

DNA Club launched in Namchi SSS

Our Correspondent

NAMCHI, October 15: The DNA (DBT Natural resources Awareness) Club in Government Senior Secondary School, Namchi was launched yesterday by Chief Minister Pawan Chamling on the occasion of the School's Platinum Jubilee held yesterday.

This project has been started for setting up of DNA Clubs under the aegis of the State Science and Technology Department with Department of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science and Technology chipping in Rs 1.31 Crores for a period of three years. The DNA Clubs in the schools aimed

at promoting deeper awareness about Bio-resources and to enthuse students about the role of Biotechnology and their sustainable utilization will have programmes such as hands-on activities, project work by children and lectures by eminent experts.

The project will be implemented by Sikkim State Council of Science and Technology as the Regional Resource Agency (RRA) to implement the programme in Sikkim in coordination with Human Resource Development Department and with the technical support of TERI, North Eastern Regional Centre. A number of in-

struments such as compound microscope, computer, printer, digital camera, weighing balance, binoculars and herbarium equipment will also be provided to each of the schools. A total of 35 schools will be covered in this programme. In addition to this, 10 more schools are also being covered under similar programmes being taken up by the Institute for Biore-source & Sustainable Development. As such 45 schools will be covered under this programme in Sikkim.

Besides, the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India has taken up a pro-

gramme titled 'Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research' (INSPIRE) mainly for promotion of science education in schools. Two of the important components under this scheme are INSPIRE Award and Internship.

The INSPIRE Award is to promote the innovation in the schools and children in the age group of 10 to 15 years i.e. Std VI to Std 10 shall be identified for the INSPIRE Award. Each INSPIRE Award will provide an investment of Rs 5000 per child. The scheme plans to cover at least two students per school covering all Junior High Schools, Secondary Schools and Senior Sec-

ondary Schools including private schools as well. There will be around 400 such schools under this programme.

The INSPIRE Internship Programme will cover top 1% performers in Class X examination and those who pursue science stream in Class XI will be provided an Internship for participation in Summer/Winter Science camps.

The programme under the Project Regional Resource Agency for Coordination of DNA Clubs in the North Eastern States is being implemented in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.