

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS,
NAHARLAGAN

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Itanagar, Jan. 20: Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (Independent Charge) P. S. Ghatowar called on the Governor General (Retd.) J.J. Singh at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar on 20th January last in a meeting, where they discussed several development issues including opening of Stilwell Road and former border trade across Pangsau Pass, regular daily flight from Lilabari to New Delhi and Tezu Airport Project, **reports PRO to Governor.**

While highlighting the importance of opening of Stilwell Road, the Governor said that the Border trade agreement between India and Myanmar has already been signed on 21st January 1994 and trade has officially been going on at Moreh in Manipur. At Nampong (Pangsau Pass) also, a Land Customs Station has already been inaugurated by the then Union MoS Commerce in November 1997 but has practically been lying dysfunctional.

He added that currently, most imports from Myanmar and China are being channelled through the Kolkata dock, which is a much longer sea-route than the Stilwell Road. The opening of this road would reduce transportation costs between China and India by more than 30%.

Highlighting on the significance of the trade with the south eastern neighboring countries, the Governor pointed that as teak would be the major item of import from Myanmar, it would also help us preserve our valuable forest reserves for future. The opening of this road can transform the economy of the under-developed and insurgency-affected North Eastern region of the country by making it a production hub for feeding the Myanmarese and western Chinese markets.

Taking up the cause of Air passengers, especially medical cases, the Governor requested the DoNER minister to take up with concerned ministry for regular daily flight from Lilabari to New Delhi (Boeing) via Gauhati. He said that at present, there is an ATR flight which operates from Lilabari to Gauhati some days a week. But the timings are highly inconvenient and the flight itself is highly irregular and undependable.

The Governor suggested for a daily boeing flight from Lilabari to New Delhi and back may be started till the regular airport comes up.

In the discussion, the Governor also expressed his concern on the so progress in the implementation of Tezu Airport Project, **adds the report.**

Sd/- Ome Tayeng, Asst. PRO