

**PRESS RELEASE SL No- 926****Governor calls for co-opting Arunachali youth in BRO projects**

**ITANAGAR,Sept.3:** The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Gen. JJ Singh today met the Union MoS of Defence Shri MM Pallam Raju at Arunachal House, New Delhi. DG, BRO was also present during the meeting.

During the meeting, the Governor informed the Union Minister that BRO which is presently executing vital road infrastructure projects particularly the Balipara – Charduar –Tawang (BCT) and Orang –Kalaktang-Shergaon- Rupa –Tenga (OKSRT) Projects in the border state of Arunachal Pradesh, is facing various challenges in carrying out road construction works adding that these hindrances are causing delay in the completion of the road projects in the state. He has laid emphasis on speeding up the works for the faster socio-economic development of the State.

Detailing the requirements, Gen. Singh said that due to shortage of critical equipment in terms of high capacity Stone/Sand Crushers, BRO is facing acute deficit of construction materials and called for addressing the shortage of Critical Equipments on top priority. He added that since the deficit in construction material is huge and is unlikely to improve in the coming years with present crushing capability, induction of high capacity crushing machines is also essential.

Another vital issue Gen. Singh pointed out was the acute shortage of labour. Pointing out that Road Construction is a labour intensive job, he said recruitment of labour from traditional sources viz. States of Jharkhand and Orissa is also dwindling due to availability of local employment for infrastructure projects and welfare schemes viz, NREGA in their home states. The overall shortage of Labour presently in the project is estimated between 6000-7000.

Further, calling for immediate reviewing of Labour wages by enhancing the quantum of fund available for a project, he informed that BRO has a major problem of wage disparity in the wages being paid to labour vis a vis wages paid by Army to porters and by private contractors. He added that there is immediate requirement to cater for prevailing, market driven labour wages i.e approx Rs. 9000/ pm in the sanctioned jobs.

The Issue of pending forest and environmental clearances for Tawang- Tezpur road was also discussed in detail.

The Governor further asked the Minister to direct BRO authorities to avail the services of local entrepreneurs and Arunachal youth in addressing the labour and material shortage issue by floating PPP projects. This would lead to faster progress of projects and also provide livelihood opportunities to the local youth of the state.

The Union Minister assured to look into all the issues raised by the Governor on top priority and indicated that Border Roads program in Arunachal Pradesh is one of the most important and strategic project of the Defence Ministry.

**Sd/ D.Dodum,i/c PRO to Governor**