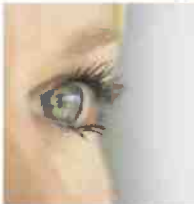


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Vision of CASA

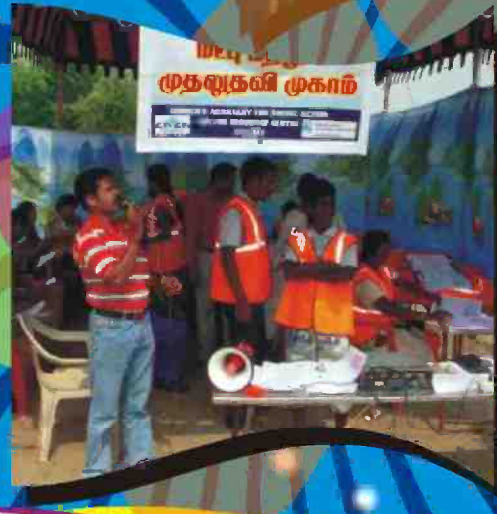


CASA's vision is inspired by the Christian Faith and values. CASA visualises a society in which peace, justice and equality prevail and wherein all citizens irrespective of caste, creed, language and religion—live in peace and communal harmony. CASA also envisages a society where the poor, women, the marginalised and under-privileged lead a quality life with dignity and have equal opportunity for their involvement in the development process which is value based and sustainable, and also have an appropriate environment to develop their fullest potential.

Mission of CASA



CASA actively supports and works for a just and sustainable society by creating opportunities for the participation of socially and economically marginalised sections in the development process through networking, alliance building and strengthening of their organisation. CASA also supports local self-governance, protection of human rights, peace and reconciliation and sustainable livelihood measures and responds to the environmental issues, natural and manmade disasters and strives to bring the victims to the mainstream while upholding the human dignity. CASA promotes gender mainstreaming at all appropriate levels, mobilises resources in favour of the poor and optimises all potentials and capacities existing within the organisation and other partners.



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

While ushering the new financial year 2011-2012 from April 1st, it was a good beginning for us, as CASA was buzzing with several activities, ranging from workshops and seminars on issues of importance to rallies and DHARNAs demanding the rights of the poor. CASA being firmly placed on the Rights Based Approach, issues of JAL, JANGAL, JAMEEN related to the right to livelihood becomes the centre stage of CASA's development interventions. Enabling the poor, marginalised and excluded people to claim their rights and entitlements is one of the key programme thrusts of CASA. In this issue we have covered some of the seminars/ consultations held at various levels on this issue, across CASA's operational areas. The RBA mode of engagement with the people will always encourage people's participation in the decision making processes of the government and in the CASA's operational areas, we have witnessed in Bihar, under the eastern zone of CASA over 40% of our nurtured SHG leaders have contested and won the PRI elections. This is pretty much the trend across the country and we are quite happy about it.

FFCD (Food for Community Development) is one of CASA's flagship programmes, where we have taken the 'food for work' concept to a newer level, all together. With the help of our partners at MCC (Mennonite Central Committee), who help us with supplies of food grains, we have been carrying out FFCD across the country, particularly during the lean period, where the outreach of MNREGA ends! It's a great initiative for community development with the participation of the community themselves, there by instilling a sense of ownership in them. We will get to see the Stories of Change, where the FFCD has been instrumental in alleviating the miseries of the poor and excluded through various innovative experiments, particularly in the north region, in this news bulletin.

Despite being a premier advocacy and Rights Based development organisation, Disaster Management still remains the forte of CASA. We are today a member of HAP (Humanitarian Accountability Partnership) and founding members of SPHERE India. These recognitions give us the credibility to be a formidable Humanitarian Aid organisation. CBDP (Community Based Disaster Preparedness) and DMTF (Disaster Mitigation Task Force) are some of CASA's unique initiatives to face challenges of disasters. In this Bulletin we have a small story of the role of DMTF members in spreading awareness on disaster management in South India.

We also, on behalf of the Editorial team, congratulate those staff who completed 25 long years of their association with CASA and at the same time we express our condolences to those staff who lost their loved ones in this quarter. We hope you will enjoy reading our newsletter.

We also would like to inform you that CASA's website has been now operational, which was down for some time after it was hacked by someone. The website URL remains the same: www.casa-india.org. If you wish to subscribe to the soft copy of this newsletter, then please do let us know and we will send it to you by e-mail. In any case, the issue will be available on the said website for you to download. We look forward to your queries/ suggestions/ feedback on our newsletter as well as our website. We wish you a happy reading.

