

Arunachal Front Dtd. 28th April, 2013

## SEC peeved at news reports

ITNAGAR, Apr 27: Taking exception to the news items published in some local dailies detailing projects announced by GoI for Arunachal Pradesh under the PMGSY in violation of its media advisory issued on April 23 last, the State Election Commission (SEC) today cautioned that 'any future lapses of this nature will be invariably brought to the notice of the Press Council of India for appropriate action.'

In a letter issued to the editors, the SEC pointed out that the news specified some forthcoming projects and names of political leaders. 'You will recall that the Commission in its press release dated 23rd April, 2013 had specifically requested the media to desist from reporting news in a manner

that appears to be in favour of any political party. You would appreciate that free and fair elections can only be held if all candidates and parties get a level playing field. News reports like this ineffectually queer the pitch,' it said.

'During the election process your newspaper should be more sensitive to what the news looks like, as well as what it contains. The said news is in the context of a meeting held as far back as 14th January, 2013. Please peruse the content and judge yourself whether a clearance letter "amounting to Rs 610.80 crore for 78 roads and 14 long span bridges, covering 901.56 kms in length" has that much news value which should ignore the SEC advisory,' the SEC added.