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Ref no:

GOA’S NEEDS FOR ITS SURVIVAL.

Goa has approximately a population of 15 lakh. The local population of Goa, thanks to its low birth rate, is about 8 lakh, as of today. The migrant population, owing to the liberal policies of the Goa Government encouraging unnecessary growth (with an aim to strengthen vote banks), will soon outnumber the local population, thus wiping out the uniqueness of the state and its identity.

With the diversion of the Madhei river, destruction of the aqua fares by mining in Goa and climatic changes, there is going to be a tremendous shortage of water for the existing population and industry of Goa. Therefore, any further increase in the population of the state will be disastrous.

The total area of Goa is just 3,702 sq km, the smallest state in the country with the highest density of population per sq km. Any further growth of population will be unsustainable in terms of land resources, water requirements and balanced ecological conditions.

Ironically, inspite of Goa having the highest density of population per sq. km, the Government is on a rampage converting all land for construction activity, with the sole purpose of building gated mega housing projects, which are beyond the means of the people of Goa. On the other hand, many Goans are out of the country, leaving their families behind, to earn their living and with the hope that they will be able to build a new house of their own. However, with the influx of people from all over the country, the price of land and housing has escalated to such an extent that the hopes of the people of Goa will remain just dreams, as there will be no land that Goans will be able to buy.

Garbage disposal has become a major problem in Goa, not just in the cities but also in the villages. Further increase in the population will worsen this situation and will have adverse impact on the health of the state and even affect the major Tourism industry of the state.

It must not be forgotten that the stability of any society depends upon its land. If land is gone everything is gone. Presently, land in Goa is changing hands to such an extent that the focal people will very soon be landless and strangers in their own land. Land is being sold, in some cases out of greed and in many cases out of fear of their land being acquired and later given to third parties in the name of SEZs, Housing colonies, hotel projects, industries etc. In most cases
the third parties are people from other states. How does this benefit the local people? Development that does not benefit the local people is not development at all.

Though 80% of the work force in the industry is from the other states the Government provides the industrial sector with all facilities including vast tracks of cheap land and water which are scarce in the state.

The entire labour force in the building construction sector is composed of migrants and the constructions being erected are occupied by the rich and moneyed migrants. In what way does the construction activity benefit the local people of Goa?

In Tourism, which is the main industry of the state, as well as in the mining and mechanized fishing sector, 50 to 60%, of those involved in these industries and benefiting from them, are migrants.

Interestingly, trade and commerce and even other small businesses, in the cities and villages of Goa, are being slowly taken over by the rich businessmen from the rest of the country.

All sorts of crime, including robbery and murder, have become a daily feature, due to increase in anonymity of the people in the State, as, the influxes of people have no attachments nor any social bindings with the people of Goa, thus putting the life of the locals at risk.

The above mentioned situation raises a very pertinent question. How do the local people protect their interests with respect to land, water resources, environment, employment and security?

In answer to the above, the people of Goa, place a charter of demands before the Government, for its implementation with an aim to protect their survival, the interests of Goa and to prevent the extinction of all that is near and dear to the people of Goa.

The charter of demands is as follows:

**WHAT GOA NEEDS**

1. Development that is need based, eco-friendly, people oriented and sustainable and above all, to improve the quality of life of the people of Goa.

2. Cancellation / revocation of licences/ NOCs to all construction projects, SEZs, Townships, Food Parks and IT Parks, under the Regional Plan 2011, as well as under PDAs and stop all work/ demolish all structures, which have started after the Regional Plan 2011 was revoked with retrospective effect and revert back to 2001.

3. Stop the conspiracy of keeping Outline Development Plan, out of the Regional Plan, as the ODP is an integral part of the Regional Plan. Presently, one can
4. Maintain CRZ as per the 1991 notification, by bringing in an enforcement authority. Goa must reject CZM notification 2008, as it is not in the interest of the State of Goa and its people (enclosed find the article “CZM AND GOA”).

5. Strict implementation of Marine Regulation Act and the Monsoon Fishing ban, to protect ecology and the livelihood of the traditional fishermen.

6. Dabolim airport should be reverted back to the civilian authority and updated to give better service to air travelers. Navy should be persuaded to shift to Sea Bird as the Dabolim airport is in illegal possession of the Defence (there is evidence to prove this).

