

Pre-Budget Meeting with Union Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharamanji held on 18th January 2021 in the Conference Room of Secretariat Building through Video Conference. Views of Govt. of Tripura were stated by Sri Jishnu Dev Varma, Deputy Chief Minister who took part in the said VC and requested for incorporating the following in the Union Budget 2021-22.

- i) **Shortfall of Share of Central Taxes:** The trend of devolution of share of central taxes during current fiscal indicates that it will be much less than the amount as per interim recommendation of 15th Finance Commission. The shortfall will be approximately Rs. 2636 Cr during 2020-21. For the small state like Tripura which has narrow resource base, it is difficult to meet this shortfall from own resources. It is requested that there has to be provision for providing special assistance to fill up the gap due to less receipts of Share of Central taxes.
- ii) **Grants for Sixth Schedule Area:** In the interim report of 15th Finance Commission, there was no recommendations for giving funds exclusively for 6th Schedule area i.e. Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC). There is a need to accelerate the development of the 6th Schedule Area and more so due to COVID-19. As such, a special financial package is sought for the 6th Schedule Area.
- iii) **Maintenance of PMGSY Roads and other Capital Assets:** As per recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission, Government of India used to provide maintenance grant. But from 14th Finance Commission onwards, there is no provision for such maintenance grant. Therefore, many capital assets like roads and buildings are getting damaged due to lack of adequate maintenance. In case of PMGSY roads, maintenance is done up to 5 years after completion. But, after 5 years, the onus of maintenance of such roads lies on State

Government. In Tripura there is about 2550 KM roads under PMGSY, which were constructed minimum 5 (five) years back or earlier and now such roads are getting damaged due to lack of adequate maintenance. It is requested to provide maintenance grant for upkeep of all such assets created in the state.

- iv) Request for continuation of **Special assistance for Infrastructure Creation Fund** from Central Government of Rs. 200 Cr.
- v) **Externally Aided Project (EAP)** Project presently 80:20 Pattern and requested for EAP Project for 90:10 (90% Central and 10% State) share.
- vi) Increase of **Budgetary allocation for NEC and DONER** for speeding up for development in North East.
- vii) Increasing **Social Pension and Pay of ASHA Workers.**