

PRESS RELEASE

DISTRICT INSPECTION VISIT BY COMMISSIONER CUM SECRETARY, FINANCE, REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE DEPARTMENT

As was discussed in the co-ordination meeting of the Finance, Revenue and Expenditure Department (FRED) for making regular visits by senior level officers to the districts, the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (CCS), FRED made visit to all the three far-off districts of Sikkim from 6th August to 9th August 2012. According to CCS, FRED, “Such visits were necessary to keep in touch with the district officials, understand their difficulties and make efforts to solve some of the problems being faced by them”. The CCS, FRED visited Pay & Accounts Offices of Gayzing on 6th, Namchi on 7th and Mangan on 9th August 2012.

He was accompanied by Shri Rajesh Verma, Principal Director, Information Technology Department, Shri Mahendra Pradhan, Deputy Director (Budget), FRED along with officials from National Informatics Centre (NIC), respective Sub-Divisional Engineers (SDE) from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and other officials from the Information Technology Department.



In the meetings with district officials, the CCS enquired about the problems being faced by them and discussed likely solutions. The CCS asked the district officials to be sincere and vigilant while discharging their responsibilities. He informed the officials to follow the rules and regulations strictly and abide by them. They were instructed not to delay in disposing off files or releasing payments, as undue delay means not only harassment to the people but also could lead to

undesirable suspicions. He also asked the officials to identify and report suspected erring officials (if any), as such officials may bring dishonour to the entire office. It was made clear that as public servants they are expected to work with utmost sincerity and dedication keeping their integrity intact, he added. He also said that it should be the duty of the government servants to give the correct information, where necessary. Information relating to PM's earth-quake relief package and current year's budget provision was shared with the officials to equip them with the correct information.

CCS, FRED also informed the officials about the e-governance initiatives started by the government such as the financial inclusion, e-tendering, e-filing, e-returns and e-payments of Sales tax in the State and the online treasury System of the Finance Department. He stressed on the need to have good database for the Government and to make the governance transparent and accountable through the use of Information Technology, citing examples of the progress achieved by the developed countries in this sphere.

CSS also requested all officials to take keen interest on the implementation of SIFMS (Sikkim Integrated Financial Management System), the online treasury software being implemented in the State. SIFMS is a big initiative to bring about transparency, accountability, management, budgeting and control of Government resources through creation of centralized database and information. He added that one should not take regressive steps when the whole world is moving forward. With the implementation of SIFMS, all the treasuries, the Pension division, GPF/ GIS division, the State Bank of Sikkim and all other wings of the Finance Department would be connected with the ultimate aim to operate on-line.

Finally, the CCS sought the help of the officers and officials to curtail wasteful expenditures and give due importance to increase revenue generation. Towards this end he requested them to strictly adhere to the austerity measures adopted by the State Government, as notified already.