

CM meets Union Finance Minister and other union ministers today at New Delhi

Chief Minister Sri Biplab Kumar Deb today on 15/7/2021 had fruitful meeting **with Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman-ji** , Hon'ble Union Minister of finance, **Shri Giriraj Singh-ji** , Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development, **Shri Mansukh Mandaviya-ji** , Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare ,**Shri Sarbanada Sanowal-ji**, Hon'ble Union Minister of Ports , Shipping and waterways & Ayush, **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan-ji** , Hon'ble Union Minister of Education in New Delhi and discussed issues of State's interest . All union Ministers have assured Hon'ble Chief Minister of full support.

- **Discussion points with Hon'ble Union Minister for finance:**

1.Consent for Open Market Borrowing (OMB):

It is communicated to State Government that OMB has been allowed to the State Government to the tune of Rs.688.00 Crore during the Financial Year 2021-22 and requested not to adjust the excess OMB of last year against this years' entitlement and to increase the OMB limit as per GSDP projection by the State Government.

2. Release of pending GST Compensation:

An amount of Rs. 153.90 Cr. is yet to be released as GST Compensation for the period April, 2020 to March, 2021 for the State of Tripura. It is therefore requested to release of balance amount of Rs. 153.90 Cr. of GST Compensation for the period April, 2020 to March, 2021.

3. Proposal for inclusion of the items rubber and its product under the purview of RCM under Section 9(3) of the GST law.

Tripura is the second largest raw rubber producer in India and the growers/ producers are mainly agriculturist; but raw rubber & its scrap, latex, Indian Standard Natural Rubber (ISNR) and residual products of raw rubber are yet to be covered under the purview of Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) under section 9(3) of the GST Law. In absence of RCM on raw rubber and allied items GST cannot be charged at the time of purchase of the raw rubber from the agriculturists by the registered person under GST Law and hence substantial due amount of tax is deferred from payment of tax. During the year 2020-21 the inter-state outward supply of rubber and its products from the State of Tripura was Rs.1839.39 crores.

It is therefore, requested to consider the inclusion of the items raw rubber & its scrap, latex, Indian Standard Natural Rubber (ISNR) and residual products of raw rubber under the purview of RCM under section 9(3) of the GST Law as well as under section 5(3) of Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (IGST Act, 2017) for realisation of tax in due time and also reducing the compliance burden of the grower / agriculturist under the GST Law..

5. State specific projects as per recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission:

The 15th Finance Commission (FC) has made recommendations to the Central Government to provide State specific grants of Rs. 875 Crores for 5 projects in the irrigation, tourism and urban development sector. State Specific Grants include the following projects:

1. Check Dams at Champaknagar and Champiacherra and Water Supply Project for Agartala Rs. 400 Crore
2. Development of 7 District Head Quarters Rs. 200 Crore
3. Development of Mata Tripura Sundari Temple and Neer Mahal Rs. 175 Crore
4. Construction of Central Building for State Level offices Rs. 100 Crore

While accepting the recommendation of 15th Finance Commission, Government of India in its action taken report has mentioned that " keeping in view the untied resources with the State Government and fiscal commitment of the Central Government, due consideration will be given to above recommendation".

Discussion with Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare :

Hon'ble Chief Minister, on behalf of the state, congratulated Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare for taking up the charge of new ministry.

A. Proposal for establishing an AIIMS in Tripura.

The proposal for establishing an AIIMS in Tripura was submitted to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Department (MoHFW), Government of India, on 30.01.2019. In response, the MoHFW requested to propose 2-3 alternative sites, each measuring about 200 acres, based on the "Challenge Method Criteria."

2. It was requested to send a Central Inspection team from the Ministry to finalize the land for setting up the proposed AIIMS in Tripura. A visit of Central Inspection team is now awaited.

B. Establishment of 100-bedded Communicable Disease Centre (CDC) at the AGMC & GBP Hospital complex, Agartala, Tripura.

A letter of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura, proposing establishment of a 100-bedded Communicable Disease Centre (CDC) at the AGMC & GBP Hospital complex, Agartala, involving a project cost of ₹ 92.04 Crore, was sent to Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare on 18.05.2020 with a request for considering the proposal on priority basis

C. Project for State Cancer Institute at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Regional Cancer Centre, Agartala, under Tertiary Care Cancer Centre (TCCC) Scheme.

