

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
ITANAGAR**

PRESS RELEASE

Self Help Group empowers the women of the society particularly in rural villages and it should be encouraged: First Lady of the State

Avail financial assistance from NABARD through State departments: Governor

A twenty-four member Self Help Group from Panya Village, Aalo, West Siang District led by Smt Gedam Kamchi called on the First Lady of the State Smt Rita Rajkhowa at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on 20th May 2016. The SHG, which has just come back from self organised exposure tour to Nagaland and Meghalaya and shared their experiences with the First Lady.

Interacting with the SHG, Smt Rajkhowa said that Self Help Group empowers the women of the society particularly in rural villages and it should be encouraged. She advised them to take up floriculture, handlooms and handicrafts, horticulture and animal rearing, in which they are expertise and which are viable in rural areas. She advised them to start fruit or food processing units as the area around Aalo in West Siang District is known for its abundant horticultural products such as orange and pineapples. Such activities will not only empower them socially but also financially, Smt Rajkhowa emphasised.

Appreciating the women for coming out of their houses and exploring the world around, she said that it a wonderful initiative and must be other SHGs must emulate to develop new and better ideas and broaden ones mental horizon.

Sharing their experiences of their maiden excursion outside the State, the members informed that they are very much impressed by the cleanliness of Mawlynnong Village, Meghalaya, the world's cleanest village and pristine forest areas in Nagaland and encouraged to start for village or rural tourism in their village. Inspired by the tourism sector in both the States and inviting the advice from First Lady for the tourism venture, they informed that if good roads, adequate water supply and power are there in the village, their enterprise will be successful. The First Lady informed that the Governor has already taken up the issue of road connectivity in the State with the State Government, North Eastern Council, Department of North Eastern Region and Ministries of Union Government and it is expected that it will be adequately addressed very soon.

Later, the SHG met the Governor Shri JP Rajkhowa. He suggested them various avenues through which they can enhance their financial status, thereby raising socio-economic level and standard of living.

The Governor advised the members of the group to register their NGO and avail financial assistance from (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) NABARD through departments of Agriculture, Handlooms and Handicrafts, Industry, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, etc. He said that there are many programmes and schemes of the State and Central Governments, where the Self Help Groups will be provided trainings and financial assistance for sustaining their activities.

PRO to Governor
Arunachal Pradesh
ITANAGAR, May 20, 2016