

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF STATE ANTI-DRUG & PROHIBITION COUNCIL, ASSAM**

**For the Year: 2016-17(As on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb/2017)**

The State Anti-Drug & Prohibition Council, Assam created in July, 1974 has been carrying on its activities in the field of Prohibition enlightening the masses regarding the harmful effects of intoxicating Drugs and Alcohol. Initially the Council was named as “State Prohibition Council” Assam and subsequently by an Act of Legislature it has been re-named as “State Anti-Drug & Prohibition Council” Assam from 22/04/94. The Council has been formed under three different Acts namely ‘The Assam Liquor prohibition Act, 1952, The Opium Prohibition Act, 1947 and the Assam Ganja & Bhang Prohibition Act, 1958.

## **OBJECTIVE:**

The main objective of the Council is to enlighten the masses about the harmful effects of intoxicating drugs and alcohol and to take such measures as may be required to prevent drug abuse and empower the youth and women, for that matter, the entire population for better quality of life. The Council believes that social welfare measures against drugs and alcohol is not just in the Government domain but a comprehensive civil society concern and cannot succeed without a consentaneous collaboration and network of trust.

## **FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL:**

To execute the Plan and Programs of its avowed objectives the State Anti Drug & Prohibition Council, Assam was reconstituted by the Govt. of Assam vide notification No.Ex.121/2015/14 dt.18.12.2015 consisting of the following members with immediate effect.

## **CONSTITUTION OF THE BODY:**

- |     |  |                        |
|-----|--|------------------------|
| 1.  | Dr. Lily Rajbanshi<br>Rukminigaon,Guwahati-6   | - Chairperson          |
| 2.  | Sri Tabiul Hussain<br>Panjabari,Guwahati.  | - Vice Chairman        |
| 3.  | Sri Lakhinarayan Kurmi<br>Dilkhush, Cachar   | - Member               |
| 4.  | Smti Chapala Baruah<br>Guwahati  | - Member               |
| 5.  | Smti Joy Lakshmi Bora<br>Guwahati  | - Member               |
| 6.  | Sri Devadeep Dutta, Ambikapatty,Silchar-4  | - Member               |
| 7.  | Sri Iqbal Hussain,Baraigram<br>Karimganj   | - Member               |
| 8.  | Smti. Bakul Ghosh  | - Member               |
| 9.  | Sri Pradip Kakati, Guwahati  | - Member               |
| 10. | Dr. Malati Baruah, Guwahati  | - Member               |
| 11. | Chief Executive Officer of State<br>Anti-Drug & Prohibition Council,<br>Assam. [ <i>An Officer on deputation<br/>from the Excise Deptt., Assam</i> ] | - Ex-Officio Secretary |

Sri Sanjeev Kr. Medhi, Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Assam, an officer of the State Excise Department on deputation is presently working as the Chief Executive Officer and Ex-Officio Secretary of the Council.

However, vide a fresh notification No. EX.121/2015/28, Dt. 14-09-2016 the Govt. dissolve the above council and directed the Commissioner of Excise, Assam and the Additional Commissioner of Excise, Assam (I/c) to take over as Chairman and Member Secretary of the State Anti-Drug and Prohibition Council, Assam respectively till new Council is constituted.

Sri Sanjeev Kr. Medhi, Additional Commissioner of Excise, Assam (I/c) and officer of the State Excise Department on deputation is presently working as the Chief Executive Officer and Ex-Officio Secretary of the Council

### **FUNCTIONAL NETWORK:-**

The State Anti-Drug & Prohibition Council has set up a network of Prohibition Committees at the Sub-Divisional levels for effective Prohibition work including Propaganda and to create public awareness against intoxicating drugs and drinks. To widen the base of Prohibition network and for effective propaganda, the Council has appointed organizers on Zonal and Sub-Divisional basis.

1.	Honorary Zonal Prohibition Organisers	-	20 Nos.
2.	Honorary Prohibition Organisers	-	12 Nos.
3.	Mahkuma Prohibition Committees	-	35 Nos.
4.	City Prohibition Committee	-	1 Nos.

The Councils aim is to spread its activities to the masses by involving the Panchayats at all levels but financial constraints have hampered its activities. It is, however encouraging that the Govt. of India has sanctioned two De-addiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres at Jorhat and Silchar .

The Prohibition wing have been strengthened by drawing social workers, youth, students, women organisations and tea garden labourers, etc. from all over the State. The redeeming feature is that some of the heads of educational institutions, labour welfare organisations, tea garden authorities and social and voluntary organisations have been rendering help and co-operation in implementing the prohibition policies.

