



ADDRESS
OF
SHRI DORJEE KHANDU
CHIEF MINISTER
ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON THE OCCASION
OF
23RD STATEHOOD DAY

ITANAGAR
20TH FEBRUARY 2009

*His Excellency the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
Hon'ble Union Minister of State in the PMO Shri Prithviraj Chavanji
Hon'ble Speaker Shri Setong Sena and Esteemed Cabinet colleagues and
MLAs
Distinguished leaders of various political parties,
Friends from media and
My beloved people of Arunachal Pradesh,*

I feel a deep sense of pride and happiness as I join the celebration of 23rd Statehood Day. On this historic and happy occasion, I extend my hearty greetings and best wishes to all of you. This Day has become special to us for we have amidst us His Excellency the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and Hon'ble Union Minister of State in the PMO Shri Prithviraj Chavanji as our chief guest. Sir, we are much beholden to you that you could spare some of your valuable time to share our joy and be a part of our rejoicing on this momentous occasion.

On this very day, 22 years ago, Arunachal Pradesh became 25th State of the Union of India. This is the Anniversary of that day in 1987, when through an imaginative decision Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi gave us the status and constitutional dignity and responsibility of a full State. We are singularly lucky to have received the blessings of our first Prime Minister Pandit Nehru, in the form of *Panchsheel*, guiding the course of our socio-political evolution without affecting our tribal culture. During the leadership of great visionary Indiraji, NEFA gained the status of a Union Territory.

With the care that we are receiving from the UPA Chairperson Smt Sonia Gandhi and Congress-led UPA government under the leadership of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, Arunachal Pradesh looks forward to a bright future. In our country Arunachal receives the first ray of the Sun but the State woke up to a new dawn on 1st January 2009 to a new era initiated with the PM's massive development package. Government of India has endeared itself to the people of Arunachal Pradesh by addressing their hopes and aspirations.

During last few years Arunachal Pradesh has witnessed unprecedented developmental activities, particularly the activities aimed towards bridging the infrastructural gaps. The various projects like 1840 Km Trans-Arunachal Highway, Village Illumination and water supply etc which we were aspiring

for decades, are now reality with the Prime Minister's developmental package being implemented at the promising speed. I am very happy to inform my people that during 1972 to 2007, we added only 35 MW of power in the state which is just 1 MW per year, but in last one year alone we added 22 MW of power by completing 19 projects under PM's package. More than 1800 remote habitations will be illuminated under this project. The work on the Harmuti - Itanagar railway line is going on in full swing All our district headquarters will be connected by two-lane highway while Itanagar will be connected by four-lane highway from Banderdewa to Holongi. We have already got the forest clearance for the green-field airport at Itanagar. One of the promising schemes under PM's package is operationalising nine airstrips in remote areas.

As the Chief Minister of the State, I am proud to say that the mechanism of third party monitoring, information dissemination through websites, compulsory recording of the works through video/photography and district level monitoring committees involving the Panchayati leaders are some of the recent initiatives of my Government. The institutional arrangements made by my Government in implementing the various projects have been appreciated on many forums including the Prime Minister's Office and the Planning Commission of India.

Under the PMGSY, the Project for connecting 513 border villages by motorable road by constructing around 2900 kms of road has already commenced. In Power sector we have already received Rs. 177 crore out of Rs. 900 crore sanctioned under the Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojna (RGGVY). The works have already commenced. We have taken up the matter with the NHPC for signing of MoU/MoA in respect of Lower Subansiri Hydro Power Project, if it agrees to 12% free power to the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

My Government has granted Corpus fund of Rs. 50.00 crore to the RK Mission Hospital at Itanagar enabling the Hospital to carry forward with their yeomen service in the health sector to the people of the State without craving for funds. Similarly, R.K. Mission School, Aalo and VKV have also been granted Rs. 20.00 crore and Rs. 40.00 crore respectively as corpus funds to end their dependence on the State Government for grants-in-aid to pursue their noble mission of providing quality education unhindered.

There was a long felt need of taking some of the policy initiatives for holistic development of the State's resources. In a span of few months only, my Government formulated important policies for sustainable development such as Relief and Resettlement Policy-2008, Hydro-Power Policy 2008 and Industrial Policy 2009. In fact, we are one of the few states to have our own Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy which mainly aims at providing benefit of development to the people.

One noteworthy development in this period has been the revival of democracy at grassroots level. The state has held elections to the three-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions. It is worth mentioning here that we could conduct the elections in Tirap district in 2008, which could not be held earlier as per schedule. My Government has also notified 29 subjects to be transferred to the PRIs and we are now in the process of transferring the finances also. We are meticulously involving the grass-roots leaders in monitoring the various government programmes. We have also transferred sufficient funds under Twelfth Finance Commission to the Panchayati Raj Institutions for the development of the area.

