

Government of Tripura
Directorate of Information & Cultural Affairs

S-40
Agartala, 5th April, 2021

Rejoinder to the news item titled “Scam unearthed of lakhs of rupees” published in the daily newspaper- Tripura Observer on 4th April 2021.

This rejoinder refers to the above-referred news item published in the daily newspaper- Tripura Observer on 4th April 2021, which says that government guidelines as well as e-procurement process has been violated by the Department of Economics & Statistics with ill motives.

The Directorate of Economics & Statistics registers this rejoinder to the Tripura Observer with the following clarifications:

1. The name of the survey has been wrongly mentioned in the news item as “Tripura Citizen Mood Survey”. It is hereby clarified that name of the survey is- **“Survey to assess and analyze welfare schemes implemented by the State Government in the Covid-19 pandemic scenario, 2020-21”**. As the name suggests, the purpose of the survey is to assess the impact of welfare schemes during the pandemic. The results of the survey would yield valuable data/inputs that will help in framing more effective government policy in future pandemic scenarios. The survey assumes more relevance in light of the fact that resurgence of the second wave of Covid-19 is being witnessed in several parts of the country.
2. The Directorate of Economics & Statistics had floated e-tender inviting bids in “Single Bid System” for selection of agency to conduct the survey. Certain number of criteria had been set by the department for technical qualification. 5 (five) nos agencies participated in the tender. During technical evaluation, it was found that only Simit HR Solutions, LLP fulfilled all the prescribed criteria. As a result, the remaining 4 (four) agencies were declared technically non-responsive and their financial bids were not considered. Survey work has been awarded to Simit HR Solutions, LLP as it is the only agency to have satisfactorily fulfilled all technical criteria and its quoted price for the survey is within the estimated cost mentioned in the tender. Technical Evaluation comparative statement was uploaded in the e-tender portal which is available for viewing by all participating bidders. The Directorate of Economics & Statistics therefore reiterates that the entire tender process has been done in a fair and transparent manner in compliance with all relevant government guidelines.

Directorate of Economics & Statistics requests the Tripura Observer to publish this rejoinder to enable readers follow up on the newspaper’s earlier publication.
