Government of Tripura
Directorate of Information and Cultural Affairs
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Clarification of the published news

The attention of the State Government has been drawn to news reports prominently published in *Pratibadi Kalam* and *Planet East* on 17.10.2025 under the captions "নয় ও ছয় কোটির কেলেঙ্কারি- বিশ্বনিন্দিত উপজাতি কল্যাণ দপ্তর" and "Audit uncovers massive irregularities in TRESP", which pertain to alleged irregularities purportedly disclosed in the audit report of the Tripura Rural Economic Growth and Service Delivery Project (TRESP) for the financial year 2023–24.

The Tribal Welfare Department categorically refutes all allegations maliciously levelled against it as entirely unfounded, inaccurate, mischievous, and misleading—clearly aimed at denigrating the Department and its functionaries. The following clarifications are issued to present the actual facts concerning the news published.

Clarifications on Key Points

Regarding Two Road Projects of PWD (R&B) PIU

Not a single instance of financial irregularity is mentioned in the audit report of the concerned Chartered Accountant firm, which was received eight (8) months ago in February 2025. It may be noted that TRESP is a multi-sectoral project implemented independently by seven different departments or Project Implementation Units (PIUs)—namely PWD (Roads & Buildings), Education, Agriculture/Horticulture, ARDD, Fisheries, ARDD (repeated in original), and IT— along with two supporting agencies, TSAC and SIPARD. The Tribal Welfare Department serves as the coordinating agency.

Insofar as the Dharmanagar–Khedachhara and Tulashikhar road works are concerned, they were taken up for execution by the PWD (Roads), and the audit report merely mentions that *"As per authenticated Audit Slip made available to us, it cannot be ascertained whether the R.A. Bill (Running Account Bill or R.A. Bill is an interim bill) submitted was against works completed within stipulated time or not, whether measurement was entered in measurement book, the date of check by A.E., etc."*

It may be mentioned that the particular Chartered Accountant firm is based in Kolkata, and their audit team could not carry out any field visit to verify the road projects, nor could they visit the concerned divisional office of the PWD (Roads & Buildings), where all the relevant records—including field verification and measurement records—are properly documented and available for review.

Since the audit team of the Chartered Accountant firm could not visit the PIU divisional office where complete documents are accessible for inspection, and instead inspected only the TRESP Project Management Unit (PMU), it was mentioned in their audit report that certain things could not be immediately verified in the absence of the relevant documents. However, these observations have been purposefully twisted and contorted in the news published by *Planet East* and *Pratibadi Kalam*, and deliberately sensationalized to mischievously create an impression that the amount involved in the aforesaid two road projects was entirely misappropriated.

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Therefore, the allegation of misappropriating “নয় ও ছয় কোটি” is a sinister and crafty effort to cast the Tribal Welfare Department and its functionaries in a poor light, and in the process, to cast aspersions on the entire State Government.

It may further be mentioned that the audit report was submitted to the World Bank in February 2025. Had there been any adverse finding, the World Bank would not have released further instalments of funds. However, perhaps to the disappointment of the spinsters who cook up such false news, the World Bank released ₹53.96 crore in five instalments thereafter—one in April, two in June, and another two in August 2025.

Attendance and Salary Disbursement

The allegation of officials drawing salaries despite prolonged absence, which relates to the Department of Secondary Education, is entirely vague. The C.A. audit report did not name even a single official who was drawing full remuneration despite long absences.

It may be mentioned that even though contractually engaged, TRESP officials are entitled to specific leaves, as admissible. Besides, even if any overpayment is made, mechanisms exist to recover the excess payment made to any official inadvertently.

The C.A. audit pertains to the financial year 2023–24, at a time when the present Project Director, TRESP, was not even posted in the Tribal Welfare Department. Hence, he is not in any way related to the period under audit review. Still, in the two newspapers, a purposeful attempt has been made to undermine his position.

It may be mentioned that since TRESP is a society, the Accountant General (AG) does not ordinarily carry out any audit of its accounts. Nevertheless, the Society had voluntarily approached and addressed a letter to the State Finance Department for the AG (Audit) to agree to audit the accounts of TRESP. This speaks of the resolve and intent of the TRESP Society to maintain the highest standards of transparency and fairness in its financial affairs.

Despite there being nothing adverse in the C.A. audit report against the Tribal Welfare Department, the aggressive manner in which the two newspapers have assailed the Department is reprehensible, and the language used in doing so is highly disconcerting.

The Department reaffirms its commitment to uphold the highest standards of financial discipline, transparency, and accountability in implementing the TRESP project.

So that the people can see for themselves what actually was there in the C.A. firm’s audit report, and can compare how concocted reports were presented based on it, it has been decided to upload the entire report onto the Department’s website and place it in the public domain.

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