

Echo of Arunachal
Friday, 25 June, 2010

Governor vows to mitigate Dibang Valley miseries



| Staff REPORTER |

ITANAGAR, June 24: Amid the popular demand that the Centre should declare a 'State of Emergency' in the calamity-affected Dibang Valley district, Governor Gen (Rtd) J J Singh today said he will move the PMO and the National Disaster Management Authority for providing suitable relief measures to help mitigate the sufferings of affected people of the district.

The district's people have been confronting with the crisis-like situation owing to complete disruption

of road communication following rain-triggered floods and landslides since last four months that led to acute food shortage in the district.

Paying a brief visit to Dibang Valley this morning to take stock of the prevailing situation there after the 'black March' monsoon trailed devastations all around, the Governor told a public meeting at Anini, "I am deeply touched with the grim situation and your sufferings. I assure you, I will try my level best to do away with your sufferings. I will soon take up the mat-

ter with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and the National Disaster Management Authority seeking an appropriate relief package for this remote border district."

Expressing his solidarity with the flood-affected people, Gen Singh, who was accompanied by a team of officials and media persons, besides his maternal uncle and aunt settled in California (USA), distributed some relief items, including medicines, vegetable and other edibles carried with him among the local people. *(Contd. on P-3)*

Declare emergency in DV, urges DC

ANINI, June 24: Dibang Valley district witnessing unprecedented heavy rainfall since March this year with the onset of monsoon likely to result in even heavier rainfall, the situation remains grim despite all possible efforts being made by the district administration.

Miseries are mounting on the common people due to shortage of food stuff and other essential items with the district remaining cut off from rest of the state following the damage to the road communication triggered by the incessant rains in this part of the world.

In a letter to the chief secretary, the Dibang Valley DC Tayor Jempen has drawn his attention on the district's gloomy scenario and urged him to move the state govt for declaration of Dibang Valley district as disaster affected area and subsequently for declaration of emergency in the district. *(Contd. on P-3)*

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The Governor directed the DC to maintain transparency and accountability while implementing the relief works, and to ensure that the relief materials reach out to those 'real' affected victims without any prejudice.

Stating that the locals have great potential in entrepreneurial field, the Governor told the gathering that he would start an ambitious project for the people of the entire district to help them earn income by using the locally available resources like bamboo, cane, etc.

He also suggested the people to set up 'Anini Cooperative Society' for marketing of local products in large quantities. The products can also be supplied to Army and ITBP, provided the local people supply these in bulk, he opined, adding that in this regard, an agreement with Defense Ministry is being arrived at.

"Your defense is our duty, don't worry," the Governor said, adding that with the coming up of proposed Arunachal Scout, the state would be more secure from any external aggression.

Local MLA Rajesh Tacho, while expressing happiness on the Governor's visit to the area in this crucial juncture, requested Gen Singh to initiate for establishment of an Army brigade headquarters at Anini. The presence of Army in the district would not only help the people to sell their products, but also facilitate in maintaining proper road connectivity, he said. He also urged for adequate supply of essential commodities and fuel to overcome the ongoing problems confronting the people badly.

Earlier, DC Tavor Jempen apprised the Governor about the district's situation through a power-point presentation showing all the major problematic areas of landslides and road blockades along the Anini to Roing road.

The DC said despite the BRO's untiring effort, the roads are yet to be restored, adding that the situation was more aggravated when a major bailey bridge along the district's lifeline, Anini-Roing road, was washed away on April 13 last. He requested the Governor to impress upon the BRO for early restoration of road communication to the district.

Declare emergency...

As is evident from the letter received from the HQs, 48 BRTF, the restoration of the road connectivity is likely to take more time than expected, the DC said while making it clear that there is urgent need of airlifting of bulldozers, bridge materials etc at various locations so that work can be undertaken at multiple points to restore the road connectivity at the earliest.

Despite the airdropping of sorties by Jagson and Indian Air Force choppers, Jempen said it still remains inadequate to meet the demands. Therefore, he pressed for more additional sorties to this disaster affected zone.

The two micro hydels—Chini-Ahfra and Awapani have also been damaged substantially thereby disrupting the power supply, the DC said adding all stocks of various fuels have also been completely exhausted resulting in severe hampering of administrative works. (DIPRO)