Government of Tripura Directorate of Information & Cultural Affairs ****

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<u>Union Minister of Tribal Affairs at a press meet</u> Utmost attention has been given to welfare of the poor in this budget

The Union budget 2024-25 was prepared keeping in mind development of all sections of the society. Four sectors have been focused more in this budget. Welfare of the poor has received special attention in the budget, stated the Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Jual Oram today while responding on the Union budget at a press meet at the State Guest House, Agartala. He told the media that development of women, skill development and creating employment opportunities for the youth and economic development of the farmers are other priority areas.

At the press meet the Union Minister said, this budget had the reflection of vision of Viksit Bharat. Already Viksit Bharat campaign has been conducted in 3.50 lakh gram panchayats of India. During this campaign, Union Ministers, other public representatives and officials of different Ministries had interacted with the people to present a roadmap of development before the masses. He said, after presenting budget at the Parliament initiatives for implementation of the same have already started. At the Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog a roadmap has been prepared for the development of rural and urban areas of India by the year 2047. All actions now onward will be directed towards that target. Speaking on the priority areas of the budget the Union Minister said, in next five years 4.1 crore youths will be trained on different trades. For this purpose Rs. 1.48 crore has been allotted. This initiative has been taken to enable the youth find self-employment. The Minister also informed that decision has been taken to create a road network of 25,000 rural roads under PM Gram Sadak Yojana. The upper limit of Mudra loan has been increased from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh. Industrial Parks will be established in about 100 cities of the country. Under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme establishment of 12 new Industrial Parks has been approved.

The Union Minister of Tribal Affairs further said, an amount of Rs. 1.52 lakh crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Agriculture. Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana 4 crore houses will be built. Out of that 1 crore houses will be built for the poor in urban areas at the cost of Rs. 10 lakh crore. Announcement has been made to build 3 crore more houses for the poor people of rural and urban areas. The Minister said, this budget has increased the allocation for the Ministry of Tribal Welfare as well. For the development of tribal dominated villages Prime Minister's Tribal Village Development Programme has been launched. A total of 63,000 villages of the country will be brought under this scheme to benefit about 5 crore people. Shedding light on his Ministry's budget allocation the Minister said, during the 2014-15 year Rs. 4,497.96 crore was the budget allocation. In 2024-25 this amount has gone up to Rs. 13,000 crore. Special attention has been given to the development of Ekalavya Model Schools in this budget. An amount of Rs. 6,399 crore has been allocated for educational development in remote areas. With a view to bringing down the drop-out rate further Rs. 440.36 crore has been allocated for pre-matric scholarship. To promote and encourage higher education Rs. 2,432.68 crore has been allocated for post-matric scholarship.

The Union Minister said, the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given special attention to the development of Northeastern states including Tripura. To promote industrial development and opportunities this year Northeast Transformative create employment Industrialization Scheme has been launched. This ten-year long scheme had a budget allocation of Rs. 10,037 crore. He further informed, under the Northeast Special Infrastructure Development Scheme 14 projects worth Rs. 458 crore has been sanctioned for Tripura only. State Tribal Welfare Minister Bikash Debbarma, MP Kriti Singh Debbarma, Secretary of the Tribal Welfare Department Brijesh Pandey and other dignitaries were also present at the press meet.
