

Chief Minister calls on His Excellency President of India

New Delhi, November 13, 2017: (IPR)

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Pawan Chamling called on His Excellency the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind today at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. The Chief Minister congratulated and offered his felicitation to him on assuming the office of President of India.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister apprised him about the development taking place in Sikkim and sought his guidance and intervention to address the following pending demands of the people of Sikkim:

1. The Chief Minister brought to the notice of the President that the issue of reservation of seats for the Limboo and Tamang communities as STs in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly was pending for the last 14 years. The Chief Minister further submitted that considerable time had elapsed giving rise to frustrations among our people. In view thereof, the Chief Minister requested the President for his support and assistance to fulfil people's aspiration at the earliest.

2. The Chief Minister also requested the President for his kind support to address the pending issue of permitting His Holiness the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa to visit Sikkim and allow HH to take his seat at Rumtek Monastery.

3. The 11 left-out Sikkimese communities have been requesting for recognition as Scheduled Tribes as in the erstwhile regime of the Chogyal they were entitled to equal facilities with other communities of Sikkim. Drawing historical inference, the Chief Minister apprised that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India had suggested seeking recommendation of the State Government vide Ref. No. BC-12016/24/75-SCT.V dated 21.07.1976 as follow:

“There are also other tribal communities for e.g. Magar, Gurung, Tamang, Tsong, Subba and Rai. The Sikkim Government may kindly review the case of these communities and any other communities which may have been left out....”. In view of the above historical facts, the Chief Minister requested the President for his consideration to grant tribal status to the left-out communities.

The President expressed great satisfaction on the progress made by the State Government in all spheres of development including total Organic State, Cleanest State, Open Defecation Free State, etc.

The Chief Minister has invited the President to visit Sikkim in the near future. The President thanked the Chief Minister for his visit and the invitation.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister was accompanied by Hon'ble Minister Shri. Somnath Poudyal to the meeting with His Excellency the President of India.

