Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India 30.03.2001
Dialogue with Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT)

In response to the policy of the Central Government for peace negotiations, the Bodo liberation Tiger unilaterally suspended its operation w.e.f July 14, 1999. The BLT has stated that if the Government suspends operations against it, the BLT (a) will completely abjure the path of violence; (b) will not engage in violent or unlawful activities like killings, injuries, kidnapping, extortions and intimidation etc; and (c) agree to abide by the Constitution of India and the laws of the land. The Government has accepted these conditions.

2. In recognition of the BLTs intention to pave way for peace dialogue, the Central Government initiated peace talks with the BLT. The Central Government responded to the first step of the BLT for the peace dialogue by deferring the imposition of ban under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 on the BLT.

3. In this context, the Union Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani made a statement in both the Houses of Parliament on March 15, 2000 about the suspension of operations against BLT. Simultaneously Shri P.K. Mahanta, Chef Minister, Assam made the announcement at Guwahati. Ground rules for suspension of operation between the security forces and the BLT were agreed upon at a meeting on March 28-29, 2000.

4. Dr. P.D. Shenoy, AS (H) MHA was authorized to conduct the tripartite talks by the Union Home Minister. The rounds of discussions involving the Government of India, Government of Assam represented
by Shri P.P. Verma, Commissioner to CM Assam and Secretary, WPI and BC, Shri H.K. Deka DGP, Assam; and Shri V.K. Pipersenia, Resident Commissioner, Assam and top leaders of the BLT including Shri Kamal Muchahary, Vice-Chairman and Shri Mainao Daimary, Publicity Secretary have been held. The Chairman of BLT, Shri Hagrama Basumatary and other top leaders of the BLT also met the Union Home Minister. Informal discussions were also held with ABSU. Detailed discussions on the villages and areas to be included in the Bodoland Territorial Council were held between the Government of Assam delegation led by Shri C.M. Patowari, Minister for Agriculture and the BLT.

5. Ten rounds of tripartite talks between Government of India, Government of India and BLT have been held to find out a permanent solution to the Bodo problem. The following issues were raised by BLT during the discussions.

i. abolition of existing BAC and creation of Bodo / and Territorial Council with four co-terminus districts. The BTC would include villages beyond river Pasnoi, Bijni town, BPRL project in Dhaligaon, Shrirampur, Orang and Manas national Park etc.

ii. Constitutional safeguards to BTC under 6th Schedule of the Constitution of India.

iii. Inclusion of Bodo language in the Eight Schedule of the Constitution of India.

iv. Inclusion of Bodos of Karbi Anglong district in the list of ST (Hills).

v. Establishment of Central University with professional colleges like Medical College, Engineering College, IT College, Agricultural College etc.
vi. 40 subjects to be handed over to BTC for effective administration of the area.

vii. Liberal financial package from Central Government for infrastructural developments for 10 years

6. The proposal has also the support of all Bodo Groups such as All Bodo Students’ Union (ABSU), Bodo People’s Action Committee (BPAC), All Bodo Employee Federation (ABEF), All Bodo Women Welfare Federation (ABWWF) and Bodo Sahitya Sabha (BSS) and their financial support to their package would be ensured before finalization.

7. Talks have made progress and differences have narrowed down. On the basis of the negotiations, proposals are being submitted at the State and the Central Government levels to the competent authorities for an early decision.

8. Negotiations are continuing and it is expected the Accord would be finalized in the coming months.