

Government of Tripura
Directorate of Information and Cultural Affairs

S-2510

Agartala, 16th July, 2021

Chief Minister meets Prime Minister today at New Delhi

**Government of India will provide every possible help for
the wide spread cultivation and marketing of Agar : PM**

Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb today had a detailed meeting of about 40 minutes with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence in New Delhi at 5.45pm. Chief Minister thanked Prime Minister in the meeting for fulfilling of 4 demands that were made by him for the development of the state during his last visit. Prime Minister lauded Chief Minister and the Government of Tripura for taking initiative towards State's economic development through wide spread Agar cultivation. Prime Minister thinks that this initiative will hugely benefit the state economically and gave his word to the Chief Minister that the Government of India will provide every possible help for the wide spread cultivation and marketing of Agar.

The Chief Minister thanked Prime Minister for help in getting Asian Development Bank assistance for making DPR of Sabroom Logistic Hub, for helping in starting low fare flights under UDAN scheme for better regional connectivity in North- Eastern States, for admitting another Externally Aided Project (EAP) in road sector for Tripura and for sanctioning a sum of Rs. 250 crore under NABARD funding.

Apart from these the Chief Minister raised various other demands of Tripura in the meeting. One of these is sanctioning of State specific projects for Rs. 875 Cr as per recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission which includes Rs. 400 crore for Check Dams at Champaknagar and Champiacherra and Water Supply Project for Agartala, Rs. 200 crore for the development of 7 District Head Quarters, Rs. 175 crore for development of Mata Tripurasundari temple and Neermahal, Rs. 100 crore for construction of central building for State Level offices.

Another issue raised was regarding the grant of a package for holistic development of tribal areas in Tripura comprising 17 projects of Rs. 1059.89 crore for undertaking various measures for social, economic, cultural and linguistic development of tribal population of Tripura. Also, it has been proposed to provide one Externally Aided Project for Rs. 1250 crore for overall development of Tribals in the state.

The Chief Minister requested for fixing the quota for export of Agarwood and Agar products under CITES rules. The state of Tripura is having abundance of Agar trees and at present over 50 lakh trees are available in the state. In order to exploit the potential of Agar for state economy, the state government has launched 'Tripura Agar Wood Policy 2021', wherein by 2025 area under Agar wood plantation is proposed to be doubled. This also includes setting up of testing laboratory, trade centre, introductions of technology for artificial inoculation. It has been requested to enhance quota suitably so that the aspirations of Tripura can be met as Tripura expect the quota of 75000 kg of Agar chips and 1500 kg of Agar oil for export for financial year 2021-22.

Other issues raised by the Chief Minister in the meeting were operationalisation of Chittagong port and BBIN network where the fee structure is proposed to be finalized by the Government of Bangladesh in a manner which is beneficial to the state. Proposal for establishing an AIIMS in Tripura; to allocate the number of houses found ineligible in SECC survey, to the eligible families in the Awas Plus database to ensure the vision of Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas were other issues which were discussed in the meeting. The Prime Minister assured that the Government of India will look into all these issues related to Tripura and promised all kind of help for socio-economic development of the State.
