

Shifting of Fisheries College opposed



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Dibya J Borthakur 4 October 2012 17390 views

Decision of shifting the college of Fisheries ,Raha that is under Assam Agricultulre University (AAU), Jorhat , to Kachamari, a sub-urban area, in Nagaon district.

Members of the different organizations including AASU, All Assam Tiwa Students' Union (AATSU), Raha Unit , AJYCP and Asom Yuva parishad on Tuesday alleged that the decision of shifting the college to Kachamari in Nagaon is purely a conspiracy made by the Associate Dean and some professors of the college and the issue is a politically-motivated one. They also vehemently criticized the silent role played by Piyush Hazarika, MLA, Raha on the issue.

The first of its kind in the North-East , the college of Fisheries , Raha was established in the year 1988 under Assam Agricultural University (AAU) Jorhat, by the then AGP government. Since then the college has been functioning well here at Raha. The College has already completed 25 years and PG (Post Graduate) classes have also begun in the last year. The college has separate hostels for boys and girls with all kinds of modern facilities.

But unfortunately , for the last 10 years the Associate Dean and some professors of the college , as alleged by the students' organizations, have been trying to shift the college from Raha to Kachamari, a suburban area of Nagaon district. The Dean also submitted some false documents and papers before the Assam Agriculture University authority and the Indian Agriculture Research Council (IARC) urging them to shift the college to Kachamari , exhibiting Raha a flood prone area. The organizations further alleged that the AAU and IARC authorities even sanctioned Rs. 18 crores for shifting of the college from Raha to Kachamari ,believing Raha a flood prone area and following the proposal of shifting submitted by the Dean of the college, to construct new buildings at Kachamari.

The organizations said that only in 2004 the Fishery College , Raha faced flood but after that the college has not been facing the flood problem till date. The college has 1100 acres of land out of which 195 acres of land is very high. On the other hand, the new site where the college will be shifted is a low-lying area and remains under water during most of the days of the year. When asked by a team of journalists while visiting the new site , the locals of the Kachamari also said that Kachamari is a low-lying area and it is very often remains under water. They also feel strange at the decision made by the concerned authority to set up the college at Kachamari and feels it just a wastage of govt.money as they are of the view that Raha is not a flood prone area as Kachamari is.

The organizations further alleged that many of the professors of the college are the residents of Nagaon town and they do not like to stay at campus quarters provided by the authority. Hence they are in favour of Kachamari as it is not very far from Nagaon town where as Raha is 24 kms in distance from the town.

The organizations asked the state government and the concerned authority to change their decision of shifting the college from Raha and to take strong action against the Associate Dean of the college for misleading the AAU and IARC authorities by exhibiting Raha a flood prone area. They also vented their disappointment on the issue and clearly said that if any decision against the interest of the people of Raha is taken, the result will be dangerous.

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BY DIBYA J BORTHAKUR

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