Editorial Team:

Aloke Michyari
PRO

Dinesh Suna
Policy Officer

SECURING RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS FOR DALITS, MINORITIES AND POORER SECTION OF SOCIETIES IN 4 DISTRICTS OF BIHAR



LWR Staff Interacting with villagers at Madhubani district of Bihar

VISIT OF LWR STAFF TO CASA PROGRAMME AREAS FROM 19TH - 21ST MAY 2011

The LWR staff from the USA, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indonesia Philippines and India, visited CASA's programme areas in Madhubani district of Bihar from 19th to 21st May 2011 and interacted with CASA staff members. The main purpose of their visit was to analyse the current situation and address the emerging issues as well as to raise and allocate funds strategically in the countries where LWR is operational.

CASA East Zone and Gram Vikas Parishad (GVP), one of the partner NGOs under Bihar Package Programme made all logistic arrangements for their visit.

Mr. Satyajit Das, Chief Zonal Officer, CASA - through his PPT - gave an overview of the ongoing projects of CASA in 50 villages of 4 districts namely, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Khagaria and Supaul of Bihar, in partnership with five organisations namely Navajeevan Welfare Society, Gram Vikas Parishad, SAMTA, ABHIYAN and BALSJK.

During their village visits, the LWR representatives observed the activities of SHGs and interacted with the SHGs

members. Their visits/ interactions were very enlightening and of good learning to the staff members of CASA, SVM and to LWR as well.

Mr. Timothy Mccull (Vice President of LWR) mentioned about the relationship between LWR & CASA and appreciated CASA's programmes greatly besides expressing gratitude to everyone for making their visit purposeful.

SHG MEMBERS CONTEST PRI ELECTION

Self confidence in many women/ SHG members, trained by CASA, LWR India, Cluster partners and others, has developed considerably. So much so that some of the more active SHG members contested and won in the local PRI elections results of which are as under:

Name of Districts	SHG members contested in PRI election	No of SHG members won
Madhubani	29	12
Khagaria	6	0
Sitamarhi	6	2
Supaul	10	4
TOTAL	51	18



Mr. Satyajit Das, Chief Zonal Officer - East Zone delivers a speech in National Convention on Climate Change and Role of Women in Governance

NATIONAL CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN GOVERNANCE

A National Convention on “Climate Change and Role of Women in Governance” was organised by the Orissa Progressive Alliance (OPA) on 14th & 15th June 2011 at Bhubaneswar, Orissa with CASA's support. The main objective of this Convention was to have intensive deliberations for development of clarity and understanding as well as to work out a Plan of Action on the issues of 'Climate Change’ and “Role of women in governance”.. The discussions focused mainly on three thematic areas viz.: “Coping Mechanism”, “Status of Women in Political Processes' and “Role & Involvement of Women in Governance System”.

Following the discussions, policy advocacy, network building, creating data base, study, research & documentation and organising national level conventions & consultations were considered suitable for the purpose.. The participants advocated mass campaigns, post card campaigns, engagement of CBOs, POs & PRIs, capacity building and promotion of sustainable livelihood practices etc., to take the process forward.



Land Rights convention at Yavatmal

CONSULTATION AND DIALOGUE ON LAND RIGHTS IN 6 DISTRICTS OF MAHARASHTRA

During May and June, 2011 the Lokshahi Janhak Andolan Maharashtra the State forum organised a consultation and dialogue between the rightful holders of land and government officials on Land Rights (Pastoral as well as forest land) in six districts viz., Aurangabad , Ahmednagar, Nanded , Gondia, Hingoli & Yavatmal of Maharashtra.. 455 male and 85 female applicants/claimants participated in the process.

A Memorandum prepared on land rights was, thereafter, given to the Deputy Collectors of the respective districts for further action.

RALLY ON ANNA ADHIKAR AT AZAD MAIDAN, MUMBAI

Anna Adhikar Abhiyan Maharashtra unit organised a rally at Azad Maidan Mumbai on 31st May, 2011 to draw attention of the State Government to the Planning Commission's criteria (submitted to the Supreme Court) stating that ability to spend Rs. 20/-

per day per person on food, fuel and vegetables in urban areas and Rs 15/- per person per day on the same in rural areas would debar such persons from BPL benefits.

