

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

**Rejoinder by Raj Bhavan on Media Reports criticizing the Governor's Statement
on Tourist inflow into Arunachal Pradesh.**

Attention of the Raj Bhavan has been brought to the following News items appeared in Local Dailies published from Itanagar.

- (i) 'Tourism Department disown Governor's Statement'-published in Independent Review on Friday, November 6, 2015;
- (ii) 'Tourist inflow healthy' - published in Eastern Sentinel on Friday, November 6, 2015 – a letter to the Editor by Shri Dalin Tana, Media Liaison Officer, Department of Tourism, GoAP.
- (iii) 'Tourism Dept. refutes Governor's claim' – published in the Arunachal Times on Friday, November 6, 2015.
- (iv) 'Guv's 'tourist inflow' remark 'shocks' deptt' – published in Echo of Arunachal on Friday, 6 November 2015.
- (v) 'ANSU seeks apology from Guv - Tourism department express dismay' – published in the Arunachal Pioneer on Friday, November 6, 2015.

The above News Reports have criticized the Governor for his alleged statement on Tourist inflow in Arunachal Pradesh and poor performance of State Tourism Department etc, "without knowing the real facts and figures, may damage the hard-earned reputation of the tourism department."

The Governor has expressed surprise at the statements made by the Parliamentary Secretary, Tourism, GoAP, Shri Mama Natung, Director, Tourism, GoAP Shri Karma Leki, and Media Liaison Officer of Tourism Department Shri Dalin Tana, publicly criticizing the Head of the State in spite of the fact that these three functionaries are part of the GoAP official machinery. They never cared to apprise the Governor about the activities of the Department during the last five months nor did they verify from Raj Bhavan as to the real statement made by the Governor at the Press Conference held on 3rd November, 2015. While the Governor mentioned about the poor performance of the Department of Tourism in 2014-15, the Department has claimed the increase of tourist inflow during the years 2011-2012 to 2013-2014 and on increase in revenue, also for winning a number of National and International Awards. The Governor appreciates the Tourism Department for their reported performance till 2013-14. However, the Governor is not convinced that the Tourist inflow into the State did not fall during the financial year 2014-2015.

The afore- stated Parliamentary Secretary and other Officers in the Tourism Department have failed to publish the figures of Tourist inflow and Revenue earned during the financial year 2014-2015 and also they did not mention the figure of the current financial year 2015-2016 till the month of October, 2015. Why they have failed to quote these figures, need to be informed to the Media, so that the people of Arunachal Pradesh would know the actual performance earned, during the periods as above.

Raj Bhavan also clarified that, in the Press Conference, the Governor had mentioned about the fall of tourism flow to Arunachal Pradesh based on a Front Page Report published in Eastern Sentinel of October 12, 2015, under the caption "Overall NE tourism up 40%; Arunachal tourism down -52%". The Sub-head written by a Senior Reporter, Jackson Tayeng stated "After damning report of World Bank on business environment, International Business Times quoted Union Tourism Ministry data that "exposes" how tourists are avoiding Arunachal Pradesh as a destination". Some portions of the report are quoted for general information. During the year 2013, number of foreign tourists who visited to Arunachal Pradesh stood at 10,846, but it came down to 5,204 in 2014. In respect of the other North Eastern States, the flow of foreign tourists increased during the same period namely, Sikkim from 31,698 to 49,175, Assam 17,638 to 21,537, Nagaland from 3,304 to 3,679, Manipur from 1908 to 2,769, Mizoram from 800 to 836, Tripura from 11,853 to 26,688, Meghalaya from 6,773 to 8,664. The State Tourism Department has moral responsibility to explain to the Raj Bhavan as well as to the people of Arunachal Pradesh why this kind of un-happy situation had taken place. If the Report published by the Govt. of India quoting the National Business Times (NBT) report is not correct, it would be relevant to know whether the Tourism Department had issued a contradiction thereon, and if so, copy of the same should be sent to the Raj Bhavan. The Media Report had clearly stated that at the time when the entire North Eastern Region had seen a growth by 40% in tourism industry, according to the IBT Report, why it had fallen by 52% in Arunachal Pradesh, whereas it has increased by 55% in Sikkim, and Tripura by 125%, for example.

The Governor at his Press Conference had specifically observed that due to absolutely poor road connectivity to Arunachal Pradesh and deplorable internal roads in the State, including the twin Capital of Itanagar and Naharlagun and the surrounding areas of tourist attractions, must have largely contributed to the drastic fall in the tourist inflow into the State in just one year's time. The Raj Bhavan has tried to impress upon all concerned for taking priority steps to improve the road conditions when the working season is going to be over within the next couple of month's time. The Raj Bhavan also desires that the State Government officials including Parliamentary Secretary should desist from issuing public statement criticizing the Head of the State, without verifying the facts from Raj Bhavan.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, November 12, 2015