7. Four lane highway, from the North to the South, with bypasses wherever necessary on the existing highway and a 6 m ‘no construction zone’ on either side of the highway, but under no circumstances toll can be charged. Goa does not require a 6 lane highway at any cost.

8. Develop underground railway from Panaji to Mapusa and other towns in a phased manner instead of 6 lane roadway or mono rail or sky bus.

9. Conservation of forest and forest links for free movement of animals, along the hill slopes.

10. No construction activity on hill slopes anywhere in Goa. Immediately stop construction activity on hill slopes and revoke all licenses, issued by PDAs, as well as by TCP or TCP Board.

11. Protection of mangroves at all cost along the river line and no constructions to be permitted in these areas throughout Goa as done in Maharashtra.

12. Mining in Goa must be taxed and no new mines to be opened in forest areas anywhere in Goa. Mining leases that have expired should not be renewed. Mining activity that has reached below sea level should be closed. No mining should be allowed without leaving the 5 km buffer zone. Not more than one mining lease should be allowed in the villages. The Goa Government must demand 50% share of the taxes collected on mining by the Government of India.

13. Use of tenant land to be allowed only for public purpose and the land should be acquired at a price based on land price index, notified by the Government. No land should be acquired by the Government for third parties like industries or hotels.

14. GIDC should not be allowed to acquire more land in Goa for the same is being misused by using the land for purposes other than for which it is acquired.

15. Allotment of Communidade land of an area of 500 sq m, for dwelling houses, for locals and others with 25 years domicile. Amendment to Communidade Code should be brought in to cancel granting of land to Government servants without auction which was started illegally by the Government as Communidades are totally a non-Governmental body. Government should not acquire Communidade land for GIDC or for third parties like Shipyards,
Commanders' quarters, private housing colonies, Antartica centers, mining etc, as is being done, without any regard to the scarcity of land in Goa.

16. Housing facilities to be developed for natural growth in the villages, for the locals, under Housing Board.

17. Plans for all constructions, Government and private, must be compulsorily approved by a committee of architects for aesthetics, more so, since Goa is a tourist destination, as is being done in Maharastra and New Delhi. Politicians and political appointees should be kept out of these committees.

18. In rural areas, no building should be higher than ground plus one and in urban areas, ground plus three only.

19. All buildings in the villages and towns should follow the sky line and the line of sight and no compromise on setbacks should be allowed.

20. All commercial buildings (high rise buildings) should have public toilets and parking areas in conformity to Planning and Development Authority 2000. It is observed that mandatory parking spaces are only on paper, when in fact, they are converted for commercial purposes like shops, godowns etc.

21. Develop markets in all villages and improve the hygienic conditions of the existing markets.

22. Develop gardens and public parking space in every village especially in market areas.

23. Protection, restoration and renovation of heritage houses, monuments, forts, temples and churches, more so since Goa is a tourist state.

24. Declare all houses more than 100 years old as heritage buildings.

25. 50 m to 100 m land must be acquired around all heritage monuments, from the outer precincts of the monuments at the heritage sites which are notified and yet to be notified.

26. Rent Control Act should not apply to heritage buildings and heritage conservation zones.

27. Legalize all constructions in rural areas which do not violate the building laws after levying a stiff fine.

28. 24 hours water supply for domestic purposes. This is a basic amenity and should not be considered as a luxury.

29. Fight to prevent diversion of Madhei river water by Karnataka Government by all means, or else, Goa will suffer acute water shortage problems in the future.

30. Rain water harvesting throughout Goa.
31. 24 hours, uninterrupted electricity supply for domestic purposes.

32. Underground cabling for electricity throughout Goa.

33. Gas based power plant.

34. Underground sewage system throughout Goa.

35. Garbage treatment plant established in the North and South of Goa.

36. All Khazan lands should be protected by repairing and maintaining bunds and sluice gates to avoid inundation by salt water thereby keeping the Khazan lands fit for cultivation.

37. In view of global warming and consequent rise in water level, it is essential that the level of protective bunds should be raised from 1 to 1½ meter, in order to prevent submersion of land along the rivers which come under the tidal affect.

38. The Goa Government, for the pure lucre of money, has been permitting conversions of land all over Goa, without thinking of the future needs of the people of Goa. It is predicted and scientifically envisaged, that due to global warming, the coastal areas and the river line areas will be submerged by 2030. In this context, it is very important and we demand that the Government should not convert highlands to fulfill the immediate greed of builders, but preserve this land for shifting of coastal people to highlands.