The participants comprising NGOs, social activists working on RTF, members of the Gramin Vikas Karyakarta Parishad of Ahmednagar and few staff from West Zone of CASA participated in the rally to protest against the above BPL criteria of the Planning Commission.

VISIT OF MR. JEROME D'SOUZA, PROGRAMME OFFICER, DAN CHURCH AID, NEW DELHI:

The Lokshahi Janhak Andolan Maharashtra, the State Platform of People's Organizations, convened a meeting at Nanded on 08 June 2011 to interact personally with Mr. Jerome D'souza, Programme Officer of Dan Church Aid, New Delhi. The members shared the vision, mission, objective and structure of the State Platform, and also highlighted their achievements so far. Mr. Jerome shared his valuable thoughts on the occasion and gave practical guidance/ suggestions to the State Platform members for working with the community more effectively.



Meeting with GVKP/Local NGOs at Nanded, Maharashtra

SHG (Self Help Group) meeting in process



DEVELOPMENTAL INITIATIVES BY CASA IN NORTH ZONE

Two major on-going programmes in CASA's North Zone are as under:

- (1) **Direct Programmes:** In the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh.
- (2) **Partnership Programmes:** In the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh

Apart from these, LCP (Local Capacity for Peace) programme as a tool to analyse the context of conflict, and FFCD (Food for Community Development) programme to ensure livelihood of the community, are being implemented in the above States.

CASA has also taken initiative to enhance the collective work at the grassroots level and to ensure food availability round the year through FFCD, which is running successfully across all the said States under the North Zone of CASA.



Dam constructed under FFCD

Through these diverse interventions, CASA has been able to bring about significant developmental changes in the lives of the poor, marginalised and deprived sections of the society. Bigger initiatives are being taken to organise, empower and create awareness amongst the poor and the marginalised communities to fight for their rights & entitlements through the on Right Based Initiatives have also been taken by CASA to ensure better networking, awareness building, skill & capacity development, women's empowerment and resource mobilisation etc., for perceptible growth at the grassroots level.

The collective effort of various CBOs to fight for their rights is an example of sustainable, effective and successful functioning of People's Organisations at the grassroots level and has contributed considerably towards the developmental changes initiated by CASA.



Meeting of Peoples Organisation

REPORT ON SEMINARS /WORKSHOPS ORGANISED IN NORTH ZONE



Participants of Re-orientation Workshop for Disaster Youth Volunteers (DYVS)

RE-ORIENTATION WORKSHOP FOR DISASTER YOUTH VOLUNTEERS (DYVS)

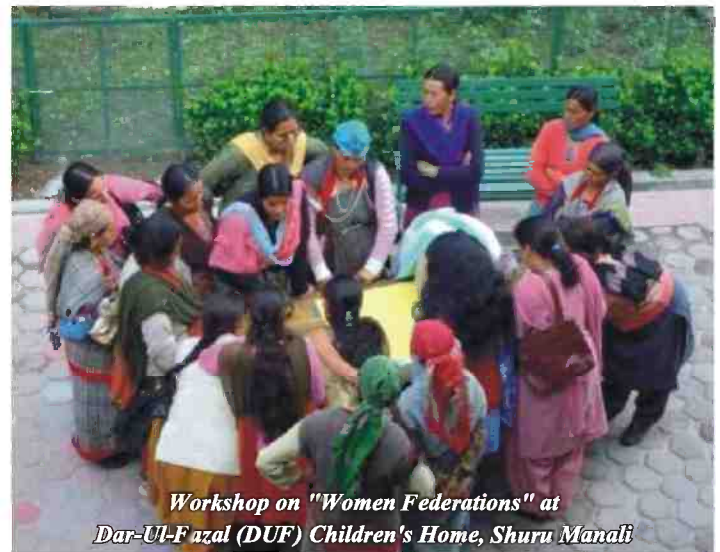
A workshop - supported by CASA - for the Disaster Youth Volunteers (DYVs) was conducted on 28th May, 2011 by the Mountain Forum Himalayas (MFH) at Dar-UI-Fazal (DUF) Children's Home in Shuru Manali, Kullu District, Himachal Pradesh. In total, 65 persons participated in the programme.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Balbir Thakur (SDM, Manali) as the Chief Guest on the occasion. Various other eminent persons namely, Mr. Prem Mahant (NDMA), Mr. Sanjay Sharma (District Youth Sport Services Officer), Mr. Pradeep Sharma (Director of Society for Environment and Rural Awakening), Mrs. Leela Beti (Pradhan of Triveni Mahila Mahasangh) and Ms Ramabi (Director of DUF Children's) also attended the programme and shared their views.

