

Agartala, 24th August, 2024

**All-Party Meeting on floods situation in Tripura
With the collective Efforts State will overcome: Chief Minister**

An all- Party Meeting to discuss various issues pertaining to recent flood situation in state was held at 4 PM on today 24.08.2024 in the conference Hall of the State Guest House under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha . In the meeting leaders of all the major political parties were present and assured to extend whole hearted cooperation to the State Government to combat the situation arisen due to devastating flood. At the commencement of meeting, 2 minutes silence was observed in the memory of the persons died due to flood. In the meeting Leader of opposition Jitendra Choudhury ; Rajib Bhattacharjee , President of State unit of BJP ; former Ministers Manik Dey & Ratan Bhoomik on behalf of CPI(M) ; Ashis Kumar Saha , President of INC, Tripura with MLA Sri Sudip Roy Barman; Minister of State Brishaketu Debbarma , MLA Ranjit Debbarma & Rajjeswar Debbarma on behalf of Tipra Motha Party ; Milan Baidya & Judhisthir Das on behalf of CPI ; Raghunath Sarkar & Jayanta Datta on behalf of AIFB ; Dipak Deb on behalf of RSP; Gouranga Rudra Paul & Dulal Ghosh on behalf of Amra Banagli ; Prashanta Debbarma & Sindhu Chandra Jamatia on behalf IPFT were present.

Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha initiated the discussion and presented elaborate details pertaining to the flood situation which has been caused due to very heavy and continuous rainfall over the five days period since 19-23 August 2024. He stated that due to floods till date, 24 (twenty five) persons have lost lives and 2 (two) persons are reported to be missing where as two persons are injured. State Government stand with these families in this hour. The next of kin of every deceased will be given @Rs 4.0 lakh as Ex-Gratia. And each seriously injured person will be given @ Rs 2.5 lakhs. The State machinery is working very hard in close coordination with various state departments and central agencies to mitigate impact of disaster on citizens.

Chief Minister stated that heavy rainfall occurred in all the 8 Districts. Water Level of rivers in almost all rivers across the State rose above the danger marks. As a result, whole State was affected with floods very badly. On State Government's request, Government of India has sent 4 helicopters and 11 NDRF Teams. Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha added that SDRF, NDRF , Assam Rifles were put in action for rescue and relief operations. In addition, volunteers of Civil Defense and Aapda Mitra have been engaged in relief and rescue operations. In addition Civil Society Organizations like Clubs, NGOs have been helping in relief and rescue operations.

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Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha informed that total 557 relief camps have been opened since 19th August, 2024 for providing shelter to over 1.28 lakh persons in the State. The population affected in the State is estimated to be over 17 lakh. Administration have been providing necessary emergency relief. He personally conducted aerial survey of the State and visited a number of Relief Camps. Heavy & extreme rainfall has triggered landslides across the State causing extensive road blockades. Roads are being cleared on regular basis. Preliminary reports suggest extensive damages to physical infrastructure and agriculture crops along with damages to houses, livestock. The actual figures will be known only after the field assessment is completed. Such report indicates that about 1.6 lakh hectare agriculture land is affected making impact on 1.4 lakhs farmers. In power Sector 1603 1 poles broken and 501 transformer, 642 Km conductors, 2 sub-stations are damaged. Landslides occurred in 2544 occasions, out of which 2324 locations have been cleared. Erosion to ds occurred at 2066 locations, out of which till date 693 locations have been restored. Total maximum 153 nos of Dozers were deployed across the State to clear debris. Around 200 field Engineers are working round the clock to combat the situation. As per preliminary estimates, the total damage due to floods is estimated to be Rs Fifteen Thousand Crores.

Chief Minister stressed on the cleanliness of the Relief camps, distribution of relief materials, arranging study materials for the affected children. Health Camps are being conducted in regular manner. He added that State Government has been reviewing the stock of food and fuel in the State. Yesterday itself, 30 tankers (over six lakh liters) of petrol and Diesel arrived in Agartala and nearby places. There is no shortage of food or fuel in Tripura.

