

Assam and Bhutan socio-economic issues discussed



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Jayanta Kumar Das 8 July 2013 11592 views

An official level meet was held at Samrang on July 6 between Indian and Bhutan officials to enhance mutual cooperation and friendship. The meeting was held at Samrang forest IB (India) where civil, police and forest officials of both the country discussed a few common problems relating infrastructure development and conservation of nature and wildlife. Indian side officials namely- DN Hazarika, Circle Officer, Harisinga Revenue Circle; Ratul Pathak, BDO, Bhergaon Dev Block; Jayanta Das, Hony. Wildlife Warden, Udalguri along with other civil, police, SSB, forest officials and a few media persons participated in the discussion. Bhutan side was represented by MB Srerung, Chairman, Samrang Panchayat of Royal Government of Bhutan and Miss Kejang Dema, BDO Samrang and other officials.

On the occasion Chairman MB Srerung said that there had been only twenty thousand people in Sandrupjankhar district and total population of Bhutan is only seven lakhs. According to him there had neither been instances of killing of wild elephants nor human beings in Bhutan as Bhutan people love nature and wildlife. According to him antisocial elements illegally coming from Indian side had caused serious concern in Bhutan. Such people have started felling of trees in Bhutan, he alleged. Miss Kejang Dema, BDO also shared a few social problems with Indian officials. According to her unemployment is a social problem in Bhutan and 12.5% people are unemployed. The percentage of literacy among girls is high in Bhutan and proportion of literacy is 60:40 favouring girls.

Officials of both the country decided to start frequent official visits to either sides for social and economic development of people living along international border. Decision was taken to start cultural exchange immediately. The matter of poor infrastructure along the border areas was also discussed. Bhutanese officials requested Assam officials to improve the condition of the only road connecting Samrang with Dalim (a township 24 KM inside Bhutan). This road links Bhutan people to sub divisional HQ Daifam via Assam. BDO Bhergaon (Assam) assured that the road upto India-Bhutan border pillar would be improved soon. All the officials expressed satisfaction at the growing relation between two districts of two countries. It needs mention that another such DC level meeting was held at Daifam in May this year. The Deputy Commissioner, Udalguri Thaneswar Malakar and Deputy Commissioner Sandrupjhankar, Gholing Tshering discussed a few important matters in presence of all the district level officials of both the countries to enhance mutual cooperation.

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BY JAYANTA KUMAR DAS

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