Amongst other matters, discussions on Disaster Management Act 2005, Disaster District Plan 2011 (DDM) prepared jointly by CASA & MFH, concept of community radio, challenges in sustaining youth volunteers and other related issues were held during the workshop. The youth volunteers also shared their experiences and expressed their needs in terms of training and identity.

WOMEN FEDERATION WORKSHOP

A workshop on "Women Federations" was held at Dar-UI-Fazal (DUF) Children's Home at Shuru Manali; District Kullu (Himachal Pradesh) by the MFH on 27th May 2011.



Workshop on "Women Federations" at Dar-UI-Fazal (DUF) Children's Home, Shuru Manali

The workshop (attended by about 100 persons) was facilitated by 5 resource persons. Mr. Pradeep Sharma (Director, Society for Environment and Rural Awakening) was the Chief Guest. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the problems and challenges faced by the rural

women, their priorities and ways & means to address their issues effectively by forming Women's Federations.

WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL AUDIT

A workshop on Social Audit was organised by CASA at Ratanpur on 15th & 16th June 2011. In all, 21 men and 18 women participated in this programme. The objective of this programme was to understand and clarify the concept of Social Audit and to also to educate the people through practical field experiences by collecting data and summarising the same for the purpose.

All the participants found the workshop very helpful specially in developing a clear understanding of the concept, importance and integrities of Social Audit enabling them to take the process forward.

NATIONAL LEVEL MEETING OF STATE AND FIELD COORDINATORS

A National Level meeting of state and field coordinators of CASA was convened for 3 days (from 22nd to 24th June 2011) in Shimla (HP). Selected staff members from all the four Zones of CASA participated in this meeting. The discussions were focused on the changing context and challenges for transformational development, shrinking space for Civil Society organisations, strategies to confront these challenges, the and role of POs and their networks.

NFFWP member, Ms. Roma gave an overview of the Forest Right Act and mentioned about its status besides highlighting opportunities available under the same. This meeting enabled the participants to learn from each in order to integrate the learnings in their future plans for better perspective development in the changing and complex socio economic and political scenario (both at the Micro and Meso levels) in which CASA is working.



Workshop organised by CASA on Social Audit at Ratanpur

“MASIMAHAM” FESTIVAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN BY DMTF MEMBERS AT MUZHUKUTHURAI VILLAGE OF CUDDALORE DISTRICT

Masimaham is a famous festival during the month of February in the coastal and river belts of Tamilnadu. In this festival thousands people assemble on the seashores to worship their forefathers. The uncontrollable crowds and heavy traffics during the festival usually lead to unfortunate accidents, capsizing of boats, thefts and missing children. To avoid such disasters, CASA has decided to use the DMTF members to control the crowds and to give warnings along the seashores and also give first aid to the injured persons with the support of the local police and revenue officials.

On 18.02.2011 a special rescue and first aid camp was organised at Muzhukuthurai village of Cuddalore District. Through this camp during the festival the task force members gave warnings to people along the seashores, and distributed more than 5000 handouts on Health, Organic Farming and Disaster Preparedness amongst them. As desired by the police department, CASA also displayed special Flex Banners on “Road safety” and “Caution against Thefts”.

The task force members under the leadership of Co-ordinator and CBDP trainer regularised the traffic along the seashore. The Muzhukuthurai fishermen arranged a special boat for the rescue team members to help the police personals to control the crowd, give warning and prevent them from taking bath in the sea.



A DMTF member of CASA giving First-aid to injured person

The health communicators attended to the injured persons. First-aid was given to more than 75 persons in CASA's stall and a special public announcement booth was set up to send the messages. More than 60 missing children were recovered from the crowd and handed over to their parents.

This activity of CASA during the festival was very much appreciated by the Government officials, Police department and by the common public as well; and they have requested CASA to organise such camps in the coming years too.



A public announcement booth set up by CASA



DMTF members of CASA



DMTF member giving warning to people along the seashores



DMTF members distributing the handouts on Health, Organic Farming and Disaster Preparedness

PAT MEHERPARA - JUSTICE METED OUT TO MGNREGA LABOURERS

Most of the people in Dulesara and Deopan villages in Jharsuguda district of Orissa are daily wage earners and fall under BPL groups belonging to the Scheduled Caste & Schedule Tribe communities. Poor agriculture labourers primarily, during the off season they are compelled to go out for livelihood, as the benefits of MGNREGA programmes were not reaching them due to malpractices in its implementation.

