

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Shri JP Rajkhowa chaired a high-level meeting to review the road communication in the State at Raj Bhawan, Itanagar on 23rd July 2015.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that the State of Arunachal Pradesh has huge potential to prosper in tourism and horticulture sectors. It has scenic beauty and number of places of religious tourism and adventure sports. But due to bad roads, the State has been neither able to fully harness its potential in tourism nor economically benefit from its horticultural produces due to bad roads.

The Governor said that road is the most vital and prioritised issue for the public and it is the responsibility of all the road construction to build quality and durable roads. He cautioned them of time and cost overruns.

Sharing his recent experiences of travelling by road from Guwahati to Itanagar through Hollongi and Gumto and Itanagar-Putin-Ziro, the Governor said that roads are not good and have lots of potholes. There is no drainage system, which adds to its perpetual damage.

Referring to recent road blockage, particularly at Karsingsa, the Governor advised the executing agencies to consult the Central Road Institute, Pune or technical institutes like North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Nirjuli and Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati to address the perennial challenges. He suggested for alternate road or flyover over the sinking zone.

The Governor also expressed his displeasure on the condition of Capital roads. He advised use of latest machines and technologies and suggested that a high-level task force may be formed to address the road conditions. Advising on the bottlenecks in implementation of road projects, the Governor called for concerted effort of the local public, executing agencies and State and Central Governments. He also suggested that the maintenance cost for fixed duration in the cost of road projects must be included to sort out the issue of maintenance of roads.

In the meeting Governor informed that he had already taken up with the President of India, Prime Minister and concerned Union Ministers for special consideration on low population based road projects including Pradan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana and construction of bridges of more than 75 meters by the State Department.

State PWD Minister Shri Gojen Gadi apprised that State Government is committed to provide good roads. He said that Chief Minister Shri Nabam Tuki has already instructed him to take all measures to redress the problems of road communication. PWD minister further informed that a bridge has been proposed avoiding the sinking zone in Karsingsa block point.

The PWD minister assured to immediately take up the road in Capital Complex, VKV Chimpu road, Itanagar-Poma road, Gumto Road and Ziro Putin road. He also assured that 70% of the sector roads in the State Capital will be completed within this financial year.

Participating in the discussion the senior officials of State PWD and RWD, BRO and MoRTH and NHIDCL informed the challenges in road project implementation including short working season, shortfall of labour availability, law and order issue, land acquisition and forest clearance issues. The BRO officials informed the district administration and forest department are very prompt and helpful but they face problem in collection of aggregates. They also suggested for review of central government expenditure norms for the State owing to the different working season.

Secretary to Governor Shri Shurbir Singh, Principal Secretary, Public Works Department (PWD) Shri Satya Gopal, Er. T.H. Tayung, Secretary, Rural Works Department (RWD), Chief Engineers of State PWD, Highways and RWD, Chief Engineers of Border Road Organisation projects, Arunank, Vartak, Udayak and Brahman and representatives of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and representative of National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. also took part in the discussion.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, July 23, 2015