

March 23, 2004

Press Release No.213/04

ADVOCACY MEET FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NHFDC HELD

Shillong, March 23, 2004: A one day Advocacy Meet for implementation of National Handicapped and Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) Scheme '*Loan to Disabled Entrepreneurs etc*' was held today at Hotel Polo Towers, Shillong. Mr. W M S Pariat, Principal Secretary, Personnel, Health etc, Government of Meghalaya was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Mr. S S Gupta, Commissioner Secretary, Finance, Social Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya, was the Guest of Honour. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. A M Sangma, Commissioner for Disabilities, Government of Meghalaya.

It may be mentioned that the meet was organised by the Department of Social Welfare and sponsored by NHFDC, Faridabad.

Speaking as the Chief Guest at the inaugural session, Mr. Pariat lauded the Social Welfare Department, various NGOs who are working to tackle the problems of differently abled people. Informing that this issue has been given importance only recently, he said much more needs to be done. He felt that more importance has to be given on the abilities of the differently abled people rather than concentrating on their disabilities. Participation of each and every sector to enable the differently abled persons live in honour is the requirement of the day, he added.

Also speaking on the occasion, Mr. S S Gupta felt that economic independence, reservation of 3% jobs in all Government Departments and financial assistance at a very low rate of interest should be given to the differently abled people.

Earlier, while highlighting the objectives of the Advocacy Meet, Mrs. L Diengdoh, Director, Social Welfare Department, Meghalaya, informed that the State, with Apex Bank as the channelising agency, has implemented a number of schemes for the disabled, such as, scholarships, medical treatment outside the State, grant-in-aid, uniform and book grants, conveyance and unemployment grants, etc.

Among other who also spoke on the occasion was Mr. A K Dey, Sr. Manager (PPC), NHFDC, Faridabad.

Press Release No.214/04

EVMs DEMONSTRATION IN RI BHOI

Shillong, March 23, 2004: In view of the directives issued by the Election Commission of India over the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the coming General Elections 2004, the Deputy Commissioner (Election), Ri Bhoi District, has informed that EVMs demonstration will be carried out in all the Polling Stations of the District on April 2nd and 3rd, 2004.

Furthermore, permanent EVMs demonstration centres are also arranged in the Deputy Commissioner's office, Block Development Officers of Umling, Umsning and Jirang.