Incidentally, a road connecting the above two villages with a nearby market place was in a very bad condition, despite spending sizeable amount on its repair. As such, approaching the market place (as well, as their fields) had become extremely cumbersome for the villagers.

In protest, therefore, the Sammilit Vikas Manch (SVM) a PAT Unit of CASA under the leadership of Mr. Mohanlal Podh (President SVM) filed an application under the RTI Act to get certain information on the said road construction work. Instead of providing the related information, however, the Block level authorities were delaying the process, and trying to coax Mr. Mohanlal to withdraw the RTI application. He, however, did not give up and pursued the matter firmly. Consequently, the Block authorities were left with no choice but to provide the information to SVM as called for.

The villagers, subsequently, conducted a Social Audit of the above road construction, and included the Sarapanch, Executive Officer of GP, Block Development Officer (BDO), Sub-Collector and the Collector of Jharsuguda also in the process.

As a result, long pending payments to the labourers for the aforesaid road construction work done under MGNREGA, were finally released by the BDO. After proper reconstruction of the said road, the SVM representatives have decided to apprise all the villagers of the importance of Social Audits with respect to MGNREGA Programmes, in order to dissuade the Government as well as the Gram Panchayat authorities from violating the rules & regulations of the MGNREGA in future.

PAT GUMLA: WORKSHOP ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

To follow up with the winning women candidates in the PRI Elections, PAT Ghamaria (Gumla) organised a workshop on the occasion of the International Women's Day. The objective of the workshop was to create awareness mainly amongst women about their rights & entitlements, and also to make them realise the importance of Panchayat Elections especially with respect to women's reservation and various other important aspects concerning the well being and welfare of women.

The elected members shared their views on their roles for ensuring effective provisions and protection of women's rights and also for finding ways to undertake this task on a war footing.

It is matter of great pleasure and pride that several PAT Gumla Forum members (women) contested and won the Panchayat Elections last year, and are now holding various prestigious posts as Zila Parishad Member, Mukhiya, Ward Member and Panchayat Samiti Sadasya.



*Labourers engaged in MGNREGA Dulesara, Jharsuguda.
(They received the wages after four months of completion of the work.)*

HANDS TOGETHER.....



Houses constructed in Korrampara village in Bustar Division of Chattisgarh

As an integral part of the mainstream programme, Food for Community Development (FFCD) is an emergency response programme of CASA that aims not only to provide immediate relief but also to support and ensure sustainable livelihood of the deprived communities by constructing basic infrastructural facilities for them. These structures include land bunding, deepening of ponds and wells, earthen bunds etc., and provide employment opportunities locally. Unique feature of FFCD is that it incorporates the traditional knowledge and ideas of the community to construct the basic structures. FFCD also contributes towards ensuring a harmonious environment in the villages by bringing all the people on a common platform to work together for each other and also for the society as a whole.

Recently, in Korrampara village in Bustar Division of Chattisgarh, the community members and People's Organisations decided to construct houses for 11 Pardhi

Tribal families for protecting them from heavy rains. This move was supported by a number of other Pardhi Tribal families from the nearby villages. While the construction work of walls was undertaken collectively, the wooden beams and tarpaulins etc., for the roofs were fixed by the concerned families individually.

Besides citing an example of collective efforts, this act also exhibited the community's humanitarian concern for each other which was earlier missing due to internal conflicts.

GRAIN BANK - A COLLECTIVE EFFORT



Grain Bank

Disasters in Uttar Pradesh - in form of Floods in Poorvanchal, Drought in Bundelkhand or Fire - are extremely devastating always. Consequently, most of the mitigating efforts seem to go futile. Also, such disasters tend to make people's life quite unsecured and vulnerable. The resultant greatest danger, however, is that of food security of the affected community.

In this scenario, the challenge is not only to prepare the community for disaster mitigation practices in order to minimise the losses, but also to ensure immediate availability of food for the victims. This developed the concept of Grain Banks which - although old - is unique in the sense that it is owned and managed completely by the community. The Grain Banks not only ensure availability of food during the disasters, but also create and develop mutual trust and confidence amongst people. With the initiatives of CASA and the Peoples' Organisations in Uttar Pradesh,

Due to fire in our village, everything was burnt out; nothing was left; not even a penny to spend or any grain to eat. Around 80 families were at the verge of starvation; and other than assurances, no help was coming forth from the administration.. Suddenly we realised that the Grain Bank established in the village is still safe., Consequently, the Grain Bank was opened and arrangements for free food distribution were made for everyone. This incident has increased everyone's faith in the Grain Bank and also enhanced the reach of the Grain Bank, where more than 8 quintals of wheat is stored presently.

