

Severe staff shortage plagues East Siang Fishery Dev. Dept

Correspondent

RUKSIN, Sept 30: At a time when the scientists are working for improvement of technology to boost fish production in the state, the district Fishery Development Department in East Siang is handicapped by severe staff shortage and other requirements.

The people of Nari-Koyu constituency alleged that the fishery department's rural extension service has not covered the area. No fishery officer and other subordinate staff have been posted in the area so far. Even the only fish farm at Nari head-quarter is not used in people's service as there is a single official to look after the official activities.

Though the foothills

and plain lands with numerous natural ponds are blessed with pisciculture potentialities, these are lying unused due to lack of technology. The local farmers have alleged that authority's inaction for creation of post in the department and non-implementation of Fishery Act, 2006, is a standing hurdle for harnessing fish farming potentiality in the natural fauna.

The Nari-Seren ZPM Kenyom Dabii, who recently moved the Minister for Town Planning and Fisheries Rajesh Tacho, said that the rural farmers of Nari-Koyu have been demanding the authority for introduction of fishery activities in the area; but to no avail.

In a memorandum submitted to the minister, Dabii demanded creation of posts in order to boost fishery offices at Nari-Koyu area covering Seren, Koyu and Kora circles. Other demands include creation of Fishery Extension officer, Fishery officer with its assistant besides Fishery demonstrator and Fishermen for all four circles under the constituency.

Dabii also pressed the minister for putting priority the fishery development schemes in the next AOP.

Official sources informed that the fishery minister has already forwarded the proposals submitted by the Nari-Koyu ZPM to state's fishery directorate with a direction to initiate creation of posts

of fishery officials as per requirement.

It is worth mentioning that an area measuring more than 60 hectare has been covered under fishery in the district where about 160 farmers enhancing their household economy by rearing various species of fishes. The district fishery department is implementing centrally sponsored schemes like, 'Fish Farmer Development Scheme', 'Fisherman Welfare Scheme' and Integrated Fish Farming. The first includes construction and development of fish ponds while the second and third include construction of dwelling house for the registered fish farmers and Integrated Fish Farming of pig and fish and duck and fish.