39. Specifically, salt pans should be protected whether functional or otherwise.

40. No agricultural fields, private, tenanted or Communidade, should be converted for the use of mono pisciculture nor should they be allowed to be filled for construction or any other purpose.

41. Any tenanted land, private or Communidade, should not be allowed to be left fallow for two consecutive years. If this condition is violated the land has to be reverted back to the owner, as also proposed by the Task Force in the interim report of the Regional Plan 2021. If the land has been purchased by the tenants by virtue of the Tenancy Act, the money should be paid back to the party concerned and the land taken over. This is to ensure that agriculture is encouraged.

42. Provide 50% subsidy for agriculture on cost of production.

43. To avoid floods, all ponds, lakes and water channels draining the fields, must be de-silted all over Goa.

44. Immediate survey of the unemployed in Goa, their qualifications, age, place of birth and qualifications/skills possessed.
45. Immediate survey of employees in various hotels, restaurants, industries, fishing activity, mining activity, transport, road building and construction activity as well as sales persons, in the state of Goa. This survey should include name, age, state of origin and number of years of domicile.

46. Non-polluting, environment friendly industries, based on the availability of local, skilled and unskilled manpower.

47. Contract labour laws to be strictly followed. Increase in fine to Rs. 1 lakh for violators, especially those who supply contract labour.

48. The minimum daily wages in an industry, to the lowest category employee, should not be less than Rs. 6000/- per month.

49. To assure jobs for the local people in the industrial sector, before issuing licenses to establish any industries/hotels, the concerned company, in collaboration with the Government, should recruit unskilled workers to be sent for training, according to the nature of employment available, the cost of which has to be borne partly by the state and partly by the establishing company.

50. Crafts and skilled training diploma courses, for various jobs in industries/ self employment/ services, through the University of Goa.

51. The cost of living in Goa is the highest, as compared to the rest of the country, including New Delhi. A sizeable population of the local people cannot afford to have even two square meals per day, which means that all India parameters, for determining "below poverty line" and "low income group", to avail of the benefit of the Government of India schemes, to improve the conditions of the deprived, are not applicable to the state of Goa. The Gadgil formula disbursement of Central funds is a deliberate attempt to impoverish and suppress the state of Goa and its people. This is an injustice to the people of Goa. Hence, we demand different parameters for the state of Goa, so that the deprived in the state of Goa, who are the victims of increase in prices of all commodities, every tourist season, can rightfully avail of the Central Government schemes, like the people in the rest of the country.

52. Introduce Heritage and Social tourism so that locals can benefit by way of bed and breakfast inns and guest houses, which means, subsidy and assistance should be provided to restore more than 100 years old houses.

53. The Goan S.T/ S.C population should be given all facilities provided under the Constitution. The Goa Government should stick to the cut out date of 1968 as directed by the presidential order. The Government should immediately seek financial support for S.T/S.C communities from the Finance Commission.

54. Establish State Academy to train and educate youth to compete in sports at national and international levels and introduce sports as one full fledged subject at school level. Since the Government has decided to have National games in Goa, after the games, the infrastructure
should be used to train Goan youth in all Olympian sports disciplines, including football, at the cost of the state. No need of a national football academy in Goa, which will be, only a waste of land.

55. All Central Government, educational and research/business institutions in Goa should have 50% seat reservations for the locals. No MOU should be signed nor should land be acquired without this condition.

56. All non Konkani medium schools should have Konkani as a compulsory subject, right up to Std. X as is done in all other states with respect to the state language.

57. All schools which have been given land to shift the premises should use the old premises to conduct higher educational courses or skilled vocational courses. Therefore, there is no need to establish more educational hubs under the Education Corporation, which also means, we do not require Knowledge Parks or Knowledge SEZs in Goa. Imparting of knowledge does not require SEZs. The same goal can be achieved by utilizing the available premises and no land should be acquired for this purpose. Besides, we have to also analyze and determine the ratio of Goan students opting for higher studies in the colleges and University of Goa and educational plans should be formulated accordingly.

58. We have opted for NCERT text books, but the educational policy makers have forgotten that our children need to learn about Goa, its history and its geography, which unfortunately have no place in the NCERT text books at all. We demand that 50% of the subject matter in history as well as geography, from primary level up to std X, should be about Goa, as is prescribed in all the states of the country.

