

Singh to move PM for green, peace bonuses

ITANAGAR, Dec 10: Arunachal Pradesh Governor Gen (Retd) JJ Singh is likely to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to push for the early release of green and peace bonuses for the state, reports his PRO.

In response to a telephone call from the PM's principal secretary TKA Nair, Singh forwarded the up-to-date status of Arunachal's financial position and its likely impact on the 6th Pay Commission. Though the state government is keen on implementing the commission's recommendations, the financial resources available with it renders it helpless to do so without the centre's aid, he said.

Though the 13th Finance Commission may address the issue to some extent, the award will be implemented only after April 2010, he said. Expressing confidence that Arunachal would become self sufficient by the end of the 13th Five Year Plan, he pleaded

that the centre help and support this frontier and strategically important state until then.

The governor, however, said that most of the state plan requirements have been taken care of by the PM's package, the current annual and future plans, as well as by the finance minister's package for the border areas.

The governor has had the state's financial position scrutinized. It is heartening to note that many planning and financial processes have been carried out in Arunachal in the last two years, providing the state with a sounder financial base compared to the serious crisis situation 4 or 5 years ago, he said.

He added that the state expects to earn revenue through development of hydropower, increasing connectivity, attracting tourists and implementing VAT and other tax and non-tax incomes. The projected revenue earning figures in the 12th and the 13th Plan pe-

riods are very encouraging, he said.

Highlighting the ever improving governance of the state, Singh said the quality of implementation has improved drastically over the last couple of years with increased transparency through greater use of websites and instituting of monitoring committees at various levels from the state headquarters down to the districts level.

Overall, the performance of the state on many fronts is very encouraging and hence the process needs to be strengthened further, he said.

Stressing on peace bonus, the governor pointed out that Arunachal has not only continued to remain an island of peace in the troubled North East, the nation has an obligation to hold its hand for the interim period while the state is going through the current phase of development to become the future powerhouse of the country, the report adds.