

ENQUIRY REPORT

An enquiry was conducted by the undersigned in respect of the news clipping of 'Niyomiya Bartta' dtd 15/8/15 regarding alleged issuance of fake birth certificates by Anganwadi Centres at Kachumara Char. The findings in this regard are submitted below:

Hearings were conducted on 24/8/15 and 25/8/15 during which Shri Dimbeswar Mahanta, CDPO, Chenga I.C.D.S Project, Barpeta; Shri Tamejuddin Ahmed, LRCR, Kasumara NSK; Smti Hamida Rahman, Circle Supervisor, Kasumara Circle; Smti Iaran Nessa, Anganwadi worker, 67 No. Bhelengimari Anganwadi Center; Smti Isma Khatun, Anganwadi worker, 71 No. Aduripara Anganwadi Center and Smti Sakina Khatun, Anganwadi Center, 144 No. East Aduripara Anganwadi Center were heard and their statements recorded.

The CDPO, Chenga I.C.D.S Project has informed that he was not aware of the birth certificates being issued by the Anganwadi workers as he had never given any such direction to them in his capacity as CDPO, Chenga I.C.D.S project. He came to know of such issuance when some news reporters visited his office on 12/8/2015 and showed him photocopies of the birth certificates issued by the Anganwadi workers. On receipt of such information, he had directed the Circle Supervisor of Kachumara to conduct an enquiry following which the three Anganwadi workers viz, Smti Iaran Nessa, Anganwadi worker, 67 No. Bhelengimari Anganwadi Center; Smti Isma Khatun, Anganwadi worker, 71 No. Aduripara Anganwadi Center and Smti Sakina Khatun, Anganwadi Center, 144 No. East Aduripara Anganwadi Center admitted of having issued such birth certificates. The CDPO has further stated that the Chenga Anchalik Chatra Sanstha had never met/apprised him on the matter of issuance of fake birth certificates.

The LRCR, Kasumara NSK informed that he has accepted some birth certificates at Kasumara NSK issued by Anganwadi workers as linkage documents and incorporated the same under the column 'Others' of the Summary form. He was not aware whether such certificates were legal or illegal. In this connection, it may be mentioned that during the ensuing field verification by the NRC verification team, such certificates may not be entertained by the LRCR officer as deemed fit.

The Supervisor of Kasumara Circle has submitted that she had conducted an enquiry in respect of birth certificates issued by the afore-mentioned 3(three) Anganwadi workers on the direction of the CDPO, Chenga during which the three Anganwadi workers admitted of having issued such certificates. The written statements submitted by the Anganwadi workers alongwith photocopies of some birth certificates issued by them are enclosed at **Annexure A**. The Circle Supervisor further informed that she was not aware of such certificates being issued by the Anganwadi workers until now. She was also not aware since how long such practice has been continuing.

As per LM's report based on his field enquiry including statements submitted by the three Anganwadi workers, the Anganwadi workers are required to submit a report regarding comprehensive family details including details of children below 6 years of age of their respective areas to the CDPO's office every month. The birth certificates issued by them are used at the time of school admission of children below 6 years. As informed by them, they have issued such birth certificates on the demand of the guardian of such children as well as on the basis of Social Welfare Department's letter No.SWD.148/2011/156V dtd 28/4/2014 (**Annexure B**) informing about Supreme Court's direction to notify ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, Dais, Head Masters of Government schools as notifiers under section 10 of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act and to authorise them to deliver birth certificates under Section 12 of the Act, without knowing what the said letter actually conveyed.