59. No EPIC card/ration card should be allowed to one individual in two places, without evidence of the cancellation of the card, in the place from where he/she has shifted from. Presently, EPIC cards/ration cards are issued without following any mandatory formalities.

60. The facility given only to the business community, in the state of Goa, under the provision of the Common Civil Code, with respect to income tax, should apply to every common citizen and not be discriminatory.

61. All lands of area more than 500 m purchased in Goa by non residents, either in partnership with locals or through agents, should be scrutinized for the source of money and the Income Tax authorities must be informed of the identity of the purchasers, including politicians from other states.

62. Ration quota should be supplied to all at an affordable price viz Rs. 2 per kg of rice, as is done in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

63. Free the police from political influence, to enable them to enforce law ad order strictly as per the Supreme Court directives.
64. Fine for drunken and rash driving should be increased to Rs. 5000/- for the first violation, imprisonment for a period of one to six months for second violation and cancellation of license in case of third violation. This will reduce drastically the number of road accidents.

65. A bill of amendment to Panchayat Act, for penal action against Sarpanchas, for illegal approvals of projects and for not following the procedures.

66. All major projects involving more than Rs.25,00,000/- in the villages should be approved by the Gram Sabha before it is approved by the panchayat.

67. Strict action against those who have sold or sublet Housing Board dwellings, as well as land, under 20 point programme.

68. All Government corporations must be headed by a board of directors who are experts in the concerned field and function transparently, showing results under the total scrutiny of the Government.

69. All Central Government Institutes like MPT, Defence and Shipyard should conform to the planning procedures of the Goa Government.

70. Governance should be a continuous process. No Government should stop schemes of the previous Government on partisan basis.

71. To make the above needs a reality Goa demands Special status through amendment of the Constitution of India, in order to protect Goa’s identity and its scarce land resources, just as in the case of North Eastern States, including Arunachal Pradesh.

This demand is justified by the following reasons:
  a) Goa was not a part of the Constituent Assembly of India.
  b) Goa became a part of political India in 1961 by an act of war (Operation Vijay).
  c) There is too much pressure on land and other resources caused by influx of population from other states, threatening the very demography and identity of Goa.
  d) 80% of Goa’s population comprises of Goan STs and OBCs, who need to be protected (enclosed map of Goan STs).
  e) Goa is the only state which is guided by a Common Civil Code which is being threatened by an overwhelming influx of population from the other states, which are guided by personal laws.
  f) Lastly, all the demands including the above demand are within the framework of the Constitution of India, of which Goa is a part.

WHAT GOA DOES NOT NEED

1. A definite no to SEZs, IT Parks, Food Parks, Knowledge SEZs and Mega-housing projects in Goa.
2. No Mega Housing projects in the villages, as the locals are not the beneficiaries of these projects nor can they afford to own them.

3. All Mega Housing projects presently under construction and the lands converted for such projects, which are in violation of 2001 Regional Plan, should be stopped and demolished and the land conversion sanads be withdrawn. This demand is made based on the fact that the local people have their own dwelling places and are not in need of these housing projects.

4. No construction activity on hill slopes.

5. No new townships in Goa.

6. No six lane expressway, Monorail and sky bus.


8. No golf courses.

9. No off shore and land based casinos in Goa. They will destroy the moral and social fabric of the society.

10. No tourism advertising on the basis of availability of drugs, prostitution and gambling.

11. No giving away Communidade land on lease for construction/industrial purpose, anywhere in the State of Goa.

12. No more land to be acquired for Central Government projects unless it is for a strategical security need.


14. No giving land for so called higher education companies, who are seeking to establish institutions in Goa, under the so called Education Corporation programme.

15. No commercialization of old GMC, old Secretariat, Masano de Amorim and other heritage buildings.

16. No entry to highly polluting, coal based power plant and atomic power plant.

17. No polluting industries in Goa.

18. No privatization of Government services like electricity, water works, hospitals etc.

19. Contract farming not to be permitted to non local entrepreneurs.
20. No retail outlets for Wallmart, Reliance or any other in the State of Goa.

21. No religious structure to be allowed in public places viz roads, markets, bus stands, Government property etc.

22. Issuing of licenses to motorcyclists below the age of 18 should be strictly prohibited.

23. Use of mobile phones by children below the age of 14 should be prohibited to protect them from health hazards.


25. Educational institutions on capitation fee basis should not be allowed.

Sd/-
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