forum of AIR and Doordarshan today alleged a 'deep-rooted' conspiracy behind the developments and said that they would continue with their nationwide agitation until the associations' earlier status was restored.

Office-bearers of the North Eastern Zone (NEZ) units of three of the nine associations, i.e., Association of Radio and Television Engineering Employees' (ARTEE), Akashvani & Doordarshan Technical Employees' Association (ADTEA) and Programme Staff Association (PSA) told *The Assam Tribune* that the sudden and arbitrary decision to de-recognise the nine unions was legally untenable, and was even violative of the order (no. B-12017/3/2010-WL/155 dated 22.2.10) issued by the Director General of AIR which called for maintenance of status quo vis-à-vis recognition of associations as

the matter was under process in the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

The associations alleged that the arbitrary move to de-recognise the unions was taken at the behest of a senior bureaucrat of the MIB to crush the legitimate voice of the employees concerning their genuine grievances and also to pave the way for imposing certain autocratic decisions on the employees even though those were not in the best interests of AIR and Doordarshan.

"Our unions are registered by the Government of India under the Recognition of Service Associations Act, and their fundamental right to protest and 'Freedom of Speech and Expression' as conferred by the Constitution of India cannot be curbed by any repressive decision of an administrator," the associations said.

Pointing out that they were opposing renting of equipment for DTH expansion, on the ground that it would be a recurring loss, besides the proposed outsourcing of AIR and Doordarshan projects, as the existing staff was capable

of doing the technical works, the associations said that it was precisely to gag any justified opposition that the associations were sought to be de-recognised.

"We cannot rule out any deep-rooted conspiracy behind the sinister moves, as it is unlikely that a single bureaucrat would be doing all this without endorsement at the highest level," they added.

The associations also submitted a memorandum to the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister, Ambika Soni, seeking her intervention in the matter.

"We drew her attention to the fact that the Prasar Bharati Secretariat's order declaring all the associations de-recognised is violative of different legal provisions, including the RSA, and directives of the DoP&T, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievance and Pension, AIR manual, and communication from the Director General of AIR.

The associations said that once the unions were de-recognised, it would be easier for dishonest officials to indulge in large-scale corruption with none to protest such misdeeds.

ASSAM TRIBUNE
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Official Language Act

Strike staged for implementation

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GUWAHATI, Sept 21 - Members of the Kamrup Mahanagar Zila Sahitya Sabha today staged a three-hour token hunger strike at Dighalipukhuri demanding implementation of the Assam Official Language Implementation Act-1960 in its true spirit.

Over 50 people including senior citizens, writers and social activists took part in

the protest.

Addressing the gathering, senior journalist DN Chakravartty said that the Act was enacted after the culmination of a three-month agitation from July to September in 1960 in which over 40 people including Ranjit Barpujari and Surya Bora died and over 4,000 arrested.

Chakravartty urged all employees, officials and ministers to be respectful to the

will of the people and the sanctity of the Act, and exhibit it by putting the official language to the maximum possible use in all official works.

Speakers at the gathering also suggested incentives for implementation of the Act as was the practice in the case of Hindi, the national official language. They further advocated penal provisions for fixing responsibility for slack enforcement of the legislation.

Security at GMC girls' hostel urged

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GUWAHATI, Sept 21 - The Gauhati Medical College

hostel, which also needs some attention," Doley pointed out.

He also pointed out the

Symposium on plant health

GUWAHATI, Sept 21 - A symposium on 'Microorganisms and plant health' will be held on November 4-5 next under the auspices of the Department of Botany, Gauhati University, in collaboration with Indian Phytopathological Society, New Delhi.