



The Chief Minister said, about Rs. 400 crore goes out of the state in importing fish from outside and Rs. 150 crore goes out in collecting fish-feed. Similarly, Rs. 11 crore and Rs. 75 crore go out of the state in meeting demand for milk and egg respectively. If the cooperative societies come forward in meeting this demand then money of the state remains within. The Chief Minister also said, women-dominated cooperative societies have to come forward for meeting this demand; largest cooperative society of the world Amul has more female members than male.

Chief Whip Kalyani Roy also spoke on this occasion. Secretary of the cooperative department Shailendra Singh said, this is the first time that National Cooperative Development Council (NCDC) has organised a prize distribution ceremony of this kind. He also informed, under the Integrated Cooperative Development Project of NCDC various works are being implemented in North Tripura, Unakoti and Dhalai district spending Rs. 26.6 crore. Later on similar work will be done in three more districts.

In this ceremony five cooperative societies were awarded for their excellent performance. Among them, Pragati PACS of Madhya Bhuvanban was awarded as the best primary credit co-operative

society. Second prize went to Netaji PACS of Belonia in the same category. In the category of best primary marketing co-operative society first prize went to Kumarghat Primary Marketing Cooperative Society. Second prize in this category went to Udaipur Primary Marketing Cooperative Society. Award of Excellence among women-run cooperative societies went to Popular Women's Co-operative for Credit and Thrift Society of Udaipur. This is the first cooperative society of this kind to have received an award from the National Cooperative Development Council.

The Chief Minister handed over prized to the winning societies. Among others present on the occasion were director of NCDC M.P. Sagunan, general manger of NABARD Sunil Kumar and chairman of Tripura Tea Development Board Santosh Saha.

### **Eight blocks of Dhalai declared ODF**

Eight blocks of Dhalai district have been declared open-defecation free (ODF) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). With the objective of preventing open defecation in 151 gram panchayat and village committee areas of Dhalai district the Government of India had taken this

plan. For this purpose Swachhgrahis were appointed throughout Dhalai district. Their responsibilities included teaching how to use toilets, things to do after using toilets etc.

Under this scheme target was set for construction of 29,473 toilets in Dhalai district and all the works have been completed. Among these, 2409 toilets were constructed in Ambassa block, 3257 in Chhamanu block, 4364 toilets in Dumboornagar block, 10,929 toilets in Durga Chowmuhani block, 1651 toilets in Ganganagar block, 3044 toilets in Manu block, 2002 toilets in Raishyabari block and 1817 toilets in Salema block were constructed. Cost of each toilet was Rs. 12,000. Member of the District Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Hiranmoy Chakma provided this information.

### **Subsidised *masoor dal* started reaching out to beneficiaries in Sabroom**

As a part of the state government's programme distribution of *masoor dal* at subsidised price has started from the ration shops of Sabroom subdivision on February 12. SDM Biplab Das officially kicked off the programme by handing

over packets of masoor dal to the beneficiaries from ration shop no. 2 of Sabroom Nagar Panchayat. Per ration card 1 kg. *masoor dal* will be given at Rs. 40. As a result, 31,598 ration card holders of 68 ration shops of Sabroom subdivision will benefit.

### **Gram Swaraj initiatives in Kanthalia block**

Initiative has started in Kanthalia block to generate awareness about the flagship schemes of the Prime Minister through Gram Swaraj Abhiyan. Spontaneous participation of people is being noticed in these programmes in each panchayat and ADC village. Gram Swaraj Abhiyan has already been implemented in Bejimara, Bhabanipur, Banshpukur, Nidaya, Srimantapur, Rabindranagar, Kalikrishnanagar and South Paharpur panchayat. To make the people aware about the schemes Gram Swaraj Abhiyan will be held under the aegis of Kanthalia block in Kalapania panchayat, Manaipathar and Jagatrapur village on February 16, in Dhanpur panchayat, Kalikhala and Kaichyakhala village on February 17, North Maheshpur panchayat and Thalibari village on February 18.

