

Agartala, 12th July, 2022

Inauguration of gas-based tea processing plant at Durgabari Tea Garden. There are plans to set up a tea auction centre in the state: CM

The State Government is sincere and responsible towards improving the socio-economic status of the workers working in the tea gardens of the State. For the welfare of tea workers, the government has launched the 'Mukhyamantri Chaa Sramik Kalyan Prakalpa' scheme. Special care should be taken to ensure that all the workers working in the tea garden get the benefits of this project. The Chief Minister Prof. (Dr) Manik Saha said this while inaugurating the TTDC run gas-based tea processing plant at Durgabari Tea Garden on 10th July, 2022. He said the government is working hard to ensure that all the projects of the Central and State Government for the overall upliftment of tea workers were properly implemented. Since 2018, sick tea gardens in the state have been gradually reviving.

Addressing the tea workers, the Chief Minister said the present government of the state is by their side and will continue to be so in the future. The modernization of the tea industry has taken another step forward with the launch of the gas-based tea processing plant today. He said the problems with the use of coal in tea processing would be alleviated by the introduction of the gas-based system. The Chief Minister said many small tea gardens have already been created in the state under the MGNREGA project. At present, tea gardens have been established on about 1,200 acres of land through MGNREGA. Requesting all the concerned people to come forward for the expansion and promotion of the tea industry in the state, the Chief Minister said Tripura is currently the fifth largest tea producer in the country. The government has future plans to export tea to neighboring Bangladesh as well as to create more employment opportunities in the tea industry. The Chief Minister said the production and market of tea is expanding as a result of improving the quality of tea and creating a conducive environment. There are plans to set up a tea auction centre in the state in future.

Speaking as the guest of honor, MLA Krishnadhan Das said the present government of the state is working for the development of people from all walks of life. Already, the state government decision to provide accommodation for tea workers is historic. In his welcome address, Santosh Saha, Chairman, Tripura Tea Development Corporation Limited, President of the programme, said that the production of tea in the state in 2017-18 was 1 lakh 47 thousand kg. In 2022-23, this amount has increased to 4 lakh 45 thousand kg. In 2017-18, the price of tea produced in the state at the auction market was rupees 147 per kg. In 2021-22, this tea was sold at the Kolkata Auction Centre at a price of rupees 274 per kg. At present the wages of tea workers have also increased from rupees 105 to rupees 176. Manik Lal Das, Managing Director Tripura Tea Development Corporation delivered vote of thanks.

Sheela Das, Chairman, Bamutia Panchayat Samiti, Gopal Chakraborty, Adviser, Durgabari Tea Workers Cooperative Society and Gautam Kundu, President, and others were present at the inaugural function. The Chief Minister inaugurated a gas based tea processing plant run by Tripura Tea Development Corporation Limited at Durgabari Tea Garden on 10th July, 2022 as well as another gas based tea processing plant of Durgabari Tea Workers Cooperative Society Limited. At the end of the programme, the Chief Minister toured the gas-based tea processing project run by Durgabari Tea Workers Cooperative Society and spoke to the officials and workers of the society.