

State's children need a Bal Bhavan: First lady

ITANAGAR, May 23: Arunachal Pradesh first lady Anupama Singh has said there is need for a bal bhavan in the state in the line of the National Bal Bhavan (NBB) in New Delhi, reports PRO to Governor.

Impressed by the activities in the NBB, Singh, who visited it some time back, said establishing a similar institution in the state would help develop creative thinking, confidence, secular attitude and love for values among the state's children through non-formal educational activities.

During her visit, the first lady, who was accompanied by former Arunachal Pradesh State Women's Commission chairperson Jarjum Ete, was impressed by the bhavan's calendared activities involving science education, creative and performing arts, home management, photography, library, literature and physical education.

The tiny tots in the bhavan are provided with opportunities for self-discovery, self-expression and experimentation in various areas, and to inculcate love, concern and responsibility amongst them towards the environment is also a part



The first lady accompanied by Ete interacting with children at Bal Bhavan, New Delhi

of the activities.

"A well groomed reading habit developed at an early stage not only improves the knowledge of children but also broadens their outlook towards the outside world while enhancing their capabilities," Singh said. Children should be taught to live healthy lives, so that they continue to maintain it as they grow, she added.

Established in 1956 as an autonomous body under the union human resource department, the NBB seeks to offer help in boosting the talents of children from remand homes, resettlement colonies and schools for the mentally challenged, irrespective of caste, creed, status and sex.

The NBB has more than 70-odd branches in different parts of the country, including Manipur and Jammu. In addition to extra-curricular activities, the bhavan gives special attention to singing, painting, tree plantation, discussions and creative writing.

The special attractions in the NBB are a mini train, an aviary, an aquarium, a science park, a national training resource center, a Sanskrit shilpgram (specializing in traditional creative and performing arts), a traffic park and a library.

The bhavan organizes local and international level programmes, science fairs and integration camps, the report adds.