

Tribes, Conversion & Inhuman Cruelty:

The Case of Reangs (Bru) in the North East

REPATRIATION of INTERNALLY-DISPLACED Brus: Aizwal: On October 3, 2019, Union Home Ministry began its 9th attempt to repatriate 30,000 Bru community, who have been living for two decades in six Relief camps in Tripura, back to Mizoram. But by 30th November, **only 125 families** went back in spite of cash doles, land allocations and a declaration that this would be the last attempt to settle the community. The Brus have been demanding Autonomous District Councils in the areas, where they live in Mizoram (even though in none of these districts, Brus are in a majority.)

ABOUT BRUS: Brus are ethnically distinct from the Mizos and Kukis, both of whom speak the Kuki-Lushai language. After the Mizos (largely Lushais) had been converted to Christianity, they became more violently anti-Bru and it is becoming difficult for the minority Brus, who had stayed in the villages for thousands of years, to remain in Mizoram once the Christians acquired the power of a modern State on 20th February 1987. In 1997, about half the population of Brus fled to Tripura from Mizoram to Tripura.

In Mizoram, the Church controls the way public life is conducted. But it does not ask for love and humane behaviour for non-Christian Brus.

The land of the Relief Camps is from the tribal areas of Tripura and the Government of Tripura did not want to continue hosting the displaced Brus from Mizoram.

After the failure of the 9th attempt, an Agreement was signed in January 2020 by the Union Home Ministry, the governments of Mizoram and Tripura and Bru leaders for settling 37,136 in 12 locations in 4 districts of Tripura. According to the Agreement, each family will get a 1,200 square feet plot to build their house. The Union Home Ministry will give a grant of Rs 150,000 to each family for building the house. The Agreement also provides a Fixed Deposit of Rs 400,000 for each family. In addition, for two years, every family would get a monthly sum of Rs 2,000 and free monthly ration. The resettlement work began on April 20, 2021. The government has made temporary sheds and the Union Home Ministry is providing funds to every family for building houses. Till the elections in Tripura on 16th February 2023, 60% people had been settled in Tripura and they had left the Refugee Camps.

Elections to the Assembly of Tripura State: 16th February 2023

BRUs get the OPPORTUNITY to VOTE after 25 YEARS: Elections to the Assembly of Tripura State: 16th February 2023: After resettlement, for the first time after 25 years, the small tribe of Brus got the opportunity to vote. Through special efforts by the Election Commission of India, 14,055 eligible Bru voters were enrolled at 12 locations in 4 Districts. On the election day, Reporters from Delhi saw that there was a festive atmosphere in the Bru settlement localities of Haduklaupara in Ambassa District and in Ultacherra & Jagabandhupara in Gandacherra District.

A Tweet of 16th February 2023, from the Chief Election Commissioner, Tripura is as follows:



CEO, Tripura ✓
@ceotripura · Follow



After the Bru Migrants from Mizoram were resettled in the State of #Tripura, they exercised their right to vote for the first time in the State.

@ECISVEEP
@SpokespersonECI
#TripuraAssemblyElections2023
#TripuraElection2023



16 February 2023: Two Photographs from Bru localities on Election Day in Tripura