Taking part in the discussion, Leader of Opposition Jitendra Choudhury appreciated the Government for convening the all-party meeting. Sri Choudhury stressed on formulation of long term planning to mitigate the effects of disaster. He emphasized on drawing plan of action to prevent the scope of landslide in village. He stressed to assess the extent of damages on House to house to survey basis. To ensure visit of the Central Government team over the affected areas he requested the Chief Minister to take up with the Government of India. He also referred to requirement of more emphasis on the aspects of timely forecast and on precautionary measures regarding the natural calamities. Stating that though it is not possible to compensate the total loss caused due to flood he stressed on ensuing assistance as much as possible towards the affected families.

MLA Sudip Roy Barman , taking part in the discussion emphasized on strict enforcement of rules regarding use of plastic and flexes . He proposed that one all-party delegation may move to New Delhi to place the demand for additional financial grant before the Prime Minister, Union Minister and Union Finance Minister. He also stressed on assessment of damages on House to house to survey basis.

Former Minister Manik Dey on behalf CPI(M) taking part in the discussion put emphasis on reconstruction of damaged infrastructure , safety of the women took shelter in relief camps, creation of addition man-days under MGNREGA / TUEP to assist cleaning of the affected , separate assessment by the ARDD and Fishery Department on loss in respective arena . He also made the request to explore the financial assistance to those affected families who have not shifted to the relief camps.

Rajib Bhattcharjee , President of the BJP , Tripura Pradesh appreciate the Chief Minister and the entire State Government Machinery for their work in relief and rescue operation. He stressed on making arrangement in Hospitals and regular maintenance of embankments. He also put the request to continue the food in relief camps for cattle.

Ashis Kumar Saha State President of INC, taking part in the discussion requested the State Government to ensure distribution of relief materials to all the affected persons. In combatting the disaster he requested to ensure equality for all the affected persons .

Minister of State Brishketu Debbarma on behalf of Tipra Motha Party, stressed on assessment of damages caused for Rubber plantation in addition to that of Agriculture and Horticulture . In the meeting Ex- MLA Prashanta Debbarma on behalf of IPFT stressed on involvement of Government Officials like Panchayat and Village Secretaries in assessment of damages .

Ratan Bhounik on behalf of CPI(M) , Rajessawr Debbarma and Ranjit Debbarma on behalf of Tipra Motha Party , Dr. Judhistir Das on behalf of CPI , Raghunath Sarkar on behalf of AIFB , Dipak Deb on behalf of RSP , Gournag Roudra Paul on behalf of Aamra Bangali also took part in the discussion and stressed on maintenance of Health & Hygiene , uninterrupted electricity , steps against hoarding & black-marketing , reviving the telecommunication . They also put the emphasis on involvement of all-party leaders in the local level following the tune of this meeting and to explore increase in financial assistance.

Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha , termed all the proposals placed by the Political leaders as significant . He assured that all the proposal will be duly analyzed and appropriate action will be taken accordingly.

After the all-party meeting Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha while discussing with the press, highlighted the various aspects on recent floods situation and measures taken thereof. He added that Bus service from Chandrapur, Nagerjala and Radhanagar has been resumed . State Government has been reviewing the stock of food and fuel in the State. Yesterday itself, 30 tankers (over six lakh liters) of petrol and Diesel arrived in Agartala and nearby places. There is no shortage of food or fuel in Tripura. Necessary instruction has been issued to ensure books for those Children who lost their books during flood. Chief Minister Prof. (Dr.) Manik Saha expressed his thanks to the leaders of all the political parties to attend the meeting within the short period. In the all-party meeting Secretary to the Chief Minister Dr. P.K. Chakravarty ; Revenue Secretary Sri Brijesh Pandey and other officers were present .