(Parvati Devi)
Marachi Tola
Deoria-UP

around 42 Grain Banks are operational with a total cash holding of more than Rs. 79 lacs. These Grain Banks have lead to formation of 382 Goat Banks and 75 Pig Banks.

At the community level, this process has initiated activities like Collective Farming and Traditional Seeds Bank etc., and changed people's perspective especially by including the landless, deprived and marginalised people in the above activities.

SOURCE OF SECURED LIVELIHOOD - PASTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT

Livestock and cattle rearing form two most important sources of livelihood for the rural population of Rajasthan.

In absence of any proper provision for pasture land development and encroachment by powerful people, many communities including tribals, migrate from one place to the other, in search of fodder for their livestock. Under its FFCD programme, therefore, CASA has taken initiatives to develop and protect the uneven and stony pasture land of Kacher ki Dhani village in Bhinder Block, where more than 50% are tribals. With the active community participation, therefore, a stone hedge of 30000 cubic feet has been constructed in the village.

As a result, fodder production in the above areas has increased considerably. Encouraged by this, people in the community have formed a Protection Committee to prevent the intruders from entering into their land. Also, with mutual understanding, effective measures for fodder growing and harvesting are now being taken by them collectively.



Pig Bank - initiative of CASA and Peoples' Organisation

REMINISCENCES



INFORMATION BULLETIN

COMMITTEE ON RELIEF AND GIFT SUPPLIES,
NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF INDIA

MAY 1966

4, Mathura Road
Jungpura - A
NEW DELHI - 14

Here and there....

'BREAD FOR THE WORLD' AIDS 250,000 INDIANS

A 1.2 crore voluntary "feeding programme" is being launched in India by the 'Bread for the World', a charitable organization of Protestant Churches in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The project, which will be carried out in Calcutta and parts of North Orissa and South Bihar, will provide meals, milk and light food to about 250,000 children and expectant and nursing mothers in India over a period of four months, beginning from May.

The National Christian Council of India will be responsible for the distribution of supplies and will be assisted in this task by local committee representing, among others the Y.M.C.A., Protestant Church agencies and welfare organizations. The programme will be carried out in close cooperation with the Government of India.

Already, a supply of several thousand tonnes of rice from Thailand has been reserved in Bangkok for the project and large quantities of milk powder as well as dried vegetables will be rushed from Germany when storage arrangements have been made.

Mr. H. J. Diehl, Head of the three-man delegation from the 'Bread for the World', who was in Delhi in March to discuss the project with the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture, said: "The German people still remember vividly their own situation 20 years ago when they received help from various countries for their recovery, and they know what it is to be both hungry and to be recipients of gifts. Knowing this we offer our help to feed hungry people. We do this only as a measure of voluntary humanitarian assistance in our Christian responsibility.



Bhanu, one of the thousands fished to benefit from the 'Bread for the World' aid.

JAMMU WAR EVACUEES

Return to their Villages

Mr. B. C. Mathur, Relief Commissioner for Jammu and Kashmir, reports that Evacuees from the Jaurian sector have returned to their villages to resettle. They are living in tents while their houses are being rebuilt and their fields reclaimed. But those belonging to Chhamb area have still not moved, being reluctant to return to the border area. 3,500 of them are at Ramkot, 2,500 at Challen, 6,700 at Khoon, 6,000 at Mansar, 6,800 at Manwal, 1,500 at Muttal, 1,500 at Jhaffarkoti and 4,000 at Mutti—in all about 30,000. If they do not go back just now they will be

Contd. on Page 6

FELICITATIONS



**Mr. Oinam Jugeshwar Metei,
Field Officer, CASA, Imphal of Manipur state
completed 25 years of service in CASA on 01 June 2011.**



**Mr. Alope Kumar Ghosh,
Addl. Emergency Officer, CASA, East Zone
completed 25 years of service in CASA on 17 June 2011.**



CASA is registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, and with the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India under the Foreign Contributions Regulation act. Donations to Church's auxiliary for social action are exempted from Income Tax under Section 80-G.

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