

GSI to collaborate with Mines & Geology for detailed geo-mapping of Sikkim

a NOW REPORT

GANGTOK, 12 Nov: The Mines & Geology Department will be collaborating with the Geological Survey of India to prepare reports on various development projects in the state, including upcoming projects, which, as informed, will be used as a basic tool for development of infrastructure in Sikkim. In fact a meeting among officials of the State Geological Programming Board and senior officials of the Geological Survey of India and also BRO, under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary decided on several issues concerning various types of infrastructure development required, with particular con-

sideration paid to the rather fragile and sensitive nature of the environment.

One of the major developments is the proposal of the State government for the Geological Survey of India to undertake a comprehensive and detailed geological mapping of the area above Chungthang in North Sikkim.

This was requested specifically in view of the report of the Center for Inter Disciplinary Study of Mountain & Hill Environment [CISMHE], New Delhi, on the carrying capacity of the Teesta basin on the basis of which the Central government has stalled 6 hydro electric projects in Lachen and Lachung.

The CISMHE report was informed to have pointed out

the area as being ecologically sensitive and lacking in adequate data to ascertain the geological sensitivity. The GSI, along with Disaster Management and Mitigation officials have stated that certain parts of the area above Chungthang required detailed geological mapping. The State Board has asked the GSI to include this in their future programmes.

The Mines & Geology will also be taking up geo-environmental studies in relation to drying up of spring water resources from now on.

In fact, many complaints are informed to have come in through district authorities in regard to drying up of spring water sources due to tunneling in Teesta. HEP Stage V

But due to lack of data on various spring sources and their discharge capacities along the tunnel alignment prior to tunneling, the department was unable to address the complaints.

It has now been decided that such impact studies should be undertaken for proper planning and record, particularly in connection to tunneling at the various hydel power project sites.

In fact, the RMDD is already at work preparing a spring water atlas of Sikkim.

On the other hand, the GSI has also been requested by Mines & Geology to carry out a detailed geo-technical study in Sikkim and prepare a map accordingly which will be a useful tool for landslide stud-

ies and future planning.

The GSI has also been asked to take up studies of various trouble spots on the roads of the State, especially on the North Sikkim Highway which is prone to collapse during the monsoon season.

The trouble spots highlighted included Namok, Lanthe Khola and the 9th Mile slide zones. A detailed survey of these stretches has also been asked for including of the road between Ranipool and Rhenock via Pakyong.

In fact various agencies concerned with construction of roads have also been informed on the need to adopt appropriate scientific approach or geological inputs in maintenance of existing roads and drainage

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systems etc. The unscientific maintenance of roads and its drainage systems in the state are informed to have played a vital role in creating disasters. In fact it has been proposed that responsibility of the particular road in question should be fixed on the concerned engineer under whose jurisdiction the particular stretch of road falls. While road constructing authorities highlight problems that are beyond their control this issue is to be taken further for suitable action.

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