

Agartala, 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

**Union finance minister announces Rs. 1300 crore  
Package for development of quality of tribal life**

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her two-day visit to the state has announced a Rs. 1300 crore package for the development of living standard of the tribal people today. This would be considered as a historic moment in the welfare history of tribal people in the state, as this was the biggest package to have been announced for tribal welfare in the state till date. On this historic day the Union minister also inaugurated 12 projects worth Rs. 189 crore while visiting Mohanpur subdivision. After her arrival in the state today she had met the chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb, deputy chief minister Jishnu Dev Varma and top officials of the state administration at a review meeting held at the State Guest House. Addressing the review meeting she appreciated the the work done by state government in the field of infrastructure development in the last three years. In the meeting Union finance minister said, the way Tripura has shown an inclusive developmental model where Smart city and tribal villages are given equal emphasis is a remarkable achievement. During the interaction with senior officials of the state secretariat also she was very much impressed by the state government effort for early completion of Central government project.

In the review meeting the Union finance minister reviewed EAP projects worth approximately Rs. 8,000 crore. On the request of the state government Punjab National Bank has approved top up loan of Rs. 70,000 for each beneficiary of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen). All the eligible beneficiary of PMAY(G) will be covered under this scheme. SLBC has already circulated the scheme details to member banks for respective approval and implementation at their end. During the current year PMAY (G) target has been set at 1.07 lakh people. Discussion was held in detail on this issue in today's review meeting.

The Rs. 1300 crore package announced for the development of quality of life of the tribal people will consist of infrastructure development in schools, giving children access to quality education, last mile connectivity so that every tribal family has a road in front of their house etc. This project has a provision to connect 320 habitations with all weather roads. At the same time the beneficiaries will be engaged in piggery, duckery, fishery, poultry, fodder cultivation, agri and horticultural activities. Besides, initiative will be there for agri-allied activities, farm mechanization, value addition, marketing and creating markets. In addition, to create supplementary source of income assistance will provided for skill upgradation in traditional handloom sector. It is expected that approx. 460 community based projects and close to 80 thousand beneficiaries will be covered under various schemes in the project.

Speaking about the health sector the Union finance minister appreciated the efforts of the state government in the field of Covid vaccination. She also suggested that the state government should ramp up Covid related preparation particularly in the area of oxygen supply, paediatric care and ICU infrastructure.

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She assured that the Central government led by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed for overall socio-economic development of the region. In view of this the Finance Ministry has approved strategic partnership between Asian Development Bank and Government of Tripura. She complemented the chief minister of Tripura Biplab Kumar Deb for his tireless efforts to develop Tripura as a logistic hub for whole of the Northeast via Chittagong port through Feni bridge near Sabroom. She also appreciated the leadership and cooperation shown by the deputy chief minister Jishnu Dev Varma in implementation of GST in the state. The Union minister was informed about the e-governance initiatives started under his leadership to promote transparency and accountability in the field of citizen centric services.

Today the Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has approved a project worth Rs. 14.15 crore for expansion of the National Highways and a project worth Rs. 7.4 crore for developing various facilities in capital city Agartala for better urbanization as a Smart City. Necessary support will be given for preparation of DPR for this project. Implementation of this project will lead to a developed transport system in urban areas and also lead to development of local economy. The projects inaugurated by the Union minister at Mohanpur today included 132 KV Mohanpur sub-station and 80,000 drinking water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Speaking at the Mohanpur H.S. School premises today Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to ensure basic services like drinking water, electricity etc. upto the remotest corner of the country. Because, the government believes in Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Viswas policy. She she directed the public sector banks and NABARD to provide credit linkage to the poorest and the needy people of the state in a pro-active approach. She conveyed her cooperation in the field of livelihood generation and manufacturing through Government of India scheme i.e. One District One Product. She said that the central agency like SIDBI, NABARD and state Agency can cooperate in the field of product design, technological support and marketing.

While visiting the vaccination centre of Gandhigram PHC the Union finance minister enquired about various services being offered there. Afterwards she visited the Agar plantation at the forest complex at Gandhigram Hatipara and the forest officials briefed her about how Agar can be processed. There the chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb gifted the Union finance minister Agar oil, Agar chips and bamboo bottle of the state. The Union minister also planted a Agar tree at Gandhigram Hatipara forest complex. She appreciated the state's initiative for developing a target of Agar-based economy.

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