### **PUBLICITY AND PROPAGANDA:**

The Publicity wing of the State Anti-Drug & Prohibition Council has been doing its best to build up public opinion and general awareness against intoxicating drugs and alcohol. The Council has been publishing and distributing booklets, pamphlets, folders, calenders etc. in different languages. Public meetings, seminars, group discussions, processions with banners on prohibition and competitions in essay writing, story writing and poems composed on addiction theme have been organized to create public opinion against the drugs and alcohol. The Council has one well equipped mobile cinema unit with educative films and shows have been organised particularly in the rural / tea garden areas by the Council. The Council also actively participated in various exhibitions by setting up stalls in the Siva Ratri Mela, Rash Mela, Mahamaya Mela (Dhubri) and Silghat Asokastami Mela. Hoarding Boards were also installed in different places of Assam.

A half yearly magazine titled “Puberun” has been published by the Council since 1976. The magazine is the mouth-piece of the Council. It contains articles written in English, Assamese, Bengali, Bodo and also in dialects of the tea garden workers. Its circulation and acceptance in rural areas is worth mentioning. At present we have about 3000 Nos. subscribers for the magazine. Since Assam is a State inhabited by people speaking various languages as well as the schedule tribe, both hills and plains, the Council encourages writers of different languages and dialects to reach out to people in every nook and corner of the State. The Prohibition organisers are instructed to enroll at least ten subscribers for *Puberun* every month, totalling one hundred and twenty for the year.

#### **GANJA, BHANG AND OTHER DRUGS:**

The habit of smoking ganja and bhang is prevalent all over the state and this menace at present appears to be on the rise mostly among younger generation. Detection of ganja cases in particular and subsequent seizures have been made in the state by the enforcing agencies. Necessary educative propaganda is being carried out to bring awareness amongst the people on the harmful effects of drugs.

Recently, it is encouraging to know that the Government has given a serious thought on the prevalence and use of tobacco in the form of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco in the form of snuff and tobacco chewed along with lime, betel nut or other compounds. In view of the seriousness of the tobacco problem, the Government has imposed ban on smoking in public places and on advertisement of all forms of tobacco products. In Assam gutkha consumption had gone up, particularly among youth and students because of its easy availability and being cheap. The sale of cigarettes and tobacco products to persons below the age of 18 is not allowed. The ban has been imposed under the Cigarette and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition or Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distributions) Act 2003. The Council has also initiated propaganda measures against tobacco and tobacco products through writings and holding seminars etc.

#### **INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE:**

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was centrally organized by the State Govt. at Guwahati in a befitting manner on 26<sup>th</sup> June/ 2017 with active participation of the Excise Department and Council alongwith other Departments. In this connection the Council also organized various meetings and processions with participation of students and social workers across the State.

#### **PROHIBITION WEEK / DAY:**

The Council has been observing Prohibition Week from 30<sup>th</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> February, Synchronizing with the death anniversary of the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi with a view to mobilize public awareness against drugs and alcohol. The Week is being observed throughout the state by holding meetings, seminars, group discussions, cinema shows etc.

#### **FINANCIAL RESOURCES:**

For Financial the year 2016-17 the Council out of a total allocation of Rs.71.99 lakhs under Non-Plan and Rs.25 lakhs under Plan, has received Rs. 60.00 Lakh under Non-Plan and not receive any amount under Plan till date. The Council has no income of its own and is completely dependent on the grants from the Govt. The Departmentally Related Standing Committee had proposed to increase the Plan budget from Rs. 25.00 Lakh to Rs. 50.00 Lakhs. It may be noted that Rs 30.00 lakhs has been included in the budget under SOPD-G for the year 2017-18.

### **OPIUM AND DRUG MENACE:**

Prior to the promulgation of “The Assam Opium Prohibition Act” 1947, opium was being consumed in the state of Assam and the needs of the consuming population were met through the opium shops. The Act allowed the addicts to get opium through Government shops vide ration cards. The addicts were registered. Presently there are no registered addicts. However, in the interior areas there may be a small percentage of people still consuming opium. Assam, being situated near to “The Golden Triangle” (Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand) one of the two major sources of opiates, Assam including the North-East Region has become a drug prone area.

However, Assam, along with the other North-Eastern States is prone to trafficking of drugs, it being close to the “Golden Triangle”.

