

General J J Singh
PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)
Governor
Arunachal Pradesh



RAJ BHAWAN
ITANAGAR - 791111
TEL : +91 360 2212432
FAX : +91 360 2212442
genjjsingh@rediffmail.com

March 16, 2009

AN APPEAL

Dear Arunachalees,

I am in enormous pain to see our pristine green asset, for which, like any other Arunachalee, I always personally took great pride, goes to smoke. It is a huge ecological disaster, which will have significant and unacceptable impact for years to come. It is high time, we shoulder our responsibilities and fight against this menace of forest fire. I think if we don't do it now, it will never get done.

What pains me most, is that the Dariya Hills, which is one of the few sources of water, is engulfed by fire for last few days. Without its green cover, we are going to see another Cherrapunji like phenomenon here in Itanagar. The huge ash clouds may provide a problem for aviation, but for us and to our prized flora and fauna, it is an environmental catastrophe. Reverse to its carbon sinks capability, the area is now prone to landslides and other disasters.

Our people all around the State are not arsonists, but they are using fire as the most efficient and cheap tool to manage the natural vegetation for their negligible productive purposes. Unfortunately, some of these fires become uncontrolled and have negative impacts on the forest ecosystems. Main losers because of these negative impacts are the people, its flora and fauna, and the country in particular and world as a whole.

Therefore, I would like to appeal to every citizen and organization, including government departments, Non-governmental organizations, Doordarshan, All India Radio, media persons to lend a hand in order to stop and prevent forest fire in the State. In this direction, I would like to place my appreciation to the leading local newspapers for highlighting and focusing on this issue of paramount importance.

Once again, let us save our forests for our future generations.

Jai Arunachal, Jai Hind.

Gen JJ Singh,
PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)