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title: Need to take steps for honourable political settlement to the Indo-Naga political problem

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NAGALAND): Madam thank you for giving me an opportunity to highlight in this august House the urgent need for realising of an honourable political settlement to the decades old Indo-Naga political problem.

You are aware that on this day, the 3rd August, 2015, exactly one year ago, under the bold and dynamic leadership of the hon. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi ji, the historic Naga Peace Accord, known as the Framework Agreement, was signed between the Government of India and the NSCN (I-M) in the presence of the hon. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi ji.

In his speech, the hon. Prime Minister observed that the Nagas represent the highest level of humanism and that the Naga values should constitute the foundation of the society that we all seek.

On 25th July, 1997, the Government of India signed a ceasefire agreement with Naga Political Groups which has held till today. The leaders of the NSCN (IM) have discussed the Naga issue with different Prime Ministers of India including P.V. Narasimha Rao, Deve Gowda, I.K. Gujral, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh and the present Prime Minister Modiji having acknowledged the Naga issue as political and the unique history of the Naga people. It has been 19 years since the ceasefire agreement was signed and formal talks at the highest level were initiated. Till date more than 100 rounds of talks have been held. But the talks are yet to reach its logical conclusion. How much longer must the talks continue before we reach a final settlement? Unless we address the issue with utmost seriousness and take it as a national problem, the situation could become bad and go out of control again. The time is more than ripe for the Naga peace process to be resolved. The Naga people have been crying out for permanent peace and the masses are longing for a final settlement that will usher in an era of development and progress.

Peace is not the absence of violence. Peace is the presence of Justice. Therefore, a settlement that is honourable and acceptable to the people, democratic in nature and one that upholds justice and truth. This will not only ensure stability in the region, but also strengthen Indian democracy.

I appeal to the Government of India to expedite the process in an inclusive and transparent manner and bring a political settlement as early as possible. I also appeal to all Members of Parliament, cutting across all political parties, to support and partner with us in our quest for peace, brotherhood and nation building.

HON. SPEAKER:

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Neiphiu Rio.