The project for the State Cancer Institute at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Regional Cancer Centre, Agartala, was approved under the Tertiary Cancer Care Centre (TCCC) Scheme of the NPCDCS (National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke), NHM, with a project cost of ₹120.00 crore, comprising ₹108.00 crore of central share and ₹12.00 crore of state share on a 90:10 respective proportion.

2. Out of the approved project cost of ₹120.00 crore, sanction for an amount of ₹81.50 crore was received in the first phase from the Ministry of Health & FW (MoHFW), GoI, consisting of ₹73.35 crore of central share and ₹8.15 crore of state share. Out of the aforesaid central share of ₹73.35 crore, ₹55.00 crore has so far been released, and expectedly, the remaining ₹73.35 crore - ₹55.00 crore = ₹18.35 crore will be released too shortly.

3. A supplementary proposal for sanctioning the residual project cost of ₹120.00 crore - ₹81.50 crore = ₹38.50 crore in the second phase was sent to the MoHFW, which is still pending with the Ministry.

D. Financial support for National Ambulance Service (NAS)

With the support of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), GoI, National Ambulance Service (NAS) under the National Health Mission (NHM) was rolled out since 2019-20, which eventually became very popular. Currently a fleet of 50 (fifty) Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulances with Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) on board are operationalized in the State, linked with a 24x7 centralized call centre having dial '102' on outsourcing model.

2. Views of National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) were incorporated for finalization of draft Request for Proposal (RFP). Accordingly, in the model of implementation of NAS, the Service Provider's scope of work includes bearing all forms of capital expenditure (procurement of Ambulances) and operational cost (maintenance of ambulances, Human Resource, Call Center establishment & operationalization etc.). Performance and utilization of the BLS ambulances has been very satisfactory especially during COVID pandemic situation.

3. The approximate cost for implementing the NAS is Rs.2.93 Lakh per Ambulance per month. However the ROP for FY: 2021-22 has fixed a maximum ceiling of Rs.1.40 Lakh per Ambulance per month. The ceiling has been communicated to the State after the Work Order for operationalization of NAS had been issued to the selected agency with prior concurrence of the NHSRC. The Ambulances could not be operated in the desired manner due to the ceiling limit which is compromising the quality of service delivery in the form of high call rejection rates, non-availability of Ambulances for long distance referral etc. The State is not in a financial position to sustain the NAS with its own fund.

4. Hence, it is requested that the Ministry may kindly consider providing an additional funding support to the tune of ₹9.20 crore under NHM for the FY: 2021-22 as a special case in order to continue the implementation of NAS in a seamless manner.

E. Covid Vaccination

Tripura achieved 99% COVID vaccination of persons in the 45+ age group and 52% of eligible beneficiaries in the 18 – 44 year age category with 1st dose.

2. The State took a special drive to vaccinate all eligible beneficiaries on 21st and 23rd June, 2021 during which a record 3.48 Lakh persons received COVID-19 vaccination.

3. The State is taking all measures to contain the spread of virus including special vaccination drives in areas with less coverage. However the availability of vaccine doses is a matter of concern.

4. Hence allocation of additional doses of COVID 19 vaccine to Tripura is required so that the State is able to vaccinate 100% of eligible population with both doses by Sep, 2021.

F. Additional funding under Emergency COVID Response Plan (ECRP) -

Funding under ECRP has been very instrumental in handling the COVID situation in the State. It was utilized for variety of activities like testing, transport, containment, engagement of manpower, vaccination, etc.

2. So far, the State has received ₹ 24 Cr in FY 20-21 out of which 50% fund has been utilized and around 40% of the received fund is in the process of payment to concerned parties.