Let me take this opportunity to express my deep anguish about the way the matter of implementation of Sixth Pay Commission pay package has been politicized by some narrow minded sections. Instead of giving my Government the full credit of being the first State in Northeast and one of the few states in the country for implementing the Pay Commission's pay package except for full arrears. From the day the report was published, I am running pillar to post to mobilize additional resources to support the burden. Without any resource back up I boldly announced the salary hike without any employees association asking for that. Now many political pundits say that I should have waited for the employees to agitate and then declare after due bargaining. But I am of the view that the Government and employees are the part of the same family and we should not bring politics in our own family. But it is painful to see that despite several rounds of negotiations and two rounds of formal agreements the issue has been again flared up.

The Government of India, on many occasions has made it very clear that they will not be able to support the State Government on the salary

liabilities. The Union Government says that it is the domain of the Finance Commission to decide on the non-plan revenue gap. Despite this, I approached the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister, the External Affairs Minister, the Planning Commission of India and many such authorities. We passionately placed our demands to the Thirteenth Finance Commission, which they termed as one of the best presentations. However, even though the TFC decides to support, it will be applicable to the additional salary burden after April 2010 and not for arrears or any burden before that.

If one scrutinizes the financial position of the State, it becomes clear that even the current burden of the salary and two months arrears is going to drain the exchequer by more than Rs. 130.00 crore this year and more than Rs. 560.00 crore next year including 2 months arrears, to which the State Government has already committed. In order to absorb this additional financial burden, the Government will have to compromise on many of the developmental programmes meant for the rural masses, students etc. If we add 30 months arrears then the figures exceeds Rs. 615.00 crore. If the 6th CPC is implemented in toto, as demanded by a section of employees the financial burden to the State will exceed Rs. 1414 crore. From where we will bring this money? The COSAAP says let there be overdraft but they must be paid the 30 months arrears in terms of Sixth Pay Commission pay package. If we go for overdraft beyond a limit, which would be the case if we make full payment of arrears, RBI would suspend payment against State Government accounts. Where from salary would be paid for the next month then? Nobody of those who are agitating and all those who are fuelling the agitations can provide solution. Can those political parties who are demanding the full implementation tell that whether in the states having their party government has implemented the full Sixth Pay Commission pay package?

I am also deeply pained to see the rumor games regarding availability of resources or release of additional resource by the Government of India. In fact, we have hosted all information on the websites and published in local newspapers on many occasions. The money available in the State exchequer has been tied up for various projects such as PM package, SPA etc. Further let me once again reiterate that not a single penny has been received from any source for funding the new pay package liabilities. The watchword of my Government is "People First". Government is not for Government employees

alone. We cannot and should not divert funds meant for developmental projects.

Let me appeal, once again, to each and every member of my employee family not to get misguided by rumours being spread by the vested interests that Government of India has provided funds for full implementation of Sixth Pay Commission pay package and return to duties. I have already announced that when the financial position improves, my Government would be the first to pass on the benefits to the employees.

I am happy to announce that my Government has enhanced the minimum rates of wages which also includes the wages for weekly day of rest from Rs. 55/ day to Rs. 80/day for unskilled, Rs. 60/day to Rs. 85/day for semi-skilled and Rs. 65/day to Rs. 90/day for skilled in Area-I. Similarly, minimum wages of workers belonging to Area-II have been enhanced from Rs. 57/day to Rs. 90/day for unskilled, Rs. 62/day to Rs. 95/day for semi-skilled and Rs. 67/day to Rs.100/day for skilled w.e.f. 19.02.2009.

The peace and tranquility is the pre-requisite for the development of the State. My Government has taken many initiatives on this front. After great persuasion we could manage to get enhanced allocation under the Police Modernization. We have also constituted the State Level Core Group on Security. The third IRBn has been raised and the jawans are getting trained. Our proposal for establishment of fourth battalions of Arunachal Scout is under active consideration with Ministry of Defence and I am confident that the Government will agree to this proposal. With this thousands of young un-employed Arunachalee will get employment.

On this auspicious occasion, I, on behalf of my Cabinet colleagues and, of course, on my own behalf would like to convey our gratitude to each and every Arunachalee for maintaining peace and tranquility in the State despite threats posed to our unity and integrity by disruptive forces around us.

I would like to appreciate the services of public leaders, gaon burah, youths, students, NGOs, Paramilitary Forces and the media persons for their constructive role in the development of the State.

Once again, I convey my best wishes to all of you on this auspicious day and pray the Almighty to grant our State and people the beneficial effects of peace and the joys of prosperity.

Jai Hind
Jai Arunachal Pradesh