### **DE-ADDICTION CUM REHABILITATION CENTRES:**

On the above background the Council submitted schemes to the Government of India in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for establishing four de-addiction cum rehabilitation centres at Guwahati, Jorhat, Silchar and Bongaigaon. The Government of India however sanctioned two Centres one each at Jorhat and Silchar vide Govt. letter No.P 11013/199 9F) 98-DPI dated 22-03-2000. The Council accordingly started functioning of the two centres from June, 2000. The response appears to be satisfactory.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

In spite of difficulties including financial constraints faced by the Council, the progress in the work of prohibition is considered to be encouraging. Public awareness has been created against alcohol and drugs. Response during the year under review was very encouraging from tea garden workers, tribal people, voluntary organizations and student community etc. Concerted efforts are on to weed out the menace of drug abuse, alcoholism and tobacco use.

So, we appeal to all welfare organisations, women organizations, social workers, NGO's, youth, teachers, students, doctors etc, to extend their helping hand, guidance and co-operation in bringing about total awareness for eradicating the habits of using drugs and alcohol from the society and to march towards a welfare state and to bring about a total success of the prohibition policy.

The number of addicts who received treatment and had taken counseling during the period under report upto September/2016 in the two de-addiction cum rehabilitation centres at Jorhat and Silchar are shown bellow:-

### **Jorhat**

Period	No. of Addicts admitted	No. of Addicts treated	No. of Addicts received counselling	O.P.D.
April'16 to Sept'16	139	44	139	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>95</b>

### **Silchar**

Period	No. of Addicts admitted	No. of Addicts treated	No. of Addicts Received counseling	O.P.D.
April'16 to Sept'16	199	61	199	138
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>138</b>

### **PROGRAMS ORGANISED IN 2014 -15:**

The Council organized public meetings, seminars, group discussions, exhibitions, display of hoarding board, educative film shows and different competitions. Advertisements are published in News papers, leading journals, magazines with a view to mobilizing public opinion and awareness against intoxicating drinks and drugs. Moreover the youths and social organizations in particular are encouraged to spread the message of prohibitions by giving financial assistance and advertisement in different souvenirs published by the organization. The Council has also published various literature on prohibition in the form of books, booklets, posters, leaflets, pamphlets, etc. The following figures shown the extent of Prohibition and Anti-Drug activities carried out in the during the period under report by the district and sub-divisional committees besides the Council :-

1.	Meetings	:	574	Nos.
2.	Seminars	:	11	Nos.
3.	Group Discussions	:	873	Nos.
4.	Educative film shows	:	2	Nos.
5.	Exhibitions	:	1	Nos.
6.	'Puberun' (bi-monthly Magazine)'s regular subscriber	:	10000	Nos.
7.	Free distribution of Propaganda /publicity materials	:	15000	Nos.
8.	Free distribution of Calenders	:	7000	Nos.

### **LITERARY COMPETITION:**

The Council has been organizing a state level literary competition every year on the theme of “Evil Effects of Alcoholic Drinks & Drugs” in the category of Short story, poem, essay, article and poster which get well response from the students and public. This year also it was held successfully.

#### **OFFICE ACCOMMODATION:**

The Council has been accommodated in a rented house since its inception and no permanent office building for accommodation could be arranged for want of allotment of land by the State Govt. and also for lack of funds.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

The State Anti-Drug & Prohibition Council, Assam appreciated the following Organisations for extending their help and co-operation to the Council in the matter of Prohibition work.

- (a) Students’ Organisations
- (b) Assam tea employees Welfare Board
- (c) The Assam Pradeshik Mahila Samitee
- (d) The Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust
- (e) Panchayats
- (f) Association for Social Health in India, Assam Branch
- (g) Assam Freedom Fighter’s Association
- (h) Assam Gandhi Marg
- (i) Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses, Guwahati Chapter
- (j) Women Commission, Assam Branch
- (k) School and Colleges
- (l) N.G.O.
- (M) Assam Madakata Nibarani Manch.

The Council also acknowledges the support and co-operation extended by the Excise Department and Finance Deptt. in its prohibition work.

Addiction ruins not only the life of addicts but also the near and dear ones of the addicts. So it is time that we all make a concerted effort to weed out the menace of drug abuse, alcoholism and tobacco use. The need of the moment is to have a serious and effective strategy to combat drug trafficking and abuse.

So, we appeal to welfare organisations , women organisations , social workers , N.G.O.s, youth, teachers , students , doctors and the entire population to extend their hands , guidance and co-operation in bringing about total awareness for eradicating the menace of drug addiction and alcoholism from the society.

(Sri Sanjeev Kr. Medhi)  
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Assam, Guwahati-3.

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