

Government of Tripura
Directorate of Information and Cultural Affairs

S-2215
Agartala, 17th September, 2018

Press Release

1. Attention is drawn to News Items appearing in some newspapers dated 17.09.2018 regarding Press Conference held by Shri Gopal Ch. Ray, Ex. MLA making base-less allegations of award of Rs. 10,000 Crore of work for 995.91 km of National Highways in favour of NHIDCL, in violation of tender formalities/guidelines. The allegations are indicative of complete lack of understanding and far from the truth, as would be illustrated by the following paragraphs.
2. The maintenance and development of National Highways is the mandate of the M/O. Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India, and NOT that of State Governments. For this purpose, the MoRTH entrusts different NH's to NHAI, NHIDC, State PWD's or other Agencies, as considered appropriate by them.
3. The NHIDCL is NOT a contractor but one of the Agencies used by MoRTH for the maintenance/development of National Highways. The NHIDCL has been specifically mandated to develop NH's in the N-E Region and border areas. Currently, NHIDCL is working on behalf of MoRTH in Andaman & Nicobar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal & Nepal.
4. So far, NHIDCL has been functioning for widening & improvement of NH-08(Amtali-Sabroom section), NH-44A(Manu-Shimlung), NH-208(Kumarghat to Sabroom via Kailashahar, Khowai, Amarpur), NH-208A(Kailasahar to Kurti bridge) & NH-108B(Khowai-Agartala) for a

total length of 620.91 km. including maintenance of existing alignment of Amtali-Sabroom section(146.66 km) of NH-08 and Kumarghat-Kailasahar section(24.75 km) of NH-208.

5. As per Notification published in Gazette of India on 17-07-2018 and 20-08-2018 , the Ministry has also entrusted NHIDCL for development of NH-08(Churaibari-Agartala section), Agartala Bypass(Khayerpur-Amtali section) and NH-108 A including maintenance of all notified National Highways in the State as noted above. As NHIDCL is an Agency of MoRT&H, contention regarding award of works to NHIDCL without call of tender as published in the newspaper is false and misleading to the public.
6. The funds made available for maintenance of National Highways so far to PWD in the State has not been sufficient and PWD (National Highways) Division has found it difficult to maintain all the NH roads properly. With the entrustment of National Highways to NHIDCL, it will be responsibility of NHIDCL to get sufficient fund from the Ministry and maintain the National Highways in a proper condition. It is in the interest of the State that Central Government and its agency, i.e. NHIDCL takes the direct and full responsibility of development & maintenance of National Highways in the State
7. The allegations made by the Ex-MLA are without any base and substance. The allegations unnecessarily question a decision of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways which is totally in the interest of the State of Tripura.
