

File No. R 7/61

1961 .

Collection No.

Office of the Adviser to the

Governor of Assam: SHILLONG.

Research Branch.

Pros.  
Serial Nos.

### SUBJECT

Research & Publication Committee - Resolution regarding  
formulation of publication schemes for State Archives -  
Recommendation to compile descriptive lists.

Previous References

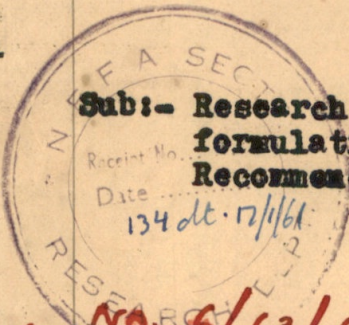
Later References



RESEARCH BRANCH.

File No. R 7/61  
of 1961

Sub:- Research & Publication Committee - Resolution regarding  
formulation of publication schemes for State Archives -  
Recommendation to compile descriptive lists.



Sl:-1-4 No. 6/63/60 A. 10 dtd 10/10 Oct 1960 from  
the undersigned to the Govt of India  
Ministry of Education, New Delhi.

Puc - put up for perusal.  
which it appears that the paper is  
related to the Publicity Branch.  
If approved may be marked  
over to the Publicity Officer, NEFA for  
necessary action.

Publicity Officer.

H. R. O.  
14.10.60

*[Signature]*

DE. NO. 8152  
21-10-60

CRO

This may be sent to HRO. for  
his perusal and n.a.

B. Datta  
1.11.60

Stamp: HRO, North-East Frontier Agency, Received by, Receipt No. 2684, Date 1.11.60

Put up in a file.  
Have we got anything  
on the subject?  
8/11/60

Ref. to  
28/11

GP  
28/11

A. SUPDT.

*[Signature]*

17/11/61  
*[Signature]*  
18/11/61

HRO's orders above, the P.U.C. are put up in a file.  
No other previous paper seen to have been received in  
the Branch.

Put up after history  
the book on the NEFA is completed  
28/11



No.6/63/60-A.10  
Government of India  
Ministry of Education

New Delhi, the

4/11 September, 1960  
12/11 Asvin, 1882 (S).

From

Shri D.N. Tiwari,  
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To

All State Governments.

Sub:-

Research & Publication Committee - 30th meeting  
held in New Delhi in July, 1960 - Resolution  
regarding formulation of publication schemes for  
State Archives - Recommendation to compile  
descriptive lists.

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Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith an extract  
from the proceedings of the Thirtieth meeting of the  
Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical  
Records Commission held in New Delhi on the 8th July, 1960

P.T.O.....

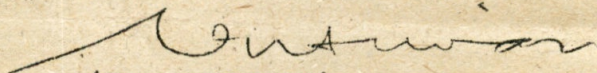
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION  
North East Frontier Agency  
Received 11557-11560  
Date 7.10.60  
File No.



-:2:-

for necessary action. The action taken in the matter may kindly be intimated to the Director, National Archives of India who is also the Secretary of the Indian Historical Records Commission, at an early date.

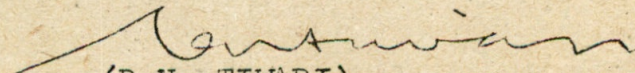
Yours faithfully,



(D.N. TIWARI)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Copy forwarded to the Director, National Archives of India, New Delhi with reference to his letter No. F.5-3/60-C dated the 22nd September, 1960.



(D.N. TIWARI)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.



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RESEARCH & PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Extracts from the Proceedings of the Thirtieth Meeting

New Delhi, 8 July, 1960.

The thirtieth meeting of the Research and Publication Committee was held at the National Archives of India, New Delhi on 8 July, 1960 with Shri P.N. Kirpal, Educational Adviser to the Government of India in the Chair.

X                      X                      X                      X                      X                      X

5.                      Resolution by Shri N.B. Roy re: publication of State Records

"The Committee strongly recommends to those State Governments that have not so far drawn up any publication programme of historical records within their respective custody to formulate it immediately in their programme.

It further recommends that if the Archives in the aforesaid States be not well organized for implementation of such programme, they be pleased to assign such work to the respective Universities within their jurisdiction".

Explanatory note. States like Bombay, Hyderabad, Madras, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have done laudable work in this field, but there are other States, e.g. West Bengal and Assam which do not appear to have chalked out any programme of publication, though the records at their disposal from a large mass, are of a varied character, and of great national importance.

