

NAGAS IN MANIPUR

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GUWAHATI, March 15 – The Government of India has decided to complete the process of talks with the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (I-M) within this year, and the leadership of the militant outfit has also agreed to the Government's decision.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), contrary to what has been reported in a section of the media, has not decided to withdraw the ceasefire agreement with the Khaplang faction of the NSCN.

It may be mentioned here that talks with NSCN (I-M) have been going on since 1997 and the slow progress of the talks had become a matter of serious concern.

Meanwhile, MHA sources revealed that the Centre is willing to extend the ceasefire agreement with the Khaplang faction of the NSCN, which expires on April 29. Sources, however, said that the Centre has expressed its displeasure to the NSCN (K) leaders on the outfit extending help, directly or indirectly, to different militant groups of North East. The issue will be taken up again when formal meeting is held between the Centre and NSCN (K) is held to discuss the issue of extending the ceasefire agreement.

A ceasefire agreement with the NSCN (K) was signed in the year 2000 but till today formal talks on political issues are yet to start. In the meantime, there have been reports that different militant groups of the North East including the United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent) are using the facilities of the NSCN (K) in Myanmar.