3. Tripura state may be given higher allocation under the ECRP.

Discussion with the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, on behalf of the State , congratulated Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare for taking over as the minister of Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Inland Waterway Connectivity: As a part of multimodal connectivity of North Eastern region with the rest of India through Bangladesh, Ministry of Shipping has agreed to take up the project for development of inland waterway from Srimantapur in Tripura to Daudkandi in Bangladesh (98 KMs). Sonamura- Daudkandi waterway has already been declared as one of the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol routes and trial run of cargo from Daudkandi to Srimantapur has already been held. In order to operationalise the route following steps need to be taken:

1. A permanent jetty is required to be constructed at Srimantapur. It is learnt that recently Ministry has sanctioned Rs 10 Cr for the same. The preparation of DPR needs to be expedited so that the work can start at the earliest.
2. The depth of river Gomati is very low at some places and thorough dredging is required for vessels to flow on the route. In a recent survey conducted by the IWAI, it is found that about 10 Lakh CuM sand is to be removed. The same may be expedited by provisioning necessary funds for the same.
3. There are many bridges on the stretch from Daudkandi to Sonamura which are of low height thus obstructing the movement of bigger vessels. The height of some of these bridges needs to be increased.
4. The trial run on the protocol route from Allhabad-Haldia-Sonamura is yet to be conducted. If this route can be operationalized, the material from Northern India will be able to reach Tripura through waterways thus saving a lot of transportation cost.

Discussion with Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural development

1. PMAY Houses:

- State has been sanctioned 1.59 lakh PMAY houses to saturate the permanent waiting list prepared as per Socio Economic caste Census (SECC). Around 2.80 lakh families were eligible as per SECC data under the new definition of Kutcha house. But as per a survey conducted by State Government, 70867 families out of these have been found ineligible. The SECC survey was done in 2011 and finalized in 2015 during the tenure of the earlier government whereas Awaasplus data was finalized based on survey and disposal of claims and objections in 2018. Therefore, there is a widespread demand from all sections of the populace to grant homes to the citizen eligible as per Awaasplus. 2.73 lakh eligible families are listed therein.
- This is to request you to permit us to allocate the number of houses found ineligible in SECC survey, to the eligible families in the Awaasplus database, to ensure our vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas.

2. -Release of Maintenance Grant for PMGSY Roads as per the Recommendations of the 15th FC:

- Annual requirement for maintenance of PMGSY roads in Tripura is Rs. 202 Crore. As per the State Specific Recommendations of 15th FC, Tripura State is likely to get Rs. 100 Crore per year starting from 2021-22. Secretary, PWD had written letter to Joint Secretary (RC), MoRD, GoI on 25th May 2021. The grants may be provided at the earliest so that the road network created under PMGSY can be maintained.

Discussion with Hon'ble Union Minister of Education

1. Regularization of SSA Teachers in accordance to the Judgment & Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Tripura dt. 23.02.2021

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched in Tripura in 2001-02 and 5691 contract teachers were engaged between 2003-04 and 2011-12. At present, there are 5374 contract teachers working under Samagra Shiksha, out of which, 5132 pertain to erstwhile SSA.

Seeking regularization of SSA Teachers Writ Petitions WP(C) 329 of 2015 and WP (C) 212 of 2016 were filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Tripura. The Hon'ble High Court in Judgment & Order Dt. 23.02.2021 directed to grant regular pay scale and other service benefits including notional fixation, pension benefits to these teachers.

2. Sanction of the 2 Kendriya Vidyalaya in Tripura:

2(Two) New Proposals have been submitted for establishment of Kendriya Vidyalayas at Banduwar, Udaipur under Gomati District and East Hurua, Dharmanagar under North District Tripura. Both the proposals have been found suitable in all respect as per the KVS norms. Now these will have to compete among other proposal under the "Challenge Method". The meeting for processing KVS proposals is yet to be held. (Copy Placed at Annexure III). It is requested that the meeting be held soon and the proposals from Tripura for opening two KVs be approved at the earliest.

3. Additional Requirement of Fund for Mid-Day-Meal Scheme .

Due to COVID-19 pandemic situation in 2020-21, all schools of the state were closed from Mid-March, 2020 to December, 2020. As advised by the Ministry of Education, Food Security Allowances have been provided to all eligible children of Govt. & Govt. Aided Schools and Madrassas
