

Press Release No 977

Governor visits Sille

Itanagar, October 4: Arunachal Pradesh Governor General JJ Singh visited the bee keeping garden of Sille Sericulture Farm, 26 km from Pasighat in East Siang district today. Accompanied by State First Lady Anupama Singh and senior district officials including East Siang Deputy Commissioner Talem Tapok, Governor also visited the honey processing unit, *reports Atum Potom, PRO to Governor.*

General Singh, who has been emphasising on bee keeping as a vehicle to uplift the socio economic status of rural community said that with abundant conducive natural environment and longest Himalayan range, Arunachal Pradesh can be the largest producer of organic Himalayan honey in the country. Interacting with the villagers, the Governor urged upon them to make Arunachal Pradesh the Honey State of India.

Encouraging the villagers and youth to take up the promising avenues of bee keeping, the Governor assured to facilitate in sending local farmers for exposure to Punjab, which is the largest honey producing State of India. He also proposed to invite senior advisors and experienced bee keepers to Arunachal Pradesh to aid and advise the local entrepreneurs.

Calling for proper bottling, General Singh said that the Sille ka Honey should be so popular that it should become well accepted like that of Mathura Ka Perah

The Governor advised the district administration to increase the cost of honey as it is pure and organic.

A progressive farmer from Sille village, Anung Modi, who has taken up bee keeping said that honey production is economically very viable in Arunachal Pradesh as with fifty bee colony boxes, an individual can earn more than two lakh rupees per annum. Impressed by commitment shown by the Governor, Modi requested him to use his good office to arrange exposure tours for the local farmers.

Earlier, Textile and Handicraft Assistant Director, Pasighat Taku Tath briefed the Governor on the honey production and other activities at the Sille project. He informed that the Bee Mission Project, Sille was established in the year 2008-09 and the raw honey processing machine was installed on May 2009. From 2008-09 to 2010, Apis Cerena (Indian bee) were reared and from 2011 onwards, Apis Mellifera (Italian bee) which was brought from Punjab were introduced. The project has 1650 bee colonies, of which 115 are Apis Cerena and 50 are of Apis Mellifera. Since 2008-09, more than 5000 kg of raw honey were extracted, of which 1020 kg honey were processed. Trainings on bee keeping were regularly organised in the farm since its inception. More than 240 beneficiaries, including 30 villagers from Kurung Kumey district have availed such trainings.

Drawing attention of the Governor towards the constrains of the Bee Keeping Mission at Sille, Textile and Handicraft Assistant Director said that for proper functioning of the project, infrastructure such as RCC security fencing of the bee hives garden area, proper

honey processing building, bee colony sheds to protect it from off season rains and training hall are required. Refresher courses for staff, a vehicle for shifting of colonies during off seasons, permanent staff for the project and farmers training cum exposure tours are some of the additional requirements, Tath added.

Earlier on his arrival at Pasighat, Governor interacted with the district heads of department and urged upon them to perform their duties with utmost sincerity and dedication as per plans and programmes. He also emphasised on good governance and to rise to the expectations of the people. General Singh advised them not to be distracted or deviate from the objective to achieve their predetermined targets.

Continuing his endeavour to ensure that developmental programmes, especially the road projects are properly implemented in the State, the Governor met the GREF 44 Task Force Chief Engineer OP Arora at Pasighat, who briefed the former on the road projects under Project Brahman.

Governor, who had earlier made aerial recce of the railway project from Naharlagun to Harmuty, advised the Task Force Chief Engineer to start working on double shifts to make up the lost time because of rainy season. General Singh also emphasised on timely completion of projects with quality.

During the day-long visit to East Siang district, the Governor and State First lady also interacted with the students, who turned up to receive them. The first couple who always sport indigenous attires advised them to work hard in the studies and said that they must grow and progress but always stay in touch with own culture and tradition, *adds the PRO.*

Sd/- Denga Bengia,PRO,