

Title: Need to take initiatives to open a dialogue with insurgent groups in the North Eastern States of Manipur, Assam and Nagaland.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): It is very encouraging that our Government is moving forward towards finding a permanent solution of the vexed problem of insurgency in the North-East. The recent visit of the Prime Minister to Manipur and Assam has given a positive signal to the people of the region. It is a very well known fact that insurgency has been the only hurdle to the development and progress of the region. It is also a fact that there are more than 19 insurgent outfits operating in Manipur alone.

The offer of talks by the Prime Minister to the insurgents in the North-East should be taken in the right earnest by all. Now we have a Prime Minister who is willing to listen and talk to agitating Manipuris, all insurgents and also continue the Naga dialogue. A conducive atmosphere is being created by the recent visit of the Prime Minister and his open and down-to-earth approach. At this juncture, the Union Government should act and send feelers to the insurgents and start interaction with them. Such a prudent step will certainly help to bring them to the negotiating table and besides finding a political solution to insurgency in the region.