A Delegation of Ex Servicemen (ESMs) of Arunachal Pradesh led by Wing Commander Gyati Kago (Retd) called on the Governor Shri JP Rajkhowa at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on 9th February 2016.

The Governor felicitated the ESMs for the valuable service they had render during their active service in the armed forces and for continuing to contribute towards the socio-economic progress of the State. He advised them to motivate youth of the State towards service in armed forces.

Responding to the memorandum submitted by them, the Governor instructed for constitution of the Rajya Sainik Board in the State at the earliest. He opined that having the board will facilitate the Ex-Servicemen and their families to avail benefits from the welfare schemes of Kendriya Sainik Board.

Calling for update on the War Memorial Project at Itanagar, the Governor emphasized that complete names of the martyrs should be meticulously collected and reflected in the War Memorial, which could also become a much sought after tourist attraction. If required, Rajya Sainik Board should also be consulted apart from consulting expert architects and other stakeholders and agencies.

The Director, Relief and Rehabilitation and Disaster Management, Smt Y.W. Ringu, who is the Ex-officio Director, apprised the Governor that the Rajya Sainik Board for the State has been notified and already construction of Sainik Aram Ghar at Tawang, Khonsa and Itanagar has been taken up.

The Director further informed that proposals have been sent to the State Government for allotment of land for construction of Office Building for Rajya Sainik Board in the State Capital and for fund allocation for construction of office building of Zilla Sainik Board at Tawang and Khonsa. She also informed that notification has been issued for Grievance Redressal Cell for the Serving and Retired Soldiers at State Level.

Earlier, the ESMs delegation submitted a memorandum, which included establishment of RSB, proper inscription of War Martyrs in the War Memorial and welfare schemes for next of kin of martyred ESMs. While highlighting the grievances of the Ex-servicemen of the State, they said that in absence of Rajya Sainik Board, the welfare activities are not being taken up in the way which it is expected to be. They requested the Governor for his personal intervention to expedite the pending issues.

Lt Col Bruce Jilee, Major Tabo Maling, Capt Mimar Ete, SM & Hony Capt Lobsang Monpa and NK K. Yangfo were present in the meeting.

It is to be noted that there are 559 ESMs with total family members of 1380 with Longding and Tirap Districts having the largest number of 309 ESMs.