

Review meeting of Tripura Tea Promotion Board at Secretariat
There is growing demand for state-grown tea: Chief Minister

There is growing demand for state-grown tea which is why tea production needs to be augmented. Both government and private tea garden workers should be encouraged to increase production, said the Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb while reviewing the progress of Tripura Tea Promotion Board at the secretariat today. He said, although government-run tea gardens are moving towards profitable position, necessary assistance needs to be provided to the private tea gardens facing loss or having minimal productivity for their growth and profit. For this, the concerned department has been ordered to take necessary steps after knowing about the condition of private tea gardens from their owners. Chief Minister in the meeting emphasized setting an action plan to increase tea production. He also suggested to form a cooperative organisation with all those tea gardens that have been closed down and rejuvenate them. Chief Minister expressed that in order to increase tea production in the state, private tea garden workers need to be trained to be more skilled.

The Secretary of industry and commerce department Prashant Kumar Goyal in the review meeting presented different programmes of the Board through a pictorial presentation. He said, TTPB was formed in 2009 to keep coordination with private tea gardens and for evaluation of tea industry. Director of industry and commerce T.K Chakma, sharing about various works done under TTPB said, after rubber, it is the tea industry that is an organised industry. Tripura ranks 6th in tea production in the whole country. Presently the state has 54 tea gardens. Those are owned by the Tripura Tea Development Corporation, cooperative and private owners. Huge amount of green tea leaves is produced in these tea estates wherein 9,048 tea workers are employed. He informed that state has 2866 small tea growers.

The industry and commerce director also said, there are 24 tea processing units in the state. Among them three are run by government, five are cooperatives and 16 are under private ownership. Green tea is being made in three factories in the state. He said, Tripura tea logo was launched in 2018. Tripura Tea Development Corporation's packaged tea was named as 'Tripureswari Tea' and is currently being sold in every ration shop in the state. Tripura Tea Development Corporation has set up a small Green Tea factory in Panchamnagar, Kailasahar. Apart from this, plans are to set up 'Tea Museum' in Durgabari. Initiative has been taken to set up quality tourist spots in tea gardens to attract tourists and expand tea tourism.

In the review meeting director of industry and commerce briefed about all the measures taken on the basis of the decisions of the previous review meeting. Rejuvenation of tea gardens, infrastructural development, development of tea tourism, continuous power supply in tea factories, pipeline gas connection and steps to upgrade standard of living of tea workers were the important issues discussed in the meeting. Others present in the meeting were, TTDB Chairman Santosh Saha, RD secretary Soumya Gupta, secretary of revenue department Tanushree Debbarma and TTPB members.