

**MoS for Social Justice & Empowerment and former CM interacts with beneficiaries in Kathalia**

**The central and state government have taken various plans for welfare of the farmers: MoS for Social Justice & Empowerment**

The present state government has been continuing its work of public welfare following the mantra 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The state government is working with the goal to provide Pucca houses to every deserving beneficiary family without any politically bias, enunciated Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment Pratima Bhowmik in an interaction programme with beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin at Kathalia HS School today. She said, the Prime Minister had announced Pucca houses for every poor family. In order to implement this, the state government is working taking plans. She said, houses have been provided to 4 thousand 545 beneficiaries of Kathalia block under PMAY-G in the past 4 years. The previous government in the financial year 2015-16 has had requested the central government for 53 thousand 874 houses in the state. But due to the sincere efforts of the present government, 2 lakh 5 thousand 874 houses were approved by the present central government for the poor families in the state within just few years. Besides, housing for people in rural areas, 94 thousand houses have been approved for families living in urban areas under PMAY-Urban.

MoS for Social Justice & Empowerment said, both the central and state government have taken various plans for welfare of the farmers. The central government launched PMKISAN scheme to double farmers' incomes. Through this scheme, farmers are receiving 6 thousand rupees every year in three instalments into their bank accounts. 3,702 farmers of Kathalia block area are currently getting the benefits under this scheme. The state government also procures paddy from farmers at MSP to increase farmers income. She said, farmers of the state never have dreamt before that the government would ever procure paddy from them. It was possible because this is a double engine government, added MoS for Social Justice & Empowerment.

Former Chief Minister and MLA Biplab Kumar Deb in the programme said, the state government has been working for overall development of the state from the beginning. The goal of the present state government is solely to build a prosperous Tripura. Even though the previous left front government raised slogans for the hard-working farmers, nothing was done for their welfare. It was due to the sincere efforts of the present state government that average monthly income of the farmers of the state is 11 thousand 93 rupees, which was only 5,680 rupees before 2018. Not only this, financial assistances are also being provided to farmers under PMKISAN with the goal to double their income. At present, about 2 lakh 35 thousand farmer families in the state are getting 6 thousand rupees yearly in three instalments. He said, the value of rubber has increased significantly during the period of the present state government. As a result, the rubber growers of the state are reaping huge benefits financially. He said, distribution of sugar in ration shops was stopped during the period of the previous government. But, after the present government took over, distribution of sugar in ration shops has been started again. Different kinds of daily commodities including rice, dal, atta, sugar, kerosene etc. are also being distributed in ration shops at present. He said, the present state government is working with a policy to empower women. In this policy, 33% seat has been reserved for women in government jobs, arrangement for discount in revenue in case of land registry in the name of women, hostel for working women and construction of special hospital for women.

MLA Subhash Chandra Das and Sepahijala District Magistrate Vishwasree B. also spoke on the occasion. Different agri materials were handed over to five beneficiaries by the guests in the programme on behalf of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare department.