X                      X                      X                      X                      X                      X

Secretary's note. At its first meeting held in 1942, the Committee impressed upon the then Provincial and State Governments the need for undertaking a well articulated publication programme following the lead given by the Central Government. The matter was reemphasised by the Committee at its 19th meeting held in December, 1951. The action taken by the various Governments in this behalf has been recorded in the proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission, Volume XIX, Part I (pages 47-48). This was reiterated again by the Committee at its 28th meeting held in December, '58. Generally, it may be stated that all the leading record offices now have publication programmes of their own West Bengal, whose name has been specially mentioned in the Explanatory note, is going ahead with a very important press-listing programme.

The general trend of the various publication programmes indicated above seems to be in favour of reproduction of full texts of a necessarily limited number of documents selected from one or more collections. The evident object is to make readily available to the student at a distance whatever significant archival material may be found in the different repositories in India and thus to render unnecessary his visits to the repositories, away from his home. Laudable as the object is, it is doubtful if it will ever be possible to realise it in full. The recent accumulations in most of the repositories are too immense in bulk to be capable of being covered by our publication programme however vigorously and efficiently pursued. Selection and analysis, let alone textual editing, is a tremendously slow process, and the trained staff needed for this purpose is extremely difficult to get. To attach simultaneously all the important series in a record office is a task which few repositories have resources to undertake. The Public Record Office, London, after more than sixty years work has hardly completed publication of the medieval portion only of one set of records and scarcely touched the others. The Historical Manuscript Commission, in spite of its 200 volumes, has been able to attack only a small proportion of family records of first class importance and finds itself deploring the slow progress of those it has in hand. Enterprises taken up in this country have by no means been productive of more spectacular results.

P.T.O.....



Time has therefore come when the entire position ought to be reviewed and it is to be decided whether the Record Offices in the country should be permanently committed to the textual publication programmes following the traditional pattern, or whether they should not rather restrict the scope of full publication only to very special cases, while laying greater emphasis on the compilation of descriptive lists and guides which may be of more practical use to the student at a distance.

Moving his resolution Shri N.B. Roy said that so far as the first part of his resolution was concerned his main intention was to draw the attention of the Research and Publication Committee to the vast wealth of materials that were available in the West Bengal Record Office. These records which started from the East India Company's early rule, threw important light on the social, economic and political aspects not only of Bengal but of the whole of India. There were only two ways by which these materials could be brought within the reach of the research scholars. One was by publishing selections from these records and second by preparing descriptive lists of them. As far as he was aware the West Bengal Government was publishing press-lists of Land Revenue records only. The emphasis therefore, appeared to be only on one aspect. There was a strong need for the West Bengal Government to work out a well articulated publication programme.

Shri N.R. Khadgawat, said that most of the members were perhaps not aware of the miserable plight of the records in the States Archives. The places where the records were usually placed by most of the State Governments, were not repositories in the correct sense of the terms, but like godowns, where records were stacked in heaps. What was more important was that the Record Office must have a good building and adequate arrangements for proper housing, maintenance and preservation of records in its custody. Preparation of descriptive lists of these records and other reference media should then follow. All this would take time. Besides, most of the State Governments could not provide adequate funds for meeting even these essential minimum requirements of their Record Offices. Scholars should realise the genuine difficulties of the Record Offices. But if there were some Universities and institutions who on their own initiative were willing to undertake any publication programme, he was sure the State Record Offices would extend fullest co-operation to them.

Supporting Shri Khadgawat Dr. Bisheshwar Prasad said that the records in West Bengal and Assam were not properly housed. More important thing, therefore, was that they should acquire good buildings first before they undertook any publication programme.

Shri N.B. Roy said he had no complaint against the arrangement of records in the West Bengal Record Office. What he wanted to stress in his resolution was that the State Record Office should formulate a programme for publication of records in its custody. If the State Govt. was not in a position to undertake the responsibility, there were a number of Universities in Bengal which, he was sure, would be willing to take up the work.

Shri G.N. Chandra, Keeper of Records of West Bengal Government said that it would be better to publish descriptive lists than selections from records.

The following amended resolution, which was moved by the Chair, was passed:

Resolution IV. The Committee strongly recommends that those State Governments that have not so far drawn up any programme for publication of their records, may formulate it as early as possible and that in these programmes strong emphasis should be placed on the compilation of descriptive lists rather than of texts in extenso.