

Clarification Regarding the Published News Clipping

The news clipping titled “Healthcare crisis at Sonamura CHC: No doctor in Emergency for long 2 hours,” published in the Tripura Times newspaper on 18th August 2025, has come to the notice of the Department of Health and Family Welfare. In response to this news, based on the report submitted by the Sub Divisional Medical Officer of Sonamura, the Department would like to clarify that currently, two medical officers—Dr. Sarbani Das and Dr. Debalina Dasgupta—are working at the Sonamura CHC. In addition, since August 14, 2025, three more medical officers from Sonamura SDH and other PHCs have been assigned to this CHC based on a duty roster. Dr. Debalina Dasgupta was on duty from the afternoon of August 16, 2025. Her duty was scheduled until the morning of August 17, 2025. On the morning of August 17, she informed the SDMO that she was feeling unwell and would be taking rest. The SDMO requested her to continue duty until the next assigned Medical Officer or the SDMO arrived. However, she did not return to the duty room. The next designated Medical Officer from SBM PHC could not reach the hospital as he had not yet been officially released. As a result, for about half an hour, no doctor was present at the CHC. The Sonamura Sub-Divisional Medical Officer (SDMO) arrived at the CHC around 11 a.m. and began providing IPD services, thereby normalizing the situation. At that time, Dr. Sarbani Das was out of station. SDMO Dr. Rajesh Das continued to provide services until 3 p.m. However, Dr. Debalina Dasgupta did not communicate further with him. SDMO Dr. Rajesh Das has issued show-cause notices to both Dr. Sarbani Das and Dr. Debalina Dasgupta for their actions.

Meanwhile, based on the report submitted by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Sepahijala District, the CMO visited Sonamura CHC at noon on August 18, 2025. During the visit, only Medical Officer Dr. Debalina Dasgupta was found present on duty, along with Dr. Elimi Debbarma, who had been assigned from Sonamura SDH. However, Dr. Sarbani Das was absent from the hospital premises during the inspection. Due to repeated occurrences of such incidents, the district administration has issued an internal duty roster centrally effective until up to August 25